



United Nations  
Office for South-South Cooperation



UN-OHRLS

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# GOOD PRACTICES

## in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development in SIDS

Advancing SAMOA Pathway and  
Achieving Sustainable Recovery

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Designed by Paolo Ciampagna

# FOREWORD

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face a number of unique challenges. They are highly vulnerable to external economic and financial shocks – at least 35 per cent more than other developing countries, in part due to their remoteness and narrow resource and export base.<sup>1</sup> SIDS, as a group, are especially susceptible to the effects of extreme weather and climate events, which have increased in frequency, intensity and severity as a result of climate change.<sup>2</sup> They are also ill-equipped to handle major crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup> In the wake of this devastating pandemic, SIDS experienced an estimated fall in GDP of 9 per cent in 2020, compared with a 3.3 per cent decline in other developing countries.<sup>4</sup> The United Nations (UN) World Tourism Organisation estimates that it could take up to four years for international tourism, an essential source of jobs and livelihoods, to recover to 2019-levels.<sup>5</sup> In this challenging context, the *sharing* of proven solutions to socio-economic challenges is crucial.

This new publication maps close to 50 examples of good practices from UN Member States and our development partners. Those solutions include everything from Mauritius' efforts to assist low-income households to gain access to solar power, cutting reliance on fossil fuels and powering new, small businesses, for instance. Or consider the Drones for Resilience project in the Maldives – a public-private partnership between a telecommunications company and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that is creating detailed, real-time maps of four islands to bolster disaster preparedness and disaster risk management. Or look to Fiji and Vanuatu, where a unique “farm to table project” is expanding organic farming practices while creating much-needed new jobs and livelihoods for young people.

All of the solutions detailed in this publication are founded upon the critical role of South-South and triangular cooperation, which is a proven and trusted platform to *share* and *implement* solutions. This approach is perhaps now more important than ever to help SIDS to not only recover from the pandemic – but to *build forward better* and accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. That means helping to mobilise the human and financial resources, technology, innovation, and knowledge & expertise that SIDS now need. As ever, the entire UN system will be on hand at this pivotal moment to assist communities in SIDS as they work to shape that greener, more inclusive, and more sustainable future.



**Achim Steiner**  
Administrator  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- 1 <https://unctad.org/news/small-island-developing-states-face-uphill-battle-covid-19-recovery>  
<https://www.un.org/en/desa/samoa-pathway-shining-spotlight-small-islands%E2%80%99-priorities>
- 2 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/10/1075262>  
<https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/covid-19-sids>
- 3 <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/covid-19-sids>
- 4 <https://unctad.org/news/small-island-developing-states-face-uphill-battle-covid-19-recovery>
- 5 <https://unctad.org/news/small-island-developing-states-face-uphill-battle-covid-19-recovery>

# FOREWORD

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have been a formidable negotiating force on the international stage, at a scale that far exceeds their size. Working together, they have led major international breakthroughs on some of our most pressing global concerns, from climate change to oceans and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It is because island communities are at the frontlines of a changing world that SIDS are spawning a wide range of solutions, some of which are addressing transnational development challenges. Many of these solutions need to be nurtured, promoted, scaled-up and implemented by different SIDS as nations co-operate and learn from each other.

As the examples of innovative solutions grow, there is increasing recognition that South-South cooperation (between SIDS) and triangular cooperation (involving multilateral partners or the donor community) can accelerate the attainment of global international frameworks like the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs.

This publication on “**Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development in SIDS - Advancing SAMOA Pathway and Achieving Sustainable Recovery**” attests to the innovative ways different models of international cooperation can support SIDS to overcome shared challenges and accelerate progress towards sustainable development, including recovery from COVID-19.

This publication showcases some effective South-South and triangular practices and innovative development solutions, in areas such as climate change, sustainable energy, sustainable transport and disaster risk reduction. Although at their innovative stages, many of these emerging practices will benefit from continued practice and adoption, as they are scaled-up in different island countries. But it is the ability to create these home-grown and South-South solutions that must be protected and encouraged. The extent to which these efforts catalyse transformational change will depend in part on how enabling the environment is at the local, regional, and global levels.

All of this underscores the need for continued financial and technical support for SIDS to stimulate and nurture home-grown and South-South solutions. This important work should be enabled to grow unfettered, or a source of inspiration for all countries, great and small, to develop and share innovative solutions to the most pressing challenges confronting SIDS.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rattray".

**Courtenay Rattray**

Under-Secretary-General and High Representative  
Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries,  
Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

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We owe a major debt of gratitude to colleagues from the following partner organizations, for their hard work and dedication. In particular, from Member States, we wish to thank: the South-South Network for Public Service Innovation (SSN4PSI) at the Government of Bangladesh; the Government of Cabo Verde; the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE); the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia; the Ministry of Public Health of Guyana; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia; the Government of Mauritius; the Department of Health and Social Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia; the Government of Singapore; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand; the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA); and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates.

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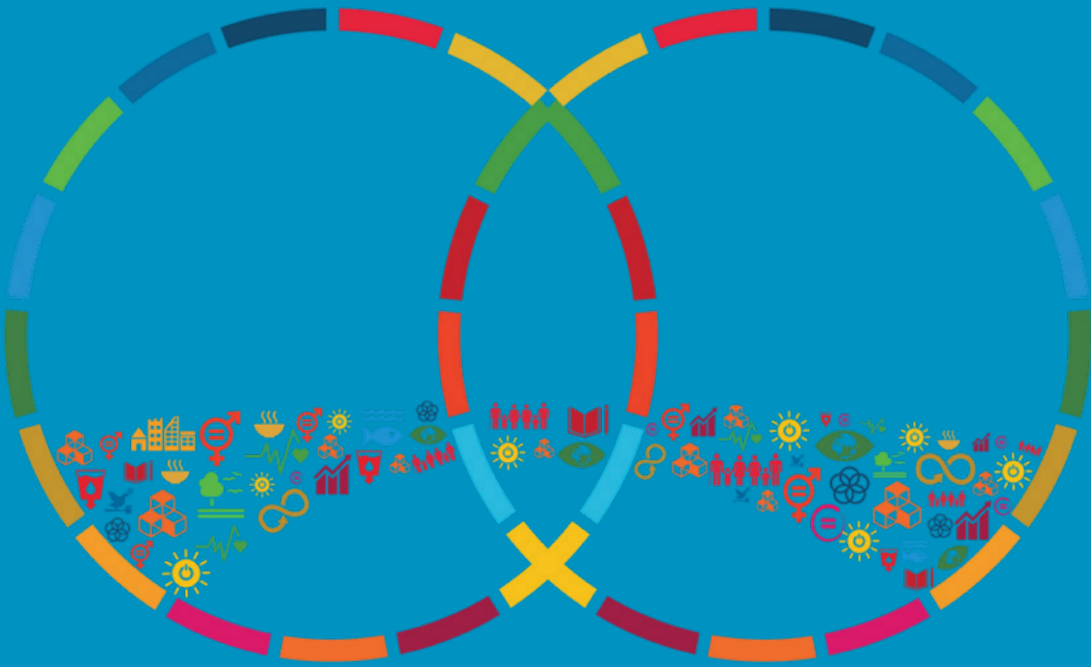
Finally, we express our thanks and gratitude to Achim Steiner, Administrator of UNDP, which hosts and supports the work of UNOSSC. Without his leadership this report would not have been possible.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	3	A Farm to Table Value Chain Approach	54
Acknowledgements	5	Deployment of Fibre to the Home (FTTH)	56
The Intersectoral Commission for the Comprehensive Early Childhood Care	8	Leadership Training Programmes	58
The Sufficiency Economy and Business Promotion in the Agricultural Sector	10	Pacific Small Island Developing States: Aviation Needs Analysis	60
Caribbean Experiences in Disaster Risk Reduction	12	Online Capacity Building to Support Sustainable Energy in Small Island Developing States	62
Procurement and Installation of Solar-powered Chest Freezers for the Mili Atoll	14	Strengthening the Centre for Excellence in Information Technology in Papua New Guinea	64
Mauritius' Demonstrated Capacity in Controlling Communicable Diseases	16	Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility	66
Advancing Public Health Policies to Address Overweight and Obesity in Chile and the Caribbean Community	18	Drones for Resilience	68
Improved Blood Transfusion Services to Strengthen Health System in Guyana	20	Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security with Aquaponics Technology	70
Improvement of Maternal and Child Health on the Northern Border of the Dominican Republic and Haiti	22	Rehabilitation of Barbuda's Key Public Infrastructure Following Hurricane Irma	72
Road Safety Improvement in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica through the Strengthening of Road Safety Management and Regulatory Capacities	24	Rehabilitation of Key Public Infrastructures Following a Natural Disaster	74
Maternal Health Services Continuity Support During the 2019 Samoa Measles Crisis	26	Singapore's Climate Action Package	76
Palau Community Health Center Rehabilitation Project	28	The Climate Early Warning Systems in Pacific Island Countries Project	78
Synergies of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCE)	30	Pacific Regional Policy Dialogue on Climate Mobility	80
Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage	32	The Coral Restoration Project	82
Time Use Survey that Triggered the Creation of the National Care System	34	Singapore-International Maritime Organization (IMO) Third Country Training Programme	84
Family protection law and provision of essential services	36	Our Ocean Conference	86
Rocket Stoves Initiative for the Empowerment of Rural Woman	38	Strengthening Technical and Functional Skills for Public Finance Control in Portuguese-speaking African Countries and Timor-Leste	88
Hands-on Training on the Use of Fibre-reinforced Plastic Biogas Digester in Samoa	40	Rights, Empowerment and Cohesion (REACH) for Rural and Urban Fijians Project	90
Home Solar Project	42	Asia-Pacific Civil Registrars	92
United Arab Emirates-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund	44	Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative	94
Solarization of Head of State Residences in Pacific Islands Development Forum Member Countries	46	Capacity-building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks Support for Pacific Island States	96
Empowering Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Suriname	48	South-South Cooperation for Advancing the 2030 Agenda: A study in Barbados and Jamaica	98
Singapore-Turkey Joint Training Programme: SME Development and Entrepreneurship	50	Documenting and Replicating Statistics Innovation in Asia and the Pacific	100
Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme (PCCMHS)	52		



# GOOD PRACTICES



# The Intersectoral Commission for the Comprehensive Early Childhood Care



## Exchanging experiences in early childhood protection and care to promote the development of capacities and opportunities to reduce poverty and prevent social exclusion

### CHALLENGE

When the Intersectoral Commission for Comprehensive Early Childhood Care (CIPI) was launched in 2011, almost 566,429 boys and girls in Colombia received different modalities of care. However, since they were under the responsibility of several institutions, a fragmented response was generated, which weakened the coverage and quality of actions on early childhood development. The recognition of boys and girls as subjects of rights and the definition of the comprehensive early childhood care must be a fundamental commitment by the Government.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The implementation of coordinated actions at the national and local levels aimed to promote and guarantee the full development of children 0–5 years in Colombia. This initiative seeks to reach national coverage to improve children's quality of life and generate local capacities, which require the involvement of the communities, as well as local and national entities.

In 2011, the National Government of Colombia established the National Intersectoral Commission for Comprehensive Early Childhood Care (CIPI) to serve as a platform for the promotion of early childhood policy and for gathering resources and expertise of existing public and private entities. CIPI also leads the Early Childhood Comprehensive Care Strategy, *De Cero a Siempre* (From Zero to Forever), which constitutes a set of national and local planned actions used to promote and ensure the full development of children from gestation to five years of age. This is achieved through unified and intersectoral work from a rights perspective and through a differential approach that includes disability. It details and



#### NOMINATED BY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación Internacional de Colombia (APC-Colombia)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Colombia, the Dominican Republic

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.8, 4.2, 4.5, 16.9

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Social development; Health and non-communicable diseases

#### SUPPORTED BY

APC-Colombia

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Intersectoral Commission for the Comprehensive Early Childhood Care

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2011 – Ongoing

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3gy8Dxf> (in Spanish)

promotes the definition and implementation of plans, programmes, projects and actions for the comprehensive care that should be ensured for each child according to their age, context and situation.

The interventions aimed to encourage the comprehensive development of boys and girls in their early years as a window of opportunity for social and economic development. These interventions generate lasting impacts regarding psychological strength, a reduction of crime in their life cycle, better academic performance, lower school drop-out and repetition rates when increasing the permanence of children in the educational system, and higher productivity and future income. It is a social investment with higher return rates (National Planning Department, 2011).

The objectives of the CIPI are to:

- ▶ strengthen the capacity of the local authorities and the national government;
- ▶ design and implement the Comprehensive Care Roadmap (RIA) in local entities;
- ▶ increase comprehension and generate knowledge concerning strategic issues in early childhood;
- ▶ qualify agents on comprehensive care for children and families;
- ▶ develop a technical approach for the appraisal of child development;
- ▶ integrate prospects for inclusion in local policies, among others.

CIPI's remarkable achievements has led to: the joint design of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Care Strategy; the development of guidelines and technical standards, as well as lines of action and management tools for the policy implementation in the territories; and the application of the *Sistema de Seguimiento Niño a Niño* [Child to Child Monitoring System] (SSNN).

As of 2016, over 1,205,906 boys and girls had benefited from quality comprehensive care. By 2018, this number had increased to 1,374,423. Other main results between 2011 and 2016 were the enrolment of 4,081,320 boys and girls under six years of age into the social security health care system, and the provision of support to 20 ethnic communities in developing their comprehensive care roadmaps in line with rural and ethnic contexts.

Furthermore, according to the 2018 implementation evaluation of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Care Strategy *De Cero a Siempre*, in 2018, almost 1,270 rural women and community leaders were trained to strengthen their knowledge on sexual and reproductive health, nutritional and mental health, and prevention of psychoactive substances use. Moreover, the number of boys and girls attending preschool with comprehensive care increased from 57,126 in 2017 to 71,500 children in 2018.

Colombia shared this good practice with the Dominican Republic (2015–2017) to strengthen the latter's Quisqueya Empieza Contigo Plan, which caters to the needs of children 0–5 years. The Dominican entities involved were the Ministry of Planning and Development (MEPyD), the General Directorate of Special Programs of the Presidency (DIGEPEP) and the National Institute for Comprehensive Care of Early Childhood (INAIFI).



The activities included technical missions in both countries, and as an outcome of these exchanges, the Dominican Republic achieved the following:

- ▶ the identification of methodological mechanisms for strengthening the Family and Community Base modality in comprehensive early childhood care services;
- ▶ the identification of CIPI's inter-institutional coordination as a key element for strengthening early childhood policy;
- ▶ the strengthening of coordination, follow-up and monitoring mechanisms in the framework of early childhood policy, as well as its interaction with private sectors and civil society.

For this initiative to be replicated, the following conditions should be considered for the implementation of an entity such as the CIPI:

- ▶ the identification of early childhood situation and needs;
- ▶ the identification of the current institutional architecture.

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# The Sufficiency Economy and Business Promotion in the Agricultural Sector



## Applying the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainable Development Goal Partnerships: A successful example of South-South and Thailand-Germany-Timor-Leste triangular cooperation

### CHALLENGE

Since its independence in 1999, Timor-Leste has faced development challenges in all dimensions. One of the priorities of the country is to reduce poverty and improve the lives of Timorese people. Since agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for approximately 80 percent of the population of Timor-Leste, it is important to enhance the livelihoods of Timorese farmers in order to tackle these challenges.

Yet, there are many challenges that Timorese farmers are facing; for example, most farmers do not own the land they are farming. They also have limited access to the technologies and practices needed for sustainable and efficient agricultural production. The use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers is still widespread. Crop production is not sufficiently varied. Finally, post-harvest losses are common, since fresh produce is being sold directly without being processed.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In 2003, Thailand and Timor-Leste signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Economic and Technical Cooperation, reflecting Thailand's determination to help Timor-Leste's development in various fields, particularly in agriculture, in which Thailand has expertise. The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), defined and presented by His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, has been the core of Thailand's development for over 40 years. It is one of the alternative approaches to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that Thailand has been sharing with the international community.



#### NOMINATED BY

Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Germany, Thailand, Timor-Leste

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 4.4, 6.b, 17.6, 17.9

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Food security and nutrition

#### SUPPORTED BY

TICA, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

TICA

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2015 – 2017

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3hp0n30>

Building on the MoU, the 'Establishment of Model Village and Technology Transfer Centre based on the SEP in Hera' was one of the projects launched by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA). The project initiated the application of SEP as a means to reduce poverty and to promote sustainable development in Hera, a sub-district near Dili.

The project features a unique characteristic: it is a hybrid of South-South and triangular cooperation. The bilateral cooperation took place from 2010 to 2015, and later on, was extended and run under the trilateral framework, 'The Sufficiency Economy and Business Promotion in the Agricultural Sector Project between Thailand-Germany (GIZ)-Timor-Leste' from 2016 to 2017.

During the first phase of bilateral cooperation, a sustainable model village in Hera was established. Efforts were focused on improving the capabilities of Timorese agriculturists and farmers in practices needed for sustainable and efficient agricultural production based on the SEP, for example, the growing of multiple crops, local production and use of organic fertilizer, organic animal feeds, aquaculture, and value-added production. The training was organized for Timorese farmers, including promising young farmers, by Thai experts in an interactive way, with the involvement with local people to promote the sense of ownership.

Viewing triangular cooperation as an innovative form of South-South cooperation that can help effectively mobilize resources and expertise of each party involved and thus bring greater development benefits than each party acting alone, Thailand sought to further strengthen the project through the trilateral partnership. Germany, through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), was invited to join the project to share its expertise in efficiency in planning and management through tools such as Results-based Management (RBM).

The joint training sessions were organized to promote a holistic understanding of both the SEP and project management through the concept of RBM. Farmers who joined the training were encouraged to apply these concepts to concrete actions, including the development and implementation of a community plan that would upgrade their selected champion products to match the demands of the market. It was interesting to note that more than 60 percent of the population in Timor-Leste was under 30 years of age. This emerging active and younger generation brought potential and opportunities for innovative ideas and approaches, as evidenced by the perspective of the project team and coordinator.

The benefits were two-fold. First, the triangular cooperation led to an increase of income of selected rural communities through higher agricultural productivity and commercial businesses. Project participants reported that their income was increased by around 50 percent. The costs of production decreased as they learned how to turn local resources into materials needed for agricultural productions such as organic pesticides and fertilizers; the income increased as they learned about better farming management and marketing. Second, not only did Timorese farmers have an opportunity to learn about German-style project planning and management, but so did Thai trainers and experts, who could further apply the concept in other development cooperation programmes.



Furthermore, these young Timorese farmers were committed to become role models for others. They were eager to share their holistic understanding on the SEP and the project management methodology as well as its practical application in business development gained from their first-hand experience. To ensure sustainable outcomes from this development cooperation, workshops and follow-up activities have been organized to develop a standard curriculum and manuals on the SEP and the RBM. These curriculum and manuals help ensure that the success and lessons learned from the project, 'Establishment of Model Village and Technology Transfer Centre based on His Majesty King's SEP in Hera' can be replicated in other areas. With the success in Hera, the project has later been extended to other areas, i.e. Ulmera, Lihu and Metinaro.

As a result of this project, not only has Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 been achieved, but also SDGs 2, 4, 6, as well as 17 through the trilateral partnership forged between Thailand-Timor-Leste and Germany at both official and individual levels. Given the project focus is on Timor-Leste, which is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), the project also contributed to the SAMOA Pathway priority area on Food security and nutrition.

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# Caribbean Experiences in Disaster Risk Reduction



## Exchange of experience in DRR and Food Security between Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti

### CHALLENGE

Countries in the Caribbean share a similar exposure to natural hazards, such as tropical storms and hurricanes. These phenomena have devastating impacts on the food security and nutrition of affected populations, especially those in the most vulnerable situations.

In the Dominican Republic and Haiti, these events have had a severe impact on food security and nutrition, resulting in the island of Hispaniola being one of the most affected areas in the region.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Cuba has a National Plan for Addressing Climate Change, called Life Task, that aims to increase resilience and promote the adoption of renewable energies, energy efficiency and sustainable development. Cuba has robust legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction.

Within the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, the World Food Programme (WFP) identified an opportunity to facilitate cooperation between these Caribbean island countries with the objective of strengthening the disaster risk reduction capacities of the Dominican Republic and Haiti by learning from Cuban expertise. This project works towards addressing SDGs 2 and 13.

The collaboration started with a regional workshop in December 2014 at which experiences in disaster risk reduction and food security were exchanged between Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The workshop was facilitated by the WFP Regional Bureau in Panama, together with the respective WFP Country Offices. National authorities from the three countries participated, including the Dominican Republic Municipal Committees for Prevention, Mitigation and Response, the National Emergency Commission, Emergency Operations Center, National Meteorology Office, National Institute of Hydraulic Resources,



#### NOMINATED BY

World Food Programme (WFP)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

2.1, 2.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Climate change

#### SUPPORTED BY

Office of German Humanitarian Assistance

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

WFP

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

December 2014 – Ongoing

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

- <https://bit.ly/2UVzKwX>
- <https://bit.ly/3x8ITR2>
- <https://youtu.be/yApAvmDr5sM>



Dominican Red Cross and the Social Protection Cabinet. With WFP support, the countries identified a set of activities to be pursued through South-South and triangular cooperation to allow a continuation of peer learning on disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean.

As a follow up, in 2015, WFP organized the first cycle of field visits with representatives from Cuba visiting both the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Experts from the Center of Emergency Operations, national emergency committees, hydro-meteorology offices, civil defense, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment of the three countries met to map available capacities and identify the gaps in each country in relation to risk management of disasters. In 2016, the second cycle of exchanges focused on identifying specific actions to be implemented to strengthen disaster risk reduction and management systems in Haiti with the technical expertise of Cuba and the coordination of WFP.

The following needs were identified:

- ▶ strengthen the surveillance and forecasting of extreme events through the installation of numerical models and training of technical personnel of national institutions;
- ▶ share expertise to assess the risk associated with the impact of strong winds, heavy rains and coastal flooding; and
- ▶ develop informative communication protocols to disseminate monitoring information and forecasts.

In parallel to these initiatives, since 2015, WFP has been facilitating Regional Dialogue Platforms on Forecast-based Financing. Forecast-based Financing is an approach to manage climate risks by acting in anticipation of a severe weather event, based on weather forecasts and with pre-positioned finances. The Regional Dialogue Platforms are funded by the German Humanitarian Assistance office and have provided a space to exchange experiences and lessons learned from Forecast-based Financing within the region.

Between 2016 and 2019, WFP facilitated visits of Cuban experts to Haiti to set up a short-term meteorological forecasting system for hurricanes. Haitian meteorologists also participated in several field visits to Cuba and received training on tropical cyclone forecasting methodologies.

These successful South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives facilitated by WFP achieved the following objectives:

- ▶ The National Meteorological Centre of Haiti adopted a numerical model that allows forecasting of possible hurricane trajectories within 48-72 hours, building on the model learned from Cuba.
- ▶ Haitian personnel have been trained to carry out hazard, vulnerabilities and risk assessments at the community level.
- ▶ The Government of Haiti developed a national contingency plan for hurricanes, taking advantage of the experience of Cuba's Civil Defense.

As part of the Forecast-based Financing component, WFP and the German Red Cross organized a regional meeting in Peru in June 2018 to exchange experiences among countries of the region where Forecast-based Financing is promoted. Presentations were made by government delegations from the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti and Peru.

In November 2018, Cuba and the Dominican Republic continued to work together in the area of disaster risk reduction with Cuban professionals

from the Instituto de Meteorología visiting the Dominican Republic to train staff from the Oficina Nacional de Meteorología on a model that helps to understand the impact of rains at a precise level, facilitating prepared response actions.

Building on these successful South-South and triangular cooperation exchanges, peer learning in disaster risk reduction has been replicated and expanded to other countries in the region. In 2019, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Caribbean Disaster Management Administration shared their experiences in early warning systems and disaster risk reduction in a sub-regional disaster risk management forum.

In March 2019, in Santo Domingo, the First Sub-regional Forum on Early Warning and Risk Management in the Caribbean was held with the participation of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti as part of WFP's Forecast-based Financing initiative. Experiences and best practices were shared at the forum to increase community resilience and strengthen national and regional capacities for disaster risk reduction, mainly linked to SDG 13. A set of principles and actions for resilience building were adopted for the coming 12 months in the Santo Domingo Consensus. In February 2020, a specialist from WFP Cuba led a workshop for institutions of the Dominican Republic to transfer tools developed by Cuban institutions jointly with WFP Cuba. The tools strengthen integrated drought management and reduce its impact on food security and nutrition. To give continuity to this joint effort, and taking into consideration COVID-19, the Second Sub-regional Forum on Early Warning and Risk Management in the Caribbean is planned to take place virtually during 2021.

Cuba's technical cooperation for forecasting floods due to heavy rains resulted in several missions of Cuban technicians training meteorological counterparts in the Dominican Republic to operate numerical models developed by the Cuban Institute of Meteorology. These tools have been useful and have strengthened the technical capabilities of the Dominican meteorological system to predict the impact of extreme winds and heavy rains. This experience can be replicated based on the successful contribution and the preparation of the Yaque del Norte basin standard of procedures, which make it possible to reach acceptable levels of preparation to face any eventuality.

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# Procurement and Installation of Solar-powered Chest Freezers for the Mili Atoll



## Harnessing solar energy at the local level

### CHALLENGE

The Republic of the Marshall Islands is an equatorial nation of 29 scattered coral atolls and five islands over a vast oceanic exclusive economic zone of approximately 2.13 million square kilometres in the Central Pacific Ocean. There is incomplete analysis of hardship, but SDG monitoring indicates that basic needs, poverty and hunger are rising. The challenges facing outer island communities include water shortages, lack of transport and reduced access to electricity, telecommunications and basic services. Mili Atoll, composed of 92 islets, is among the most vulnerable of the country's Districts to the adverse effects of climate change driven by accelerated sea level rise, salinization of soil and contamination of limited groundwater. As a consequence, food security has arisen as a prominent hardship.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To respond to urgent needs on the island, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), provided funds for the people of Mili Atoll of the Republic of Marshall Islands, to supply and install solar-powered small home systems that support refrigeration (chest freezers). This sustainable and environmentally friendly solution will allow local communities to freeze food from subsistence farming and fishing for longer periods of time, bridging fluctuations in food production and fisheries more easily. The project aims to reduce hardship and widespread food insecurity, which are common across the Pacific nations.

Through this initiative, local communities will work together with the local government to identify the households to receive the solar-powered chest freezers and trainees. The communities will also support the Ministry of Works, Utilities and Infrastructure during the installation and training process to ensure local ownership of the project outputs. Improving food quality and safety is one of the Marshall Islands' development priorities, contributing primarily to SDG 2 - zero hunger and aligned with Samoa Pathway priorities on food security and nutrition.



#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

India, the Republic of the Marshall Islands

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

2.1

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Food security and nutrition

#### SUPPORTED BY

India through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNOPS

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

April 2020 – June 2021



Expected outputs of this project are:

- ▶ 120 households are supplied with solar-powered chest freezers;
- ▶ environmentally friendly and sustainable means of storing food become available;
- ▶ personnel will be trained for the installation and maintenance of the freezers;
- ▶ time, money and energy requirements spent on frequent food purchasing trips are reduced; and
- ▶ shelf life of food is extended due to the improved storage option

Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels were selected over fuel-based systems as the PV panels offered a sustainable and environmentally friendly solution. The reasons why solar PV panels were a better option included:

- ▶ very high imported fuel costs for procurement and transportation to the outer rural atolls to operate diesel generators;
- ▶ practicality and safety improvements;
- ▶ decentralization of the power system is needed over geographically distributed populations;
- ▶ availability of off-the-shelf technology for solar PV refrigerators and freezers;
- ▶ the relative ease of installation of small home systems with the participation of the beneficiary communities and households;
- ▶ presence of local entrepreneurship that supports solar PV-related activities;
- ▶ increasing interest and familiarity with the use of solar PV among the rural population; and
- ▶ increasing demand for technical skills to install and maintain PV systems provides learning and job opportunities.

While the project is being implemented in Mili Atoll, given its successful completion and tangible impact, there is the possibility to scale up the intervention to other remote parts of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. In addition, such support can be scaled-up and replicated through triangular cooperation.

Using renewable energy-based solutions in the development of small island developing states, such as the one offered under this project has been recognized by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), regional Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and multilateral organizations (Asian Development Bank, World Bank, International Monetary Fund) as well as bilateral donors (European Union, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) as an appropriate form of development assistance with very positive impacts for local populations.



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# Mauritius' Demonstrated Capacity in Controlling Communicable Diseases



## Preventing vector-borne and other communicable diseases such as malaria, dengue, chikungunya, whooping cough, diphtheria, leprosy, schistosomiasis and poliomyelitis

### CHALLENGE

A few decades ago, Mauritius was facing several communicable diseases, such as malaria, childhood infectious diseases, and tuberculosis. The country has since embarked on important measures as per World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines to eradicate the diseases or to contain them at their present low level.

Presently, Mauritius has acquired rich and varied expertise in responding to disease outbreaks and other public health threats, through both real cases and simulation exercises. Its success in controlling communicable diseases is attributed mainly to the implementation of an efficient surveillance programme as well as to the National Expanded Immunization Programme.

However, Mauritius' extensive air and trade links with endemic countries have increased the risk of importation of pathogens and the country's vulnerability to epidemic-prone diseases. In addition, the country is also subject to climate change and its impact on its vector distribution, with increasing threat from vector-borne diseases, which requires constant and heightened vigilance.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address the above challenge, the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) in Mauritius developed an operational plan for the prevention and control for communicable diseases. The objective of the plan is to control the spread of diseases, enhance the quality of life of the population and contribute to economic development. The initiative addresses SAMOA Pathway priority area on Health and non-communicable diseases.



#### NOMINATED BY

Government of Mauritius

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Mauritius

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.3, 3.d

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Health and non-communicable diseases

#### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Mauritius (Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development) and Donor partners, such as World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Health and Wellness, Mauritius

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

Ongoing (whole year)

As part of its efforts, the MOHW implemented an efficient surveillance programme through the screening of all passengers incoming at port and airport, and health surveillance of passengers from high-risk countries as per the established protocol. The control of communicable diseases is implemented by the Communicable Disease Control Unit and the Public Health and Food Safety Inspectorate of the MOHW, under the responsibility of the respective Director of Health Services. The MOHW also collaborates with the Mauritius Ports Authority, the Passport and Immigration Office, Airports of Mauritius Ltd., Airport Terminal Operations Ltd. (ATOL), and the Civil Aviation Department for port and airport surveillance. Around 80,000 blood samples from asymptomatic passengers are taken and screened for malaria yearly. All positive cases are isolated in medical centres and treated accordingly. Mauritius has also implemented appropriate public health measures to control vectors and prevent local transmissions, for example fogging, larviciding, peri-domestic and rooftop inspections, indoor residual spraying, fever surveys and health education for the public.

In regards to immunization and vaccination measures, the country implemented a National Expanded Immunization Programme. There are six health regions, including the Island of Rodrigues, and each region has a vaccination coordination centre, manned by trained personnel with the necessary logistic support. At present, there are 159 active centres in Mauritius and 15 on the island of Rodrigues, with the aim to provide immunization services at a walking distance.

Furthermore, new vaccines have recently been introduced in Mauritius, recently namely rotavirus vaccine in 2015, pneumococcal vaccines in 2016, and human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine in 2016. The hexavalent vaccine was introduced in 2018, which confers immunity against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis, poliomyelitis (inactivated) and Haemophilus type B influenza. The presence of a good road network, adequate transport facilities and other modern communication tools have also contributed significantly to the success of the immunization programme. Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination has been extended to the population in high-risk areas and to the workforce of both public and private sectors, targeting specifically the 15–45 year age group. Over 50,000 persons were vaccinated against measles during the supplementary immunization activities. Due to the measles outbreak in April 2018, the vaccination schedule for MMR has been reviewed, with the first dose at nine months and the second dose at 17 months. Other public health measures taken include contact tracing and supplementary immunization activities.

The Vector Biology Control Division has conducted 516 mosquito surveys across the island. Entomological Surveys were reinforced during the dengue outbreaks in the affected regions.

In addition, in July 2018, a Geographic Information System (GIS) Unit was set up at the MOHW. The aim of this unit is to provide mapping, analysis and data management to support more informed decision-making as well as enabling collaboration across the MOHW. The importance of building GIS capabilities was demonstrated during surveillance and response activities for the measles outbreaks to visualize geographical



distribution of cases in high-level situation reports, and the dengue outbreaks to assist in the identification of sites for fogging activities. Furthermore, in March 2019, the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) was initiated as part of the strategy to strengthen the core capacities of the International Health Regulations (2005). It provides the Communicable Diseases Control Unit at headquarters with information for the 11 priority diseases in real time, from all across the island<sup>1</sup>.

For many years, Mauritius has been successfully using several formal and ad hoc multisectoral mechanisms under the rubric of the broader National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (2016) and the updated Public Health and Quarantine Acts to respond to public health emergencies. A fully operational National Disasters Risk Reduction and Management Centre is in place under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity to prepare for and respond to natural disasters and epidemics.

In terms of South-South cooperation, the country has cross-border agreements, protocols and memoranda of understanding (MOUs) on public health emergencies with neighbouring countries. Through the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Mauritius is aiming to advance a genuine One Health agenda.

It has also signed a charter for the weekly sharing of data on epidemic-prone diseases occurring within the Indian Ocean islands of the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion and Seychelles. The country is also required to share data with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) via the Zoom platform.

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# Advancing Public Health Policies to Address Overweight and Obesity in Chile and the Caribbean Community



## Leveraging experiences from Chilean labelling and marketing legislation to reduce obesity

### CHALLENGE

Overweight and obesity have reached epidemic proportions among all age groups in the Caribbean and Chile, including children under five. This increases the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCD), mortality and morbidity, and imposes enormous financial strain on individuals, families, communities and societies at large. Addressing this epidemic requires effective laws and regulations that target the current obesogenic environment, as reflected in numerous global and regional mandates, including the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents, and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) six-point core policy package.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The project, "Advancing public health policies to address overweight and obesity in Chile and the Caribbean Community", was developed by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Government of Chile within PAHO's Cooperation among Countries for Health Development (CCHD) framework, a new approach to PAHO's delivery of technical cooperation intended to foster horizontal alliances and cooperation between countries. The project was endorsed by the Ministries of Health of the Caribbean during the 33rd meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) in September 2017, conferring a strong mandate to achieve its objectives.

This initiative aims to support the development and implementation of effective laws and regulations to address the current obesogenic environments in the Caribbean Community while helping to systematize, internationalize and consolidate Chile's experience as State policy. More specifically, the project focuses on Chile's innovative front-of-package labelling (FOPL) legislation, which consists of

#### NOMINATED BY

PAHO/WHO

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Chile

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

2.2, 3.4

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Health and non-communicable diseases; Gender equality and women's empowerment

#### SUPPORTED BY

PAHO/WHO

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

PAHO, CARICOM Secretariat Health Desk, Caribbean Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), CARICOM Office of Trade Negotiation (OTN), Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC), University of the West Indies (UWI), Caribbean Law Institute Centre (CLIC), Ministry of Health of Chile, Ministry of Health of Jamaica, Ministry of Health of Suriname, and Ministry of Health of Barbados.

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

June 2017 – October 2018

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

- [www.paho.org/cchd/](http://www.paho.org/cchd/)
- [goo.gl/MEH4As](http://goo.gl/MEH4As)

nutritional warnings with a “high in” message to facilitate healthier choices by allowing consumers to quickly and easily identify pre-packaged foods high in sodium, saturated fats, sugar and/or total calories.

To that end, the project includes a combination of complementary sub-regional and country-specific activities for greater impact and reach. At the sub-regional level, efforts are focused on revising the current CARICOM standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods to include mandatory nutritional labelling and FOPL and expanding research to support evidence-based policymaking. This sub-regional approach will benefit multiple countries and avoid duplication of efforts, optimizing the use of national resources that could be directed towards actual implementation. Country-specific work consists of direct technical assistance to Barbados, Jamaica and Suriname to operationalize a roadmap for a step-wise approach for developing and implementing FOPL legislation.

This work also involves providing seed funds to stimulate action and investment at the country level, as a strategy to sustain efforts. Additionally, the initiative contributes to the development of tools and resources to advance FOPL regionally, such as systematizing available evidence, taking a step-wise approach to developing and implementing FOPL, compiling frequent arguments and counter-arguments, defining research sufficient to support the development of FOPL legislation, both from a scientific and legal perspective, and creating a harmonized research protocol to produce such research. Deliverables from this work will contribute to the sustainability of the project, while benefitting other countries and subregions in the Americas.

To facilitate implementation of the lines of work outlined above, as well as systemic cross-country transfer and participation and coordination among partners, a CCHD project team was established to provide general oversight and direction. The CCHD project team’s terms of reference and work plan were agreed during an initial site visit to Chile, which offered the opportunity to engage and establish partnerships between Chilean and Caribbean stakeholders. This approach has been critical to ensure buy-in and adequate coordination with related ongoing projects. Through these exchanges, stakeholders have learned from Chile’s experience with the policy development process and implementation of front-of-package labelling regulations.

Additionally, the project includes an objective aimed at facilitating exchanges between the Ministry of Health of Chile and CARICOM to identify future collaboration in the area of strengthening nursing capacity to address NCDs. In this regard, the partnerships and lessons learned from this South-South collaboration are now being leveraged to address other areas of joint interest, with an upcoming visit of a Caribbean delegation to Santiago de Chile in 2018 to discuss a potential second phase of the CCHD project.

In terms of replicability, other regional integration mechanisms, such as the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA) of the Central American Integration System (SICA), are using the sub-regional approach to advance the FOPL proposed under this project. Political commitment is a key factor in the success of the initiative, as is an understanding that measures must be tailored to the context in which they will be implemented.

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# Improved Blood Transfusion Services to Strengthen Health System in Guyana



## Transferring knowledge and state-of-the-art practices to improve the blood transfusion services in Guyana

### CHALLENGE

In Guyana, the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) faced challenges that impacted the management of services for people needing blood transfusion. This was due to the rapid staff turnover and the subsequent loss of experienced personnel. This was aggravated by poor procurement systems, lack of quality governance structures such as blood transfusion committees, and lack of transfusion guidelines. There was also a lack of knowledge on the use of blood components at hospital facilities and low availability of reagents for antibodies testing. All this compromised quality assurance and led to low confidence in the system.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

This South-South bilateral collaboration between Argentina and Guyana aimed at strengthening the blood transfusion system in Guyana between 2015 and 2018. Its objective was to strengthen the knowledge base on blood management and the professional skills of key staff working in the blood transfusion system in Guyana in order to strengthen the NBTS.

The collaboration aimed to enable the country to have a reliable blood transfusion service that would ensure the timely availability of a lifesaving health care input such as blood and its components in all health facilities that may require it. This directly contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, targets 3.1 (on the reduction in maternal mortality) and 3.8 (on universal access to quality health services). The project also contributes to the Samoa Pathway priority on Health and non-communicable diseases.



#### NOMINATED BY

Ministry of Public Health Guyana, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Guyana

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Argentina, Guyana

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.1, 3.8

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Health and non-communicable diseases

#### SUPPORTED BY

PAHO/WHO

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

National Blood Transfusion Service of Guyana and the Ministry of Health of Argentina (Garrahan Pediatric Hospital)

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2015 – 2018

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

[www.paho.org/CCHD](http://www.paho.org/CCHD)

Senior staff from Guyana's NBTS including its quality manager and director teamed up with experts and senior staff from the Hemotherapy Centre of the Garrahan Pediatric Hospital in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The latter is the largest paediatric hospital in Argentina and the national referral paediatric centre for intensive care, with an average of 10,000 paediatric surgeries annually.

The collaboration ensured the systemic, cross-country transfer of knowledge by adopting a four-phase process that ensured the participation of the key stakeholders from both countries. In phase one, an expert from Argentina visited the NBTS in Guyana to undertake an audit to understand the gaps that needed to be addressed, which included donor recruitment, blood donor's support and guidance, blood component processing, as well as blood distribution. The audit was instrumental in transferring new knowledge to Guyanese professionals, and served to prepare a programme of work to strengthen blood services in Guyana as several opportunities for improvement were identified and lessons learned were drawn.

In the second phase, an Argentinean expert visited the same centre for two weeks in order to conduct a hands-on training in donor management procedures, serology and blood components processes and management. Several recommendations to improve management and quality were also made, which led to the adoption of an improvement plan that was implemented in a two-year process with specific timelines and milestones.

In phase three of the collaboration, a senior staff member from the NBTS from Guyana visited the Garrahan Pediatric Hospital in Buenos Aires in June 2018 and participated in an intensive hands-on-training programme at the hemotherapy centre. The training focused on knowledge transfer in the areas of donor recruitment practices, quality assurance, immunohematology and blood collection. This phase later allowed for the dissemination of this new knowledge to Guyanese staff, thus ensuring the sustainability of the initiative.

In the final stage, an expert from the blood bank at the Garrahan Pediatric Hospital in Argentina visited Guyana for a final audit of the NBTS and provided final recommendations for the optimal operation of the service. In a final meeting with the Junior Minister at the Ministry of Public Health of Guyana, the expert provided recommendations for the consolidation of blood transfusion services and guidance to ensure the sustainability of the improvements achieved in Guyana.

Since the last visit of the Argentina experts, the NBTS has improved its operations in donor recruitment, blood processing and distribution. Although some aspects of the improvement process of these services require long-term implementation, Guyana took full advantage of this opportunity. Indeed, this South-South cooperation initiative was innovative because it brought new knowledge that enabled the beginning of a long-term process of structural improvement and innovation.



These innovations included the adoption of a strategic plan, the establishment of a new national blood policy, the creation of transfusion committees in the most important hospitals in the country, as well as the gradual improvement of quality. The collaboration also highlighted the need for blood derivatives including plasma, plaques, hemoderivates, etc. at public and private health facilities that are currently in place in most of them. The collaboration was instrumental to the Government of Guyana to create a specialized immunohematology laboratory with capacity for platelets pooling and the adoption of standard of procedures (SOPs) for all stages of the blood transfusion cycle.

As a result of the collaboration, the Government of Guyana, in a firm commitment to ensure the sustainability of the progress attained, has embarked in a long-term process to improve the quality of its national blood system. This is an area that requires a considerable amount of human and financial resources that the Government has committed to invest. The next goal of the country towards ensuring the sustainability of results is to improve quality to an even greater extent and obtain the accreditation of its NBTS according to international standards. Since the Garrahan Pediatric Hospital's Hemotherapy Centre is an internationally renowned blood bank, the plan is to upscale this collaboration.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Improvement of Maternal and Child Health on the Northern Border of the Dominican Republic and Haiti



## Advancing towards the achievement of SDG3 by strengthening health services to reduce maternal and child mortality

### CHALLENGE

Between 2014 and 2016, 32 percent of the pregnant women who received care at the Dominican Hospital of Dajabón, Cibao Occidental Region were Haitian women, representing 44 percent of the total number of women who gave birth in the hospital. Additionally, this Region has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the Dominican Republic. The main causes of maternal death are hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and postpartum haemorrhage, which are preventable in more than 80 percent of cases through the provision of quality and people-centred care. To address the health problems of pregnant women, the two neighbouring countries embarked on a binational cooperation project supported by Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). The project aims to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by focusing on improving prevention, early detection and adequate management of its main causes of death, in health facilities and at the community level.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The project 'Improvement of maternal and child health on the northern border of the Dominican Republic and Haiti' was developed as an initiative for the northern Dominican-Haitian border, planned by the national and regional authorities of both countries, with the support of PAHO/WHO. It also included local coordination and full participation of the health authorities in project implementation, supervision and monitoring. The aim is to reduce maternal and child mortality (particularly neonatal mortality) at the Dominican-Haitian border by strengthening the resolute capacity of the public health establishments coordinated with community interventions, as well as the strengthening binational coordination on health. This project addresses the priority areas of health and non-communicable diseases and gender equality and women's empowerment in the SAMOA Pathway.

#### NOMINATED BY

Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) country offices in the Dominican Republic and Haiti

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Dominican Republic, Haiti

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.7, 3.8, 3.c, 5.6, 17.9

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Health and non-communicable diseases; Gender equality and women's empowerment

#### SUPPORTED BY

PAHO/WHO

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Health and National Health Service of the Dominican Republic, Ministry of Health of Haiti

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – 2020

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

[www.paho.org/CCHD](http://www.paho.org/CCHD)

In terms of methodology, the authorities and health workers from the northern border of both countries conduct coordination meetings, keeping a smooth communication. The health team from the three levels of care (i.e. departmental, health facility and community levels) participated in collaborative learning, which allows to share good practices, with a follow-up from the local and regional health authorities that have participated in the project. Their experience could be used to provide technical cooperation, replicated at other cross-border regions. The methodology of training facilitators has strengthened the local health centres, assuring the sustainability of the interventions through functional mechanisms that will remain within the institutions and structures after finalizing the project.

The initiative used a three-level care approach to lead the transnational transfer of good practices. At the departmental level, a bilateral joint commission of the coordination mechanism for referral and counter-referral between Haiti and the Dominican Republic was created to establish operational links to transfer cares of pregnant women with obstetric complications from Haiti to the Dominican Republic in order to receive better care. At the level of the health facility, the rehabilitation of the hospital at the Haitian border allows pregnant women to give birth with dignity in a respectful and safe environment. This motivates pregnant women to seek and receive quality maternal care in a health facility provided by qualified health personnel. At the community level, joint meetings are held with youth and adolescents from both countries to raise awareness on the prevention of early pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and their right to receive sound care at the hospital. Binational networks of the two countries for integrated actions for adolescent and maternal health care for Haitian migrant women are being set up. In addition, joint meetings were held with community leaders and community health workers (CHW) from both countries to ensure ownership of the joint project, and to motivate and inform women of childbearing age on the availability of quality maternal health and family planning services in their respective communities. In addition, the *Servicio Regional de Salud Cibao Occidental* [Regional Health Service of Western Cibao] (SRSCO) has successfully coordinated efforts to improve maternal and childcare in their 16 hospitals, including the regional maternal child hospital 'Francisco Peña Gómez from Mao-Valverde'. This has strengthened their resolute capacity to comply with the maternal and neonatal protocols established by the Ministry of Health (MSP), using the collaborative learning methodology that uses a check list with explicit criteria to measure compliance.

The exchange of experiences between the two countries takes place within binational meetings that are scheduled according to their need. Binational integration remains fundamental to the success of this project; it serves as a basis for maintaining and adding actions that benefit both nations. This project can serve as a reference for replication and upscale in other countries with the same border population challenges.

From 2018 to 2020, the project has achieved the following results:

- ▶ The number of maternal deaths was reduced by 23 percent, and the maternal mortality rate by 18 percent (from 13 to 10, and from 209 to 171 per 100,000 live births in 2019 against 2018).
- ▶ The number of neonatal deaths was reduced by 26 percent (from 148 to 110), and the neonatal mortality rate was reduced by 39 percent (from 23 to 14 per 1,000 live births).



- ▶ 595 health workers were trained on: triage; emergency and obstetric urgency; obstetric haemorrhage and red code; helping mothers survive pre-eclampsia/eclampsia; and community AIEPI, among other topics.
- ▶ 199 health workers, mainly from the community, were trained on priority topics identified in the intervention strategy designed from a baseline of recognition and search of professional care during pregnancy and childbirth; the identification of danger signs (signs and symptoms) during pregnancy, childbirth, puerperium and for neonates; and reproductive health and reduction of access barriers in health services.
- ▶ Health service capacity was improved in the activation and handling of the obstetric red code. This included training of 15 obstetricians and gynecologists, and 35 health workers who are not specialized in gynecology and obstetrics. Also, 20 non-pneumatic, anti-shock suits were assigned to the health services. In 2019, 33 Red Code cases were registered, where all the mothers and children survived.
- ▶ Blood supply and management were strengthened, including test equipment and supplies for screening and transfusion. In 2019, 421 units of blood were screened. Prior, patients had to be transferred to another region (Region 2) for transfusions.
- ▶ The Perinatal Information System (SIP Plus) was implemented in six hospitals in the region.
- ▶ Compliance with obstetric and neonatal protocol improved in 16 hospitals.
- ▶ The methodology to evaluate the Integrated Health Services Delivery Network (RISS) was applied.

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# Road Safety Improvement in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica through the Strengthening of Road Safety Management and Regulatory Capacities



## Exchanging best practices from Costa Rica and institutional strengthening to address one of the major causes of mortality in the Dominican Republic

### CHALLENGE

The deaths and injuries caused by road traffic accidents represent an important morbidity, mortality and disability burden in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica, especially among individuals aged between 14 and 29 years. This is due to the insufficient actions taken to prevent road traffic accident and is also related to the weakness of the road safety leadership. This project seeks to address one of the main public health issues in the Dominican Republic, because it has the highest traffic mortality rate in the Region of the Americas (34.6 deaths per 100,000 population) and one of the five highest in the world, by drawing on the experience of Costa Rica where the rate is 16.7 per 100,000 population, i.e. 1.1 percentage points above the regional average.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To approach the challenge, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic collaborated on the project 'Road safety improvement in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica through the strengthening of management capacities of the correspondent institutions', with the objective of developing practices and tools that contribute to the reduction of deaths, injuries and property damage caused by road traffic accidents in both countries.

Through this cooperation, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic aim to share knowledge, abilities and expertise to reach its goals through concerted efforts, which are in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 (Good health and well-being), target 3.6 and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), target 11.2. This project also contributes to SAMOA Pathway priority area



#### NOMINATED BY

Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Costa Rica, Dominican Republic

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.6, 11.2

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all

#### SUPPORTED BY

PAHO/WHO

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

The National Institution of Transit and Ground Transportation (INTRANT) from the Dominican Republic, and Road Safety Council (COSEVI) from Costa Rica

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2019 – 2021

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

[www.paho.org/CCHD](http://www.paho.org/CCHD)

on Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all with a focus on development models in small island developing States for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

This project emerged from the National Institution of Transit and Ground Transportation (INTRANT) in the Dominican Republic's interest to learn from Costa Rica Road Safety Council (COSEVI) experience, which was initiated through a formal request. This cooperation was facilitated by the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) offices in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, which monitor the progress of both countries in achieving the objectives of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020, officially proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010. Moreover, the proposed actions, such as policy development, guidance, and communication campaigns, are aligned with the National Strategic Road Safety Plan of the Dominican Republic and with the National Plan for Road Safety 2015–2020 of Costa Rica.

Cooperation was initiated through multisectoral work meetings with public health and road safety experts from the participating institutions. From the early start, these meetings facilitated the identification of the project formulation, the strengths, capacities, instruments and tools that both countries could share or develop together, with the aim of tackling the respective country's prioritized challenges. In this way, there was a clear identification of the good practices to be shared during the development of the project, and the good practices that would be created as part of their development.

With the aim of making the methodological process more participatory, the starting of the project included a week of joint work with the expertise teams from both countries. This allowed to make important adjustments to the methodology, derived from a deep documental analysis and subsequent technical discussions about the situation during the beginning of the project.

While both institutions play a role in sharing experiences, within this project, COSEVI shared most of the knowledge, technologies and acquired experiences with INTRANT. COSEVI has led important advancements in Costa Rica's road safety, which has the potential to be shared with similar institutions in the region.

During this project's short execution period, the Dominican Republic started the implementation of its technical vehicle inspection programme, which was technically advised by Costa Rica based on its years of experience in this area. Vehicles in a poor state are more prone to create traffic accidents. hence, the inspection programme is a cornerstone of the strategy. In contrast, Costa Rica is sharing communication products through social media, drawing on the long experiences of the Dominican Republic in this aspect. Additionally, a Road Safety Observatory has been developed to track and monitor progress road safety.



As a result of the exchange, the following has emerged, which can serve as a reference for other countries wishing to adopt this good practice: manuals, guides and regulations; plans on data collection, processing and analysis on injuries and fatalities from road traffic accidents; technical vehicle inspection programmes; and safer mobility and communication campaigns.

To ensure the replication of the outcomes that have been observed to date during the project execution, all the development experience has been systematized. This is indeed one of the objectives of the project, i.e. to facilitate the design of other similar initiatives among countries based on this methodology.

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# Maternal Health Services Continuity Support During the 2019 Samoa Measles Crisis



## A Fiji-Samoa South-South cooperation initiative

### CHALLENGE

The Samoa 2019 measles outbreak became a national emergency that placed a high demand on Samoan health workers. Human resources for health were re-focused on the outbreak response. This, of course, implied that other health services were placed on hold or had reduced service delivery. This was particularly true for sexual and reproductive health services, including provision of antenatal care, birth delivery services, postnatal care, comprehensive and basic emergency obstetrics and newborn care and family planning services. While the outbreak response had urgency and demanded the bulk of the attention of the health professionals, the government did not want sexual and reproductive health issues left out as they are of strategic importance.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

So that the sexual and reproductive health sector was not underserved as the country battled the measles outbreak, it was clear that medical professionals in the field were needed as soon as possible. Pacific Island countries had utilized the South-South cooperation modality in the past to respond to each other's needs for acute increases in human resources for health during emergencies. Thus, health sector leaders in Samoa looked toward South-South cooperation as one way to fill this urgent need.

The Government of Samoa knew that retired midwives had been utilized in other countries in response to cyclones that hit the Pacific between 2014 and 2017, thus requested similar assistance to address medical staff shortages during the measles outbreak.

Thus, Samoa requested a partnership with the Government of Fiji, facilitated by UNFPA. The UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office facilitated the deployment of 10 retired, but qualified and currently licensed midwives, from across Fiji to stay in Samoa for 10 weeks between December 2019 and February 2020.

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Republic of Fiji, Independent State of Samoa

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.1, 3.2, 3.7, 17.6, 17.9, 17.16

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Health and non-communicable diseases

#### SUPPORTED BY

UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Samoa Ministry of Health and Medical Services, UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2019 – 2020

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3vU7Myn>

These midwives supported the maternity and labour wards of the nation's hospitals while local midwives were deployed to support the measles response nationwide.

This deployment was supported by the Ministry of Health Fiji in collaboration with the Nursing Council of Fiji with financial support from UNFPA and was implemented through an existing Emergency Medical Team platform coordinated by the World Health Organization in Samoa.

The deployment of the 10 midwives significantly contributed to the stabilization of essential reproductive health services in Samoan health facilities at a time when government resources were diverted to the measles vaccination and treatment. The initiative ensured that pregnant women continued to receive safe and high-quality services at a time when health workers were overstretched.

Specifically, their deployment directly enabled 144 women to deliver safely via normal deliveries, assisted 16 Caesarean sections, conducted 534 antenatal visits and eight postnatal visits, immunized 535 patients and delivered family planning services to 276 clients. The approach proved economical as the midwives offered their services on a volunteer basis, with their internal and international travel costs met and in-country costs covered by daily subsistence allowances provided by UNFPA.

UNFPA further helped with this Samoa initiative by finalizing the Terms of Reference for the volunteers, providing a clear scope of responsibilities, processed the midwives travel and Daily Subsistence Allowances and booked their accommodation in country in coordination with the Samoa Team. UNFPA coordinated closely with WHO in Samoa that is responsible for coordinating technical teams requested by the government.



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# Palau Community Health Center Rehabilitation Project



## Providing local populations with access to high quality essential health care services

### CHALLENGE

Like most developing nations, Palau is facing public health challenges, such as an ongoing battle with non-communicable diseases. According to the World Health Organization, over 70 percent of deaths in Palau are caused by non-communicable diseases, with heart disease, obesity, stroke, cancer and diabetes being the main causes. Non-communicable diseases have lowered Palauan life expectancy and continue to be drivers of poverty and inequality undermining socio-economic progress.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), and to improve the physical state of Palau's underserved communities and vulnerable populations, the Palau Ministry of Health conducted an overall assessment of the sector. The findings revealed that to bring well-being closer to people, the country's Community Health Centres, as the primary means of health service delivery, need to be radically improved.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To respond to the national needs, the government of Palau is working with UNOPS, the UN's infrastructure specialist, in a US \$1.6 million collaboration project to help improve some of the nation's most vital health infrastructure. Funded by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund which is managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), UNOPS is assisting Palau's Ministry of Health to rehabilitate three community health centres in Ngarchelong, Ngeremlengui, and Peleliu. The aim of the project is to upgrade local healthcare facilities, and to provide local populations with access to high quality essential health care services. Simultaneously, healthcare workers are expected to benefit from improved working conditions.



#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

India, Palau

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.8, 5.6, 11.C

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Health and non-communicable diseases

#### SUPPORTED BY

India through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNOPS

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

August 2019 – May 2022

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

- <https://bit.ly/3qoiBHZ>
- <https://bit.ly/3jjflqt>
- <https://bit.ly/3jkVjB0>
- <https://bit.ly/3dd8Qac>

To effectively renovate the community health centres and to achieve maximum safety on the construction sites, it was necessary to first build local capacity in important aspects of construction, namely quality assurance and health and safety in the working environment. Thus, UNOPS trained local maintenance teams and contractors on Quality Assurance and Health, Safety and Environment.

Project personnel received online training on Health, Safety and Environment from the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. An E-learning methodology was used, and guidance to the local maintenance teams and CIP instructors was provided by the project manager with the use 'Working Safely' course. In addition, the project manager trained the team on quality assurance, health and safety and construction site management with a total of 9 lectures of 1.5 hour duration each. The training used the combination of strong educational supervision and a participative leadership style, highlighting the mutual benefits for the project and for the individual.

To monitor the infrastructure projects and to support the UNOPS 'GOAL ZERO' for safety on construction sites, 'OneUNOPS Collect (oUC)' tool was used. The tool enabled the project to collect data on site, using a mobile device - making it easier for project personnel to carry out data collection tasks. Collected data was then available for use from a central repository, and could be visualised alongside other corporate and non-corporate data, using Google Data Studio or Google Connected Sheets-based reports to facilitate informed decision making. This helped to increase project quality, assure health and safety supervision on project sites and support capacity building.

To increase awareness of personal health and to inspire positive lifestyle changes, UNOPS collaborated with vegetarian restaurant owners, health practitioners and lifestyle facilitators to organize a series of lectures for the local communities. "Be your own best medicine!" lectures, attended primarily by female citizens, focused on whole-person health, integrating concepts around optimal nutrition, exercise and behavioural psychology. The lectures also touched on gender-responsive infrastructure designs, that aim to address gender inequalities by responding to diverse needs in society – including women, men, girls and boys, the elderly, the physically disabled and economically disadvantaged, and can thus enhance sustainability, equality, and economic and social benefits for all.

The innovation aspect of the project consisted in the use of modern technology, developed specifically for infrastructure projects to ensure easier monitoring and quality supervision. Adding to the use of technology, UNOPS invested significant effort in building skills of the local communities and key project personnel. The skills learned by project personnel and local communities can be applied to future infrastructure projects in the country, while increasing the employability of the trainees.

UNOPS is working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Palau and local communities to ensure local ownership. Once the assets are constructed and handed over to the Government of Palau, UNOPS will support formulation of maintenance plans to ensure long-term sustainability and continuity of services.



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# Synergies of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCE)



## Building the capacities of teachers and parents to support SDG targets in communities in the Pacific region

### CHALLENGE

Overexploitation of natural resources and excessive consumption is damaging the health and self-sustainability of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In these countries, there is a need for education to create and transmit knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that establish a lifestyle that is respectful of nature and promotes a sustainable future.

UNESCO's efforts to promote education for sustainable development received a boost with the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Education for Sustainable Development integrates issues around climate change, biodiversity and sustainable consumption into core subjects like languages, mathematics, sciences and involves modifying the teaching-learning process to take learning from life actions.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Education for Sustainable Development in the Pacific programme will bring together nine Pacific Small Island Developing States for SIDS-SIDS knowledge exchanges in 2021. Supported by the Japan Funds-in-Trust for UNESCO, the project fosters culturally appropriate teaching and learning in the nine countries, namely, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The programme envisages that the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to address sustainable development challenges among teachers and parents are prerequisites if students are to be guided to acquire them.

The programme builds the capacities of teachers and parents and equips them with resources to support SDG targets in their communities, including the targets on education (4.7), on awareness for sustainable lifestyle (12.8), on climate change (13.3) and on South-South and multilateral cooperation (17.6). The project further



#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4.7, 12.8, 13.3

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all; Means of implementation, including partnerships (Capacity-building)

#### SUPPORTED BY

UNESCO and Japan

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNESCO office for the Pacific States, University of the South Pacific, Ministries of Education in the seven SIDS of the Pacific and Samoa Conservation Society

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

November 2018 – May 2021



contributes to the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway Articles 27(a), 69, 75(a), 82, 108 and 108(i). These targets and articles concern environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society.

This programme builds on two previous regional projects. The first regional project in 2015-2016, funded by the Malaysia Fund-in-Trust for UNESCO, successfully laid a foundation for identification and integration of non-cognitive skills into national curricula. The second regional project, under UNESCO's regular programme during 2018-2019, organized 15 Pacific Small Island Developing States into three multi-country groups – Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia – and brought curriculum planners and teacher trainers together for joint training and SIDS-SIDS knowledge exchange.

For the current programme, UNESCO in the Pacific is partnering with the participating countries' ministries of education, which are responsible for education policy and planning, and other institutions, including regional, environmental and community-based organizations. The programme is delivering education services for integration of education for sustainable development in teaching and learning. Resources produced under the programme are based on local information and contexts to increase understanding and perceived utility of the learning materials produced for training teachers and parents. Dialogue among curriculum developers and teacher trainers in the programme countries and at various levels has helped avoid duplication of efforts and is generating an understanding of the principles of sustainable living, gaining a concurrence of stakeholders. Resources being developed are keeping future needs in view and for sustainability are accompanied by training of trainers.

The project objective for early childhood care and education and for primary, secondary and tertiary levels is to design Education for Sustainable Development learning and professional development materials for stakeholders. The project supports the professional capacity building of teachers, teacher educators, school and centre administrators and curriculum planners of the ministries of education by introducing Education for Sustainable Development approaches and learning tools. Key lessons learned from one another in each country as well as across the project countries will be documented.

The outcomes of this project include the identification of prioritized skills for development in early childhood care and education, as well as in the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education. The resources developed address sustainability issues and concepts. These resources are meant to support learners to acquire skills in culturally consistent ways. Context-specificity and bilingualism have been made part of design intentionally for extended non-formal learning. Drawing on one-another's know-how, all outputs are Small Island Developing States-specific and bilingual so that teachers can enhance the understanding of education for sustainable development in local languages and to allow greater collaboration with families and communities.



The programme was in the process of being implemented in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Samoa when the COVID-19 pandemic spread. The methodology had to be tailored to address the peculiarity of the times and to overcome challenges posed by border closures and restrictions on international travel that initially seriously affected SIDS-SIDS knowledge exchanges. The situation contributed to an adoption of digital communications and production of teaching and learning resources in multimedia formats. The shift from in-situ to multi-media-based capacity development actually facilitated engagement between the participating SIDS and the university of the South Pacific and other countries of the global South where similar efforts are underway.

By early 2021, this programme is expected to have raised 'champions' of education for sustainable development in communities who are willing to actively engage in supporting the replication and practice of change. With the help of these champions, the results from this project will be used to organize further SIDS-SIDS knowledge exchanges on the importance of non-cognitive skills within the framework of the Pacific Regional Education Framework from 2021-2023.

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# Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage



## Accelerating capacity building through strategic South-South partnerships in the Pacific region

### CHALLENGE

As the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific face sea-level rise and other consequences of climate change, the islands, atolls and the cultural capital of the islanders are at risk of getting lost. The Pacific region has a wealth of intangible cultural heritage that make critical contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The value of this intangible cultural heritage is recognized in the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

Although the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) is currently ratified by 13 SIDS of the Pacific, institutional capacity strengthening is needed for its safeguarding. This capacity is essential for the countries to benefit from traditional skills, knowledge and practices that can address development needs.

The UNESCO Office for the Pacific States has been acting as a bridge to cover gaps and to support collaboration in a context-specific manner resulting in an increased safeguarding and understanding of intangible cultural heritage. UNESCO is working with many institutions in the wider Asia-Pacific region are spearheading actions to enhance institutional capacities and facilitate exchanges and sharing of expertise to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The reality of pending loss of cultural capital has prompted 13 SIDS in the Pacific to ratify the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. These states have requested assistance from UNESCO to help build their capacities and resources for safeguarding of their intangible cultural heritage. In response, and in recognition of Article 80 of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities



#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Office for the Pacific States

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

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

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

17.6, 17.9, 4.7

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Social development (Education); Means of implementation, including partnerships (Capacity-building)

#### SUPPORTED BY

Government of China and Government of the Republic of Korea

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNESCO Office for the Pacific States in collaboration with the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) under the auspices of UNESCO, International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP) under the auspices of UNESCO

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2014 – 2029

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/safeguarding-00012>



of Action (SAMOA) Pathway which underscores the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment in SIDS, UNESCO embarked on specific partnerships and activities that can meaningfully contribute to development in this area for the member states.

To this end, the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States established a partnership with specialized institutions in the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China to support capacity strengthening of the institutions in the Pacific for safeguarding and promotion of intangible cultural heritage. UNESCO facilitated joint prioritization of work plans by national institutions responsible for culture policies, the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP) under the auspices of UNESCO and the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) under the auspices of UNESCO. CRIHAP is a specialized institution in China focused on building national capacities for meeting the requirements of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003). ICHCAP is a specialized institution in the Republic of Korea supporting use of digital information technologies for effective sharing of information and cultural data, networking among practitioners and raising public awareness about cultural assets, domains of knowledge and practices. The specific strengths of these two institutions are capitalized upon to develop targeted capacity-building activities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage expressions or manifestations whose viability is threatened. Since intangible cultural heritage is transmitted by custodians, who may be communities, groups or individuals, the activities take place with custodian participation. The custodians are equipped with the required skills and mechanisms to ensure that these practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and know-how are transmitted from generation to generation.

The collaboration with CRIHAP has resulted in a series of international training sessions to strengthen the understanding of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding across SIDS in the Pacific. Informed by context-specific challenges, the training combines knowledge around the convention with local knowledge of climate change and natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions in Vanuatu. The process has been mutually beneficial as the participating countries improve their capacities to meet the requirements of the UNESCO Convention, while CRIHAP gains knowledge about climate and environmental factors affecting safeguarding in these countries.

The collaboration with ICHCAP supports the participating countries to become part of an information management and sharing system in the Asia-Pacific region. It helps the national institutions to become active in cooperative networks of NGOs, research institutes and government organizations and to be able to contribute to public awareness raising nationally, regionally and internationally. Simultaneously, the participants from the Pacific contribute to knowledge building and dissemination of the work of ICHCAP, in particular, helping them improve inventory and community involvement processes.



This multi-state collaboration has facilitated mutual learning and sharing of experiences among SIDS and, through the well-organized training by CRIHAP and ICHCAP, has resulted in an improved awareness of the UNESCO Convention, greater community participation, increased use of digital and print media for public awareness and long-lasting relationships that can further reinforce capacities.

This sub-regional approach promoting South-South cooperation was positively evaluated at a CRIHAP/UNESCO regional training session held in Hangzhou, China, in June 2018. Efforts are taking place to support inter-regional arrangements by promoting exchanges between the Pacific and the Caribbean regions. This process was initiated in 2018 by bringing together master trainers from Curaçao and Fiji. It is hoped that exchanges with the Caribbean will support effective implementation of the Convention and safeguarding of inherited heritage in a way that is contemporary and useful for future generations.

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# Time Use Survey that Triggered the Creation of the National Care System



## Recognizing and valuing women's work for improved socioeconomic inclusion

### CHALLENGE

Throughout the world, unpaid responsibilities fall disproportionately upon women and girls, reducing the amount of time available for education, paid work and other activities and pushing females towards more poorly remunerated and often part-time, informal and substantially domestic work as a way of reconciling their home and work lives. The same is true in Cabo Verde.

Valuing women's unpaid work is a central theme in debates taking place all over the world on sustainable development and women's empowerment. Stakeholders are increasingly moving toward the recognition of care and guaranteeing equal conditions for the realization of the economic and social rights of all individuals, particularly women.

The situation of unpaid work for women in Cabo Verde is further aggravated by shortcomings in infrastructures and public services and the absence of corporate work-family policies that are geared toward care and social well-being and that affect poor female-headed households most acutely.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

A Time Use Survey was conducted in Cabo Verde to allow the provision of differentiated support to programmes related to work. The Time Use Survey helped the country to develop and continually improve its capacity to recognize and value women's unpaid work. Various strategic analyses and dialogues were held on gender equality, social protection policies and family policies.

To that end, using South-South cooperation methods, UN Women supported an exchange and knowledge transfer from Uruguay to build the survey. Cabo Verde officials were supported to attend regional events on Time Use in Latin America. Technical missions of Uruguayan experts trained the National Statistics Office and the Ministry of Family and Social Inclusion, while the Cabo Verdean staff of these organizations likewise made field visits to Uruguay to see the project roll

#### NOMINATED BY

Government of Cabo Verde

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Cabo Verde, Uruguay

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

5.4, 5.1, 5.a, 5.c, 8.5, 8.6, 1.4, 1.b, 4.2, 6.1

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Gender Equality and women's empowerment; Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all

#### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Cabo Verde, Government of Uruguay

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UN Women

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2012 – 2017

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3dqqMAy>



out and the impacts of the processes. Other stakeholders involved in the process included academia and non-governmental organizations, who were consulted and participated in knowledge creation and awareness raising.

The Time Use Survey helped identify the main issues faced by women in terms of time poverty, which led to a more detailed study on home care. On this basis, a public policy, named the Care Plan, was elaborated and budgeted in a participatory manner. The Care Plan led to the institutionalization in 2017 of a National Care System. Thus the Time Use Survey triggered and contributed decisively to the establishment of the National Care System. This new pillar of social protection for the country recognizes and values women's unpaid work and focuses on the rights of women and care-dependent persons.

To make this system effective, a new professional category of caregivers was created, and professional training centres were capacitated for the organization and the provision of caregiver courses, based on the profile designed. The centres have trained a first pool of 86 professional caregivers, also with the support of UN Women. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this first pool was deployed by the Ministry of Family and Social Inclusion, with United Nations financial and technical support.

The National Care System represents a major step and a great achievement in terms of social policies with a gender focus and translates into a significant contribution to the protection and promotion of the rights of care-dependent persons and those who care for them, the majority of whom are women. It is a historic turning point and the first time a country in the West African region has taken this path.

The National Care System improves critical human rights, not only by ensuring the right to care with a priority on three segments of the population in a situation of dependency, these being children, the disabled and elderly persons with special needs, but also of ensuring the rights of those who care for them. This makes change possible beyond the public sphere; by re-dimensioning and re-framing this work to operate in the private sphere as well, transformations may be possible in terms of the redistribution of tasks and changes in social norms.

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# Family protection law and provision of essential services



## A study visit to the Solomon Islands to learn from its SAFENET referral system



### CHALLENGE

Pohnpei State, in the Federated States of Micronesia, passed a Domestic Violence Act in 2017. To support the new law's implementation, Pohnpei State sought to establish a referral mechanism for victims of gender-based violence. At the time, victims did not feel safe reaching out to get the necessary help and services. More broadly, the government wanted to ensure greater access for women and girls who experienced gender-based violence to a coordinated set of essential and quality multi-sectoral services. Another need was to put in place coordination mechanisms with stakeholders to adequately address gender-based violence and domestic violence in the state.

Specific challenges to address included:

- ▶ Victims could become overwhelmed by the process of accessing the different available services.
- ▶ Police officers do not always know or follow standard procedures, such as to not alert perpetrators of the whereabouts of their partners who are being safeguarded for safety purposes.
- ▶ Public solicitors offices are often not properly resourced to handle cases, and being an office for everyone, at times they may provide legal support for both victims and perpetrators.
- ▶ Hospital nurses feel intimidated by questions raised during court cases when they are providing clinical evidence. Due to the severity of some cases, nurses who are often the first respondents at the hospitals claimed that they too need to take care of themselves otherwise the work will consume them.
- ▶ Counselling services are necessary to help victims with emotional trauma.
- ▶ When a backlog of domestic violence court cases exist, it is difficult for victims who must wait long periods without their partner/perpetrator being reprimanded.
- ▶ Awareness raising is an ongoing challenge.
- ▶ Referral mechanisms need to cover all geographical areas, including remote ones

### NOMINATED BY

Department of Health and Social Affairs

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Federated States of Micronesia - Solomon Islands

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

5.2, 5.1, 16.2, 16.3

### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Gender equality and women's empowerment

### SUPPORTED BY

UNFPA supported this mission but other stakeholders involved include Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development) and the government of the Solomon Islands

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Pohnpei Women Interest Office, Department of Health and Social Affairs

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – Ongoing

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Pohnpei State decided to undertake a week-long study visit to the Solomon Islands to learn from that country's SAFENET Referral System and from the government ministries and service providers (such as the police, ministry of women and the Attorney General's office) implementing the Solomon Islands Family Protection Act of 2014. The study delegation was composed of representatives from the Federated States of Micronesia department of health and social affairs and the Pohnpei State government. The group wanted to understand how the Solomon Island's referral system catered to the needs of victims in practical ways and how to implement a victim survivor's approach.

The Solomon Islands passed its Family Protection Act in 2014, but it took two years to start implementing it, as actions were taken to first ensure that all relevant parties, e.g. justice, police, health, etc., understood and had been trained on their roles under the Act. Thus, a coordinated system of support from a variety of agencies, including non-governmental and faith-based organizations, was established to respond to victims of domestic through what is now referred to as the SafeNet and Referral Pathway.

The Federated States of Micronesia study team visited with the head of the key ministries responsible for implementing the Act, which included the Ministries of Women, Children and Family Affairs, Justice, Health and Social Welfare, Public Safety and the Public Solicitors Office, along with civil society and faith-based organizations, such as Seif Place, Christian Care Center and the Family Support Center. The study group observed in person the clear line of support provided for victims of domestic violence across the sectors. Group meetings were held during the mission at which each of the organizations shared their area of work related to Safenet, followed by onsite visits to review the operations of the organizations. Stakeholders communicated their challenges and discussed what they would do differently and what they are currently doing to address their issues and challenges.

The challenges that stakeholders in the Solomon Islands identified were:

- ▶ The government still needs to put in place case managers for both women and men victims of domestic violence.
- ▶ There is a need for better collaboration between entities, particularly among the service providers handling gender-based violence cases.
- ▶ SOPs and guidelines are required for addressing cases and attending to victims.
- ▶ The general public needs educated on the existence of gender-based violence laws and how the government is supposed to implement them.
- ▶ Gender-based violence sensitization training is needed for health workers, public safety workers and first responders.
- ▶ Proper rules and regulations (MOUs and SOPs) need to be put in place for service providers so that people can feel safe to go to them and to ensure that victims receive appropriate services.

The Federated States of Micronesia and Pohnpei State did not have in place all of the entities and programmes seen in the Solomon Islands. However, it was decided that they would put in place a system that was practical for, and that would serve the context of, their own situations.

In line with SDG target 5.2 and Samoa Pathway paragraph 76-77 on gender equality and women's empowerment, the Pohnpei State government indeed developed a response and referral pathway. The referral mechanism aims to enable all first responders to collaborate and provide good and appropriate services for victims of gender-based violence and to refer them to other service providers, as needed, in a safe and secure manner.

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# Rocket Stoves Initiative for the Empowerment of Rural Woman



## Campaign addressing health, improved cooking facilities and natural resources management for improving livelihoods in rural Fijian communities



### CHALLENGE

A significant percentage of the population of Fiji still relies on wood and fossil fuels to meet their basic domestic energy needs. This places a strain on economies, human well-being and the environment. In Fiji, the practice of open fire cooking is widespread in rural villages and settlements. It is estimated that, on average, a family needs roughly two tons of fuel wood a year to cook three meals a day. These can be sourced from mangrove areas or logged from community forests. The burning increases greenhouse gas emissions in addition to creating challenges associated with land erosion and deforestation. The use of fuel wood exposing people to smoke from cooking, the extensive productive time lost collecting and processing traditional fuel wood, and forest and land degradation due to continued demand for wood for fuel have led to the improved cook stoves intervention in the country.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The ‘Empowering Rural Women in Fiji – Upscaling the Rocket Stove Project’, also known as the ‘India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Rocket Stove project for the Small Grant Programme (SGP) Fiji’, aims to enhance the livelihoods of women and their families in rural households. The IBSA Rocket Stove project, implemented through a partnership with Fiji’s Ministry of Women, provides a design of a rocket stove that requires less fuel wood, builds capacities on the manufacturing of these stoves, as well as on the reforestation of woodlots targeted for fuel wood.

The IBSA Rocket Stove project promotes the wellbeing of rural households through the saving of expenses for fossil fuel such as kerosene and gas, as well as the reduced time to collect fuel/firewood for cooking with the improved rocket stove design. The latter contributes significantly to women’s lives, saving time and

#### NOMINATED BY

UNDP Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) Fiji (GEF SGP Fiji)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Fiji

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.9, 5.4, 7.b, 10.2, 13.3

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustainable energy

#### SUPPORTED BY

India, Brazil, South Africa Dialogue Fund (IBSA), United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

SGP Fiji and the Ministry of Women Fiji

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 – 2020

reducing the risk of being exposed to respiratory diseases as would be the case in using the average open fire cook stove. Women are responsible for most of the cooking for the rural households. These project activities contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 (Gender equality) and 13 (Climate action). Targeted communities are also required to build nurseries to raise wood fuel seedlings and have them replanted in cleared areas in the communities' and in the villages' outskirts. This activity addresses SDG 15 (Life on land). The project also contributes to SAMOA Pathway priority area on Sustainable energy.

The project is an upscaled initiative originally spearheaded by Fiji's Ministry of Women. While successfully completing the initial intervention, the Ministry approached the IBSA Fund to financially support the project. IBSA recurred to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) for its support. UNOSSC then approached UNDP's office in Suva (Fiji), which delegated the implementation of the project to the GEF Small Grants Program (SGP). The GEF SGP Fiji Office mobilized the funds for implementation through its grant facility modality. This involved soliciting proposals from interested non-governmental organizations (NGOs); four NGOs were selected to implement the activities.

GEF SGP Fiji, in partnership with the Ministry of Women, completed three out of the four phases of the project. The phases included:

- ▶ The selection of rural communities: Fiji's Ministry of Women was the advisory institution that assisted in the selection of the communities through their divisional (decentralized) offices.
- ▶ Training: Women and girls in the identified communities were also assisted by the four grantees on the production and use of the rocket stoves and the training on climate change awareness.
- ▶ The construction of a storage warehouse for the rocket stoves to be distributed to other communities: Fiji's Ministry of Women recently identified an alternative site for the storage warehouse, which is the last phase to be implemented to complete the project.
- ▶ Monitoring and evaluation: Implemented activities by the grantees continue to be monitored by both the SGP Fiji office and the Ministry of Women. Final internal evaluation will be conducted after the storage facility is constructed.

While SGP Fiji is a grant management facility, its role is limited to ensuring project management by the successful grantees were adhered to and that policies of the grant were observed. The grantees and the Ministry of Women, having to implement the technical components of the initiative have become key partners for SGP Fiji and play important roles to broadening the reach of this initiative. At the start of the grantee engagement phase, an interest from a private cooperate was made by a hardware company. This company has now started distribution of imported stoves that are also using less fuel wood for open fire cooking.

Some outcomes achieved for this project to date are:

- ▶ 56 communities assisted (traditional villages and informal settlements);
- ▶ 1,650 trained individuals (79 percent women);
- ▶ 1,580 rocket stoves produced;
- ▶ 1,331 woodlots seedlings raised and distributed for replanting;
- ▶ At least two knowledge management products produced.



The project's sustainability is an important attribute, which has been regularly discussed by the implementing partners and stakeholders. It is ensured through:

- ▶ capacity building for community members on the manufacturing of the rocket stoves, which makes the rocket stove accessible, so that beneficiaries can manufacture them in the future;
- ▶ the replanting of woodlots that were cleared for fuelwood in the outskirts of the villages and settlements;
- ▶ the use of a storage warehouse, currently in the planning stage, to continue future training of interested communities, as well as for storing produced stoves for targeted communities and households. Its oversight will be provided by the Ministry of Women.

SGP Fiji is working with the Ministry of Women over the second half of 2020 to complete the project and document key lessons that will improve the campaign on the use of more environmentally friendly rocket stove to make life easier for rural women.

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# Hands-on Training on the Use of Fibre-reinforced Plastic Biogas Digester in Samoa



## Promoting biogas development through South-South cooperation and communication

### CHALLENGE

In most developing countries, agricultural wastes are left untreated, which may cause environment pollution and animal-human disease transmission. Moreover, farmers have limited access to modern energy such as kerosene, liquefied gas and electricity, which leads to deforestation, water loss and soil erosion. Women and children are overburdened with low-value work, such as the collection of firewood and cow dung for cooking. Moreover, the overuse of chemical fertilizers is a threat to soil, ecosystem and human health. The above issues have impacted the sustainable development of the vulnerable small island countries such as Samoa.

Based on the common goal of tackling climate change and the energy shortage, some countries have independently or jointly developed biogas in the pursuit of their environmental, economic, health and social benefits. Since the natural environment and social conditions differ from region to region, and country to country, identifying the most suitable biogas model in a country is still a challenge.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To tackle the above challenges, the 'Hands-on training on fibre-reinforced plastic biogas digester in Samoa' initiative was implemented to demonstrate sustainable agriculture practices. This could render the livestock industry profitable, sustainable and environmentally friendly by promoting technologies of animal waste management for recycling resources and adding value. The project also contributes to Samoa Pathway priority areas on Sustainable energy and Food security and nutrition.

The project was implemented by two organizations: (i) the Biogas Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (BIOMA), People's Republic of China, established in 1979, by a Government-based research institute and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Reference Centre for Biogas



### NOMINATED BY

China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, Samoa

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.a, 2.3, 2.4, 2.a, 3.3, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.b, 4.c, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.a, 7.b, 8.2, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 11.1, 11.6, 11.a, 12.4, 12.5, 12.8, 12.a, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.a, 13.b, 15.2, 15.3, 17.1, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9

### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustainable energy; Food security and nutrition

### SUPPORTED BY

China and Global South-South Development Center Project, Global Environmental Fund (GEF), Government of Samoa, China-Samoa Agricultural Technical Aid Project

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Biogas Institute of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, People's Republic of China, Samoa Farmers' Association (SFA)

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – 2019

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

[www.biogas.cn](http://www.biogas.cn)

Research and Training since 2014 and (ii) Samoa Farmers' Association (SFA), a non-government organization engaged in agro-tech extension, connecting local farmers under a membership mechanism and maintaining close contact with government and educational institutions.

BIOMA was invited by the SFA as the overseas technical supporter for this 14-day training, in which two professors and a technician delivered on-site lectures and demonstrations. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported the procurement of digesters and auxiliary parts. China South-South Development Centre Project supported the international travel of the two BIOMA professors from China to Samoa. The China-Samoa Agricultural Technical Aid Project (CSATAP) served as a local supporter, provided classrooms and invited local media for report.

The project has achieved the following: 21 digesters were shipped to Samoa, 17 digesters were installed during the training, four by the trainees after the training. A total of 22 trainees, 4 women and 18 men, were trained.

According to research conducted by SFA and BIOMA, supported by Global South-South Development Center Project in 2019, the digesters were all operating normally without leakage, and the shortest activation time for biogas production was one week after digester installation and feeding. There was a savings of around US\$25 on the average monthly cost of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). By applying digestate as fertilizer, the agricultural production efficiency was improved. Excessive digestate was shared in the neighbourhoods. The demand for digesters rose in communities.

Women in the households were relieved from hard work of firewood collection and the smoke of burning coconut shells. Children had fewer chances of being infected with animal diseases after the animal pen was built to keep hogs and piglets from moving everywhere. Children also learned that animal waste and leaves can turn into clean cooking gas and some joined to feed manure into digesters.

Farmers fed animal manure into a digester through a manure collecting tunnel installed along the edge of animal pen. As a consequence, animals had a better welfare of not eating food in manures in the cleaner pens.

It is a win-win project for both implementing organizations. Together with SFA as the technology recipient, BIOMA learned that the importance of community solidarity, awareness establishment, pre-assessment and lobbying laid the demand-driven basis for the sustainability of the project, and that the process of each project is subject to modification according to the local situation.

The success of the project had an impact on biogas development policy of Samoa Government. After the project in 2018, SFA signed a contract with BIOMA for project session II to install 21 digesters made of hard and soft building materials so as to find out the optimal technical mode for Samoa; it was nearly completed by online and video training in 2020. A regional project entitled 'Establishment of the Biogas Research and Training Center for the Asia-Pacific region (BRTC)' could be replicated based on the experience



of this project and integration of the partnership in the region, so that the long-term sustainability of the project can be achieved.

The project can be replicated in other developing countries if some conditions are met.

First, an assessment could be carried out on demand in advance in order to identify the right geographical site: the animal pen must be within 30 m away from the kitchen; the environment temperature must be above 13 °C throughout a year; the groundwater level must be below 1 m; and the location of the digester must be 5 m away from the road. The ideal recipients should have at least two pigs or one cow for digester feeding, be able to afford to hire laborers or rent excavators, be greatly interested in biogas and digestate, and have an impact on lobbying.

Second, funding can be obtained for the provision of equipment, the mobilization of resource persons and local provisions for training and digester construction.

Third, the quality of the digester construction and operation could be institutionalized in a standard routine through the training of trainers and membership services.

Auxiliary parts were prepared as a part of the purchase order of the equipment at the beginning of the project for the replacement of fittings damaged accidentally. A technical capacity building could provide continuous technical consultancy.

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# Home Solar Project



## Using renewable energy to promote social inclusion

### CHALLENGE

Mauritius is still heavily reliant on fossil fuels, which must be imported, to meet its energy demands. According to the Renewable Energy Roadmap 2030<sup>1</sup>, in 2019, the country generated 78.3 percent of its electricity from non-renewable sources, primarily petroleum products and coal. The resulting greenhouse gas emissions have impacts on health and the environment. Only 21.7 percent of its energy comes from renewable sources, mainly bagasse, hydro, wind, landfill gas and solar. The need to integrate more sources of renewable energy in the electrical energy mix has long been recognized by the Government and streamlined in relevant national policies.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

With a view to addressing this challenge, the Government of Mauritius developed a road map for renewable energy in order to increase the share of renewable energy to 35 percent of the electricity mix by 2025 and 40 percent by 2030. One of the key strategies in the road map is the installation of 35,000 rooftop photovoltaic units by 2025 and 50,000 by 2030.

Within this strategy, the Home Solar Project has been designed to involve low-income families in the production of electricity, with a view to improving their standard of living and enabling them to develop small businesses.

In 2017, the project secured a loan of US\$10 million from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). It is being implemented by the Central Electricity Board (CEB), a parastatal body solely responsible for the transmission, distribution and supply of electricity to the population. Solar photovoltaic systems are being installed on the rooftops of 10,000 households as part of the Government's efforts to alleviate poverty while contributing to national renewable energy targets.

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities of Mauritius, Renewable Energy Roadmap 2030 for the Electricity Sector (August 2019)

#### NOMINATED BY

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Mauritius, United Arab Emirates

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

7.1, 7.2, 7.a, 7.b

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustainable energy

#### SUPPORTED BY

Abu Dhabi Fund for Development

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

CEB (Green Energy) Co. Ltd

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – 2023

The households will benefit from significant savings on their electricity bills. In addition, the project will add 10 MW of new renewable energy capacity to the grid, resulting in savings of over \$35 million in fossil fuel imports over the project's lifetime. It will also improve energy security. Each household will benefit from 50 kWh of electricity free of charge on a monthly basis, for a period of 20 years. Any surplus electricity generated is being injected into the grid. The project is being implemented in five phases across Mauritius, including the territory of Rodrigues. The first three phases will be completed by 2025.

The project's key partners are the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, CEB and CEB (Green Energy) Co. Ltd. The latter is a private company fully owned by CEB that is responsible for the promotion and development of renewable energy. IRENA and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development are also involved in the project.

To date, approximately 1,000 solar photovoltaic kits of 1 kWp have been installed on the rooftops of low-income households. The surplus electricity injected in the grid will generate savings for CEB, which will enable it to reinvest in similar projects in the future.

The project model is very simple and can be replicated in Small Island Developing States with good solar insolation and in countries seeking to promote solar energy in their electricity mix. The project addresses SAMOA Pathway priority area on Sustainable energy.



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# United Arab Emirates– Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund



## Providing a US\$50 million grant fund for reducing energy costs and pollution, with gender and resilience standards

### CHALLENGE

Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face some of the highest energy costs in the world, owing to reliance on imported, expensive diesel, which has adverse effects on economic growth. Many of the countries also face significant vulnerability in their power systems to climate disasters like hurricanes. Although renewable energy is now the cheapest power source in every country, many SIDS do have not a developed renewables sector with a track record of implementing projects. Accordingly, quickly building high quality renewable energy projects can potentially prove to all stakeholders that renewables can immediately bring down costs, deliver reliable power, and create jobs – and thereby drive interest and policies to enable further renewable energy power generation assets.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The United Arab Emirates (UAE)–Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund provides US\$50 million in grants for renewable energy projects in the 16 Caribbean countries classified by the United Nations as sovereign small island developing states.

The UAE–Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund was established with two key objectives:

- ▶ Increase the use and resilience of renewable energy applications in the region, including in related sectors such as water and waste, per national development and energy plans.
- ▶ Expand technical experience in designing, implementing, and managing renewable energy projects, to facilitate faster and lower-cost deployment in the future.

The Fund responds to the high cost of energy in Caribbean SIDS countries, identified as a primary growth barrier by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the SAMO Pathway priority area on Sustainable energy.

#### NOMINATED BY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates SUSTAINABLE

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

5.2, 5.b, 7.1, 7.2, 7.b, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.9, 9.1, 9.4, 9.a, 13.1, 13.a, 13.b, 17.3, 17.6, 17.7, 17.9

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustainable energy

#### SUPPORTED BY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Range of government agencies and utilities within each of the 16 Caribbean countries + Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, Masdar, and UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Co-financing and other complementary resources provided by the CARICOM Development Fund, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Rocky Mountain Institute / Carbon War Room / Clinton Foundation.

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 – 2022



The Fund typically enables one of the first or largest renewable energy installations in the project locations, with a mix of utility-scale and off-grid solar, and is designed to help to kickstart or enhance the local industry while also enhancing the power system's resilience to climate change. The Fund has partnered with other organizations: for instance, for co-financing the green reconstruction of the Barbuda power system with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Development Fund and New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as well as for undertaking the scoping work of Rocky Mountain Institute, Carbon War Room and Clinton Foundation project towards implementation. To date, three projects (Bahamas, Barbados, and St Vincent and the Grenadines) have been commissioned under the Fund, three are under construction (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, and Dominica), seven are preparing for procurement (Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, St Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago) and three are in the feasibility stage (Cuba, Jamaica, and St Kitts and Nevis).

Renewable energy is now significantly cheaper than diesel in all 16 countries, but deployment has not kept pace with this economic shift, often due to lack of project development precedent. The UAE faced a similar situation in its own development of renewable energy and found injections of public finance for hardware to be highly effective in quickly commercializing solar power technologies. One of the Fund's innovations is its provision of grants for hardware (solar panels, converters, grid upgrades, etc.) with built-in training and capacity development, so that partners are applying their skills to concrete projects that are actually built and operated. The UAE and Caribbean Governments therefore agreed to focus the Fund on generation assets that could immediately demonstrate renewable energy's cost savings, technical feasibility, and job creation potential, as a spur and example for future development.

The Fund operates on a government-to-government basis, with Caribbean countries developing a shortlist of projects and assigning a technical working group (usually several ministries, the relevant utility, and local authorities). The group then partners with the UAE's independent technical focal point (the private clean energy project developer Masdar, headquartered in Abu Dhabi) to select the final project(s) and develop the feasibility report. A tender is then released to the market, with priority placed on local firms and content, as well as on gender metrics. Funding is untied. The government technical group and Masdar then manage the contractor until plant commissioning. The Government specifies which entity will own the asset and handles any offtake agreements. The project is also required to be financially self-sustaining, i.e. unsubsidized for future operation. A six-week plant operation training module serves as the project coda. This cooperative, iterative process is designed to build the experience of all of the stakeholders (including the UAE) in overseeing renewable energy projects from concept to operation.

Because the projects are often the first of their kind, they often have regulatory impacts. For instance, the offtake agreement between the Government and the utility for the Fund project in the Bahamas created the template for large-scale independent power producers, facilitating future projects.



The Fund also includes a resilience and gender standard. The resilience standard requires projects to assess and improve their location and durability regarding extreme weather events (namely hurricanes). The gender standard requires a gender analysis for the project concept, as well as consideration of and reporting on gender balance in staffing and procurement.

In terms of results, the first three implemented projects in the Bahamas, Barbados, and St Vincent and the Grenadines result in immediate annual savings of \$1.3 million by avoiding 995,000 litres of diesel. Annual carbon savings from the three projects are estimated at 2.7m kg, and ten people in each country received direct training on project development and plant operation. The solar and battery project on Union Island in St Vincent and the Grenadines is also one of the first islands in the region to achieve 100 percent solar power during sunny periods, creating a proof point for renewables + battery technology.

Practices and experiences from the Fund are shared through global and regional partners including the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), CARICOM's energy unit, the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (the power industry association, CARILEC) and Rocky Mountain Institute/Carbon War Room. The Fund also transfers significant experience from the UAE-Pacific Partnership Fund, a similarly designed US\$50 million grant fund for renewable energy deployed across 11 Pacific countries between 2013 and 2016.

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# Solarization of Head of State Residences in Pacific Islands Development Forum Member Countries



## Promoting the use of solar energy through the installation of solar photovoltaic systems in Pacific Island Countries

### CHALLENGE

The Pacific Island Countries (PICs) face energy challenges, including:

- ▶ an overdependence on fossil fuels;
- ▶ the high cost of developing energy resources and extending services to remote populations;
- ▶ the poor quality of energy data and trends;
- ▶ a small base of skilled people to address the issues;
- ▶ weak bargaining positions with petroleum suppliers;
- ▶ exposure to high logistic costs.

In response to these challenges, a clear, central solution across much of the Pacific is the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. Price reductions for photovoltaic PV over the past decade have brought the cost of solar generated electricity to the point where it is competitive with most forms of commercial generation, mostly by diesel engines. PICs are targeting the scaling-up of renewable energy to offset high prices and seek on- and off-grid solutions for improved power access, quality and efficiency.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Through the “Solarization of Head of State Residences in PIDF Member Countries” initiative, the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) and the non-profit organization Solar Head of State (SHOS) aimed to raise the profile of the installation and usage of solar energy in PICs with the Heads of State championing the technology.

This initiative brings together a regional organization (PIDF, SHOS), a Global-South Development partner (the Government of India through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund managed by the United Nations Office for

#### NOMINATED BY

Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

PIDF Member Countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), India

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

7.2, 7.a, 13.2, 17.9

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustainable Energy

#### SUPPORTED BY

India through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

PIDF, United Nations Development Programme, and Solar Head of State PROJECT

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2020 – 2022

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<http://greenbusiness.solutions/shos>

South-South Cooperation [UNOSSC]), and an executing agency (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP]). It also brings in Solaria, a private sector partner based in the United States of America, which is donating the solar panels.

The initiative is being implemented in 11 PICs: Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The initiative contributes to SAMOA Pathway priority area on Sustainable energy.

By having a solar system installed on public buildings, including the executive administrative residence of a country, the country's leadership is given first-hand experience with proven benefits of renewable technologies, which further encourages the development of energy policies that favours the adoption of renewable energy. Each system is a demonstration project to inspire the mass adoption of solar energy and other renewable energy technologies by the citizens of the country and around the world. The projects can be used to engage the general public with the benefits of renewable energy through an effective media campaign and community outreach. By bringing global expertise in the design and installation of solar systems to each project, SHOS and PIDF facilitate the transfer of critical skills and knowledge to the participating PICs.

SHOS has a proven track record and have already installed these installations in the Maldives (Official Presidential Residence), St. Lucia (public residence of the Governor-General) and Jamaica (National Executive Office, Jamaica House).

Building on previous work, the project will work diligently and proactively to arrange appropriate complementary and/or joint activities, and where relevant, develop practical follow-up activities. The PIDF and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) funding, are collaborating on the ongoing multi-country "Capacity Building to Strengthen Sustainable Implementation of Renewable Energy Technologies for Rural Energy Access" project. The project is being implemented in three of the countries, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and PIDF will lead implementation in the Solomon Islands. Possible areas of collaboration include training on the installation, operation and maintenance of solar PV systems, public awareness raising on sustainable energy (e.g. unveiling of the solar PV projects while announcing new national energy policies and plans), etc. Furthermore, UNDP has ongoing sustainable energy projects in Tuvalu, Nauru and Vanuatu as well as projects being developed in other countries.

All PICs have submitted nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) submitted its second in November 2018. The national climate change mitigation pledges address some of the major sources of national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but the focus is on the energy sector. Most of the NDCs include GHG emission reduction targets, and some have targets both for an unconditional and a conditional mitigation component with common needs including finance, technology support and/or capacity development. Some ultimately aim for 100 percent renewable energy-based penetration by 2030, including Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



The most important element of this initiative is the partnerships involved. Multiple organizations based in different countries and regions of the world are involved, including from the public sector, the private sector and civil society: (i) in PICs, partners include the offices of the head of state/building of national importance, power utilities and private companies; (ii) at regional level, partners include PIDF and UNDP; and (iii) at the international level, SHOS, Solaria, the Government of India and UNOSSC.

There is potential to upscale the individual installations to make them more than a simple PV installation, but full-on 100 percent renewable electricity for state houses, including battery storage and other sustainability efforts on the grounds of the residences. These efforts could include electrification of garden maintenance tools, use of electric vehicles by government officials or garden workers, installation of electric vehicle charging stations, etc. There is some scope for upscaling in the Pacific Islands region; for example, solar PV systems could be installed on executive residences in Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea and Samoa. However, there is significant scope for upscaling in other Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

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# Empowering Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Suriname



## Building stronger enterprise cooperation for sustainable economic growth

### CHALLENGE

Owners of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Suriname have great potential to expand their businesses and a desire to build stronger relations with Indonesia. The countries share strong economic and cultural bonds, as well as a good relationship. At the same time, the economic potential has not been optimized, and there is still significant room for improvement. Many owners of SMEs in Suriname still rely on a simple business planning method. Failure to address the possible loss of economic opportunity could affect efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 on decent work and economic growth and SDG 10 on reducing inequalities.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address this challenge, the Government of Indonesia, with support from the Government of Suriname, hosted a capacity-building programme entitled 'International Workshop on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Empowerment: Working Together to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'. This programme was convened in Paramaribo, Suriname from 16 to 18 September 2019, and was attended by 35 participants, including government officials from relevant ministries and owners of SMEs. The resource persons for the programme were assigned from an external firm, a partner of the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs of Indonesia. The programme was undertaken to fulfil a commitment made by Indonesia in its role as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council from 2019 to 2020. It was also a means of strengthening the country's South-South cooperation framework.

Owners of SMEs are at the core of economic activity in Suriname and play an important role in economic growth and development in terms of production, employment opportunities, export contributions and equitable distribution of income in society.

#### NOMINATED BY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Indonesia, Suriname

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

5.5, 8.2, 10.3

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustainable consumption and production

#### SUPPORTED BY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Suriname

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

16 September 2019 – 18 September 2019

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3lhAt45> (in Bahasa Indonesia)

The training focused on three main themes: developing the skills necessary to improve capacity and knowledge to upscale businesses, implementing more structured and comprehensive business planning with the business model canvas method, and fostering product development skills.

The first theme focused on teaching participants how to analyse their own business. This included formulating a proper business model, determining their bargaining value and developing a strategy to put their businesses forward. The second theme focused on familiarizing participants with the business model concept, which included training on using the business model canvas to analyse risks and potential, understanding its components and improving existing business models.

To provide participants with all the skills required, the training also included materials on product development, such as marketing, packaging and branding. Participants were encouraged to use mind-mapping techniques during brainstorming sessions to organize or simplify ideas and thought processes. They were introduced to customer journey maps to analyse business processes, and they participated in a practical workshop to make or improve product branding and packaging.

Based on the responses to the questionnaire returned at the end of the programme, the training received mostly positive feedback. Participants were satisfied with the interactive training methods and the concrete ideas delivered by each facilitator. Moreover, participants requested that similar capacity-building programmes be conducted in the future.

In addition to the capacity-building programme, the training also served to strengthen the network between SMEs in Suriname and Indonesia. The exchange of knowledge between the two countries is important to build trust and it paved the way for potential future collaborations in various sectors, given the similar economic challenges they face as developing countries.

As a result of the capacity-building and training programme, participants increased their knowledge and skills to empower owners of SMEs and integrate local businesses and SMEs into long-term economic development plans. This ensures more prosperous and sustainable economic growth, in line with SDG 8, "Decent Work and Economic Growth", SDG 5 "Gender Equality" as well as SDG 10, "Reducing Inequalities". The initiative also contributes to SAMOA Pathway priority area on Sustainable consumption and production.



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# Singapore-Turkey Joint Training Programme: SME Development and Entrepreneurship



## Human capital development to boost SME and entrepreneurial ecosystems in multiple countries

### CHALLENGE

Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurship are important components of prosperity and social welfare. Innovation, productivity and new business plans produce economic growth. Therefore, many governments are prioritizing support for and enhancement of entrepreneurship. Eliminating the obstacles to greater and more inclusive entrepreneurship and the growth of SMEs as a step toward poverty reduction requires intense support to and within developing countries.

While the importance of entrepreneurship in the development strategies of countries in the global South is gaining traction, many Southern countries face challenges that include lack of experience with start-up accelerators and incubators, limited background in venture management and inadequate education and skills training for entrepreneurship.

The countries involved in the Singapore-Turkey Joint Training Programme each face additional specific challenges. Fiji and Vanuatu recognize that generating business ideas is a challenge, as well as marketing businesses and finding markets for their products. In Cambodia and Lao PDR, funding, partner-matching and mentoring new entrepreneurs are the main challenges noted. Indonesia, Myanmar and Nigeria face high bureaucracy and start-up costs for establishing businesses, leaving many potential entrepreneurs in these countries behind.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Small- and medium-sized enterprises are a pillar of Singapore's economy, contributing 48 percent of the GDP and employing 65 percent of the workforce. SMEs account for 99.8 percent of the registered businesses in Turkey and employ more than 73 percent of the workforce.



#### NOMINATED BY

Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nigeria, Singapore, Turkey, Vanuatu

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.a, 8.3, 17.16

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Means of implementation, including partnerships (Capacity-building)

#### SUPPORTED BY

Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) and TIKA

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

BlueTrack Centre, Singapore and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB), Turkey

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

8 July 2019 – 12 July 2019

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3djb03>

To help the countries mentioned in the Challenges section above to improve their entrepreneurial environments, the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) developed a joint training programme covering how to create a viable SME, start-up ecosystem and mentorships to foster entrepreneurship.

Sustainable development goals such as No Poverty (1), Good Jobs and Economic Growth (8) and Partnerships for the Goals (17) were especially addressed during the triangular cooperation project. The SAMOA Pathway priority area “Means of implementation, including partnerships- capacity-building” was also addressed.

The training was conducted in an interactive manner, with a mixture of presentations, exercises, discussions and field visits. Singaporean and Turkish know-how on global opportunities, on internationalizing start-ups and the role of innovation and technology were highlights of the training. Other areas explored were key enablers of entrepreneurship, how to enhance the SME ecosystem with technology and innovations, and good practices related to grant and loan initiatives available for entrepreneurs and SMEs. The participants shared their respective policies and initiatives that facilitate the growth of SMEs, start-ups, innovation and technopreneurship in their countries.

In a facilitated session, participants created a roadmap for SME development in their countries. This was followed by group presentations from each of the seven countries represented. The Cambodian representatives, for example, shared challenges in the tourism sector, such as inadequate English language training, insufficient direct international flight connectivity to tourist destinations and poor quality and low hygiene standards in the food service sector. They also exchanged ideas on SMEs in the agricultural sector; challenges discussed included the need for better road networks, train services, labour force skills, quality assurance and marketing. The Fiji delegates found their main challenge in the agricultural sector was policy implementation. Representatives from Myanmar shared their know-how on SMEs in the manufacturing sector, noting that the country lacked skilled labour, infrastructure, vocational training, financing and marketing capacity. Turkish and Singaporean experts were able to offer alternative solutions and good practices in the scope of a sound entrepreneurial journey.

Eleven participants from seven countries completed the training and were awarded certificates. The course was well received and all participants indicated they learned a great deal from the sessions and site visits. Participants observed that the most beneficial topics of the training were:

- ▶ designing start-ups;
- ▶ incubators and accelerators;
- ▶ learning from the Singapore government’s policies for developing SMEs;
- ▶ understanding SME ecosystems; and
- ▶ the panel discussions on business and operational considerations.



The delegates’ assessments stated that their week-long experience in Singapore was extremely beneficial to them both professionally and personally. Interaction with the facilitators, seeing and learning from actual business challenges and achievements, site visits and creating a start-up roadmap were innovative aspects of the training and believed to have the potential to improve competitive advantages in the countries by stimulating and enhancing human capital. A concrete takeaway was that to develop SMEs in their home countries, such cross-country projects and experience sharing has the potential to enhance economic growth.

The training made clear the primacy of supportive and thriving entrepreneurial ecosystems for meeting development goals of most countries. As the training was identified as a good practice, it is being publicized to more countries and practitioners through news and posts on websites and social media pages of both SCP and TİKA.

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# Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme (PCCMHS)



## Climate change and migration: Improving migrant labour rights and working towards climate preparedness through dialogue and South-South and triangular cooperation

### CHALLENGE

Pacific communities are affected by a range of sudden-onset and slow-onset hazards that are either made more intense, accelerated by or caused by climate change. This contributes to voluntary migration flows, but at the same time, increases displacement both internally and across borders.

Labour migration can contribute to climate resilience by increasing earnings which can be invested in better housing, savings and investment in small businesses. Nevertheless, challenges faced include lack of decent work during recruitment and employment, low levels of financial awareness and literacy (resulting for example in an estimated AUD 11.4 million (approximately US \$8.8 million) in superannuation contributions not transferred as of mid-2019), adverse social impacts on families and communities left behind and a lack of policy and programme frameworks for reintegration.

To adapt to the impacts of climate change, some governments are supporting the movement of climate change-affected communities. At the International Labour Organization (ILO) Tripartite High-Level Forum on Climate Change and Decent Work in the Pacific (July 2019), Pacific Island countries acknowledged that well governed labour migration has the potential to deliver a triple win, as well as promote climate resilience. However, the Forum recognized that labour migration should be a choice and is not a substitute for creating decent jobs in countries.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The adverse impacts of climate change compound existing challenges in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and have placed additional burdens on their national budgets and their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### NOMINATED BY

International Labour Organization (ILO), Country Office Suva

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

8.8, 10.7, 17.18

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Climate change; Social development; Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities; Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all; Means of implementation, including partnerships

#### SUPPORTED BY

ILO Partnership for Development (PARDEV), International Trade Centre Turin, Country Office Suva

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ILO, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Platform on Disaster Displacement, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

February 2019 – January 2022

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/2Sq0PHB>



The programme “Enhancing protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region”, in short, PCCMHS (Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security) has three objectives:

### Objective 1

Pacific communities and governments demonstrate strengthened capacity and coordination through a human security-based response to climate change and disaster-related migration, displacement and planned relocation.

### Objective 2

Migrants and communities in the Pacific Island Countries benefit from safe labour migration as a sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategy.

### Objective 3

Contribute to the evidence base on good practices in responding to climate change and disaster-related migration, displacement and planned relocation, with particular focus on the role of the human security framework.

The programme goal is to contribute towards the protection and empowerment of communities that are adversely affected by or at-risk of being affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region, focusing specifically on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation. The programme is led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), along with ILO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS).

In 2020, under this programme, labour mobility training was organized for government officials from 11 Pacific Island Countries and Territories: an E-Academy on labour migration (e-LMA) was held from 9 November to 18 December 2020 with 47 participants from the 11 countries. This course offered participants a unique opportunity to benefit from a diversified training package that included exploring fair and effective labour migration governance, linkages between migration and sustainable development and instruments and mechanisms for protecting the rights of migrants and their families. The training also enabled participants to share experiences and ideas with peers from other Pacific countries who were dealing with labour migration governance issues relating to climate change and, relatedly, increased South-South and triangular cooperation in the region.

A key area of work under the programme was a regional review of seasonal worker schemes. Data collection is complete and, once validated, the results of the review will be shared with civil society organizations and employer and worker organizations in the region. Furthermore, consultations are planned with receiving states (Australia, New Zealand) and social partners to share the study results and promote compliance with international labour and human rights standards, including ratification of core migrant worker conventions. The reviews will make specific recommendations on how South-South and triangular cooperation can promote compliance with international labour and human rights standards.

The programme will continue to facilitate regional cooperation by involving all 11 ILO Pacific Member States, as well as worker and employer organization members from across the region, employing South-South and triangular cooperation approaches.

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# A Farm to Table Value Chain Approach



## Creating employment for youth in organic farming in Fiji and Vanuatu

### CHALLENGE

Young people make up a significant proportion of Pacific societies, with more than half of the population being under the age of 25. However, average youth unemployment rates in the region are extremely high, at 23 percent (ILO, 2013), compared to a global average of 12.6 percent. Youth in the Pacific are six times less likely to secure jobs than older workers (ILO, 2013). In Fiji in 2012, 44.3 percent of young people were not in the labour force (156,692 from a total youth population of 353,444). In Vanuatu, government estimates showed that less than 700 new jobs were being created while about 3,500 students leave school each year, thus leaving 2,800 educated youth without jobs.

While youth unemployment is increasing, agriculture production is decreasing. The Pacific is facing an aging farming population, with the average age of a Pacific farmer being around 55 years. Agriculture is not generally seen as a viable career option for youth. At the same time, there is a lack of access and support to create an enabling environment for young people to participate in agriculture.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

A need exists to strengthen the profile of agriculture as a viable profession for youth, highlighting the importance of food production, food security and health for the future. This must include promoting the many facets of the agricultural sector and its importance to the economy and its income generating possibilities. For young people to engage in agriculture as a career option, they must be supported to develop appropriate skills, gain access to land and credit and have control over returns from their activities.

As such, to address this challenge, UNDP is implementing the Farm to Table Project focused on organic certification of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Groups. The project has spurred youth from the Pacific to learn from each other.



#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Fiji, Vanuatu

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

8.5, 8.6, 2.2, 2.3

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Food security and nutrition; Social development; Sustainable consumption and production

#### SUPPORTED BY

Sustainable Development Goals Fund

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNDP, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) through Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POET Com), the Foundation of Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND) in Fiji, the Farms Support Association (FSA) in Vanuatu

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2016 – 2021

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3jbMpWu>



The UNDP Pacific Centre, in collaboration with Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Committee, organized workshops to engage youth in organic farming and facilitated knowledge sharing and exchanges. Youth farmers from Cook Islands, Fiji, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Niue and Vanuatu participated in a Pacific Organic Youth Farmers Learning Exchange and engaged in demonstrations and peer learning. The practices demonstrated by youth farmers were documented and shared online. This contributed to horizontal exchange, cooperation and participation among countries.

In Vanuatu, more than 3,300 farmers were certified, three organic products certified and 3,300 PGS groups established. In Fiji, 330 farmers were certified and five PGS groups were established. A new organic restaurant was opened by FRIEND in Fiji. The five PGS groups in Fiji as (suppliers) are now linked to FRIEND in Fiji as the purchasing client in the supply chain. FRIEND in Fiji and the Farms Support Association in Vanuatu created databases of organic farmers, registered PGS groups and produced Food Processing Guidelines. This approach helped with documentation and peer reviewing processes for certification of organic farmers within the supply chain, ensuring the sustainability of organic farming production.

The project contributed to policy changes in both Fiji and Vanuatu. The Government of Fiji began drafting an organic farming policy, supported by the project and its stakeholders, including organic farmers, PGS farmer groups, partner non-governmental organizations, UNDP and others that had taken part in consultations on the draft policy. The Vanuatu Government is drafting an organic policy, led by its Department of Agriculture, with support from stakeholders, such as organic farmers and the private sector, that had taken part in the consultation process.

The Farm to Table Project directly contributed to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), particularly on youth unemployment reduction, employment education and training. The improved awareness of livelihood recovery, strengthened organic farming and its supply chain and increased farmer financial literacy are helping to achieve the SAMOA Pathway priorities on Social development, Sustainable consumption and production and Food security and nutrition at the grass-roots level in the two countries. A South-South cooperation approach has been a component of the project implementation, with participants benefiting from peer learning exchanges and the global expertise of United Nations agencies. Empowered youth and their engagement in organic farming, coupled with the drafting of organic policies, contribute to the sustained impact of this project.



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# Deployment of Fibre to the Home (FTTH)



## Improving the deployment of broadband infrastructure and its quality, leaving no household unserved with fibre connectivity

### CHALLENGE

Across Africa, less than a third of the population has access to broadband connectivity. Achieving universal, affordable and good-quality Internet access by 2030 will require an estimated investment of US\$100 billion. In many African countries, Internet connectivity is provided mainly through mobile technologies, due to a lack of fixed infrastructure. This was a challenge for Mauritius as well.

Over the past few years, fibre broadband connectivity has been widely discussed in many markets in Africa. It has been acknowledged as required infrastructure for the next generation of services, both in business and residential markets. It will be used by small- and medium-sized enterprises, e-government services and household entertainment across the continent. Yet, with the exception of a few countries, the growth of fibre access networks has been very limited in Africa, due to the high cost of fibre infrastructure deployment and maintenance. This has also resulted in a small target market. Additionally, the landscape of fibre infrastructure providers is often fragmented, with a number of smaller fibre network operators.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address these challenges, the Prime Minister of Mauritius and the former Minister of Finance and Economic Development announced the acceleration of the Fibre to the Home (FTTH) programme in a speech about the 2016/2017 budget. Under the programme, Mauritius Telecom would cover every town and village on the island by 2017, ensuring that everyone had access to the Internet. The main objective was to improve the quality and deployment of broadband infrastructure, leaving no household without fibre connectivity. This programme contributes to SAMOA Pathway priority area on Means of implementation with a focus on capacity-building and technology.

#### NOMINATED BY

Government of Mauritius

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Mauritius

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

9.a, 9.b, 9.c, 17.6, 17.8, 17.16

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Means of implementation, including partnerships (Capacity-building; Technology)

#### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Mauritius

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Government of Mauritius, Mauritius Telecom, CEB FibreNet

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2016 – 2017



The main challenge in implementing the FTTH programme was to identify funds and a partner for the project's deployment. The Government solicited the cooperation of local telco operators to deploy FTTH connectivity across urban and rural areas. Mauritius Telecom, a major telco operator, invested its own capital in exchange for sole use of its network in the local loop until 2021, to which the Government agreed, in order to secure its return on investment.

Mauritius Telecom invested over 5 billion rupees (approximately US\$75 million) to roll out fibre cable across the island. The project was expected to be completed in 2020 but finished ahead of schedule, in 2019. Mauritius is the sixth country in the world with 100 percent FTTH, and citizens benefit from broadband speeds of up to 100 Mb/s at affordable prices. There is also 100 percent mobile coverage, which means that all regions in Mauritius are served with fibre and mobile connectivity.

Due to the success of the project, Mauritius has achieved the most outstanding Telecom Maturity Index (TMI) rating in Africa, with a score of 49. This comes as a result of a massive investment from the Government to improve connectivity on the island. In order to build on this success and to keep pace with the vast telecommunications changes, the Government has formulated a new set of policies to provide the necessary infrastructure and regulatory framework to take full advantage of the changing global environment.

Based on the lesson learned from the successful FTTH deployment, there is a need to provide a regulatory framework that enables private ventures to design innovations and invest in information and communications technology. The Government of Mauritius recognizes that a modernized telecommunications system is central to the economic development of the country and that privatization and economic liberalization of telecommunications is critical to attracting the capital needed to achieve the necessary targets.

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# Leadership Training Programmes



## Promoting inclusive growth by grooming maritime leaders with the knowledge and expertise required to develop national maritime industries

### CHALLENGE

Besides limited physical infrastructure, developing countries often lack the knowledge and expertise required to develop their national maritime capacities to the fullest potential to capitalize on the opportunities of the global maritime industry. This knowledge gap prevents countries from being more efficient in running and regulating their port and maritime infrastructures, which is particularly disadvantageous to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) where shipping trade often constitutes a large part of their economies. If left unaddressed, this could ultimately result in longer term implications on the economic growth and societal development at large of these countries.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Beyond the provision of material support and financial aid, human resource development is a crucial factor in helping developing countries progress sustainably. Noting that developing countries, especially SIDS, often lack the expertise to strengthen their maritime sector, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) Academy established flagship programmes to provide maritime leadership training to current and future maritime leaders from SIDS. These trainees are expected to use their influence to translate their knowledge into leadership on tangible outcomes within their respective maritime domains.

By enabling key personnel to build robust systems of good maritime governance, the flagship programme facilitates the effective implementation of international conventions on maritime transport and builds resilience within the global maritime supply chain. Furthermore, by enabling the safe and efficient management of port traffic, countries can reap substantial socioeconomic gains for their societies and narrow their developmental gaps with other countries.

#### NOMINATED BY

Singapore

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Over 80 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific Islands and South America. Small Island Developing States involved include Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Cook Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

9.1, 9.4, 9.A, 17.16, 17.17

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Means of implementation, including partnerships; Sustainable transportation

#### SUPPORTED BY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Academy

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2014 – Ongoing (all programmes run annually, with the exception of the Advanced Maritime Leaders' Programme which runs biennially)

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/35ND7li>



At present, the MPA Academy regularly runs three flagship programmes catering to different levels of maritime leaders with various areas of emphasis.

#### **Advanced Maritime Leaders' Programme (AMLP)**

This is the MPA Academy's apex programme for senior maritime officials heading maritime and port administrations. Held biennially, it hones the leadership skills of senior maritime leaders and builds new capacity to transform their respective organizations amidst an increasingly complex and globalized environment. Through peer-to-peer sharing and learning, participants gain insights on transformational leadership, effective policymaking, stakeholder engagement and strategic communications.

#### **Maritime Public Leaders' Programme (MPLP)**

This annual programme is specifically developed for senior maritime officials at the director-level and higher. It provides fundamental training on various aspects relevant to the maritime sector, including port planning and management, shipping economics, maritime law, security, public leadership and governance.

#### **Port Management Programme (PMP)**

Another annual programme, the PMP is designed specifically for port and harbour masters and middle management maritime personnel. The programme strengthens participants' competency in navigating the complexities and challenges faced in running ports, covering topics such as master planning for new ports, vessel traffic management using high technological equipment and crisis communications management.

The flagship programmes are conducted using a mix of classroom-based lessons and experiential learning modes, such as site visits, case study practices, engagement sessions with subject matter experts and networking opportunities. Given the ever-changing nature of the maritime industry, the MPA Academy's flagship programmes are regularly updated to stay in line with international maritime developments.

To ensure fruitful discussions, the MPA Academy invites a diversity of participants from different regions and job responsibilities. This allows for the cross-fertilization of ideas and delivers maximum benefits to participants who can gain from and contribute meaningfully to discussions. Often participants discover that they face similar challenges and can learn from each other's best practices. In recent years, the MPA Academy has also involved the IMO Secretariat to ensure the continued relevance of the curricula, while providing the IMO a platform to better understand the needs of member states.

The benefits to participants extend beyond the duration of the flagship programmes. The MPA Academy distributes newsletters and hosts events for alumni to keep in touch. Additionally, through networking sessions, participants have the opportunity to become personally acquainted and can share knowledge and support one another.



To date, the MPA Academy's flagship programmes have benefitted more than 350 participants from over 80 countries. The MPA Academy endeavours to continue delivering its programmes to help more maritime leaders to drive progress in their respective domains and regularly reviews its curricula to ensure that the changing needs of developing countries continue to be met.

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# Pacific Small Island Developing States: Aviation Needs Analysis



## Supporting aviation safety and security, as well as air navigation capacity and efficiency

### CHALLENGE

The Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) are among the smallest and most remote countries in the world. They have a combined population of only 10 million people scattered across an area that covers 15 percent of the Earth's surface. Their distinct challenges include remoteness, vulnerability to external shocks and natural disasters, an excessive dependence on international trade, fragile environments and limited resources. Civil aviation is vital for PSIDS, especially for connectivity, socio-economic development and disaster relief efforts. Many of the PSIDS depend on tourism, and the majority of tourists arrive by air. Although most of the travel between the islands is only feasible by plane, air connectivity is not optimal.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Recognizing the air connectivity challenges facing PSIDS, the 39th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) proposed a study to identify and address the current challenges and needs of PSIDS in terms of aviation safety, air navigation and aviation security. The Pacific Small Island Developing States Aviation Needs Analysis (PSIDS Study) also identified potential options and opportunities to help address these civil aviation challenges. The main objective was to enhance the capabilities of PSIDS in a strong and resilient manner to benefit their sustainable development and improve their resilience to climate-related hazards. In addition to the resources provided by ICAO, the PSIDS Study was made possible by generous financial and in-kind contributions from Australia, Chile, China, Fiji, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

#### NOMINATED BY

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of ), Nauru, Niue (non-contracting State), Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.4, 1.5, 1.a, 2.4, 2.c, 3.d, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.9, 9.1, 9.4, 9.5, 9.a, 10.2, 10.6, 10.b, 17.3, 17.6, 17.9

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustainable transportation

#### SUPPORTED BY

Australia, Chile, China, Fiji, Singapore, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ICAO

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

March – September 2019

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3gGmt0p>

The analysis was conducted in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the SENDAI Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. It inventories vulnerabilities in air transport within the region and assesses how civil aviation could alleviate challenges facing PSIDS and support their sustainable development. It includes a comparative cost-benefit analysis of various forms of State regulatory oversight and assistance mechanisms.

The PSIDS Study included several consultations with Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat, United Nations offices in Suva and Fiji, the Association of South Pacific Airlines, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The study team met with high-level officials from ministries and Civil Aviation Authorities (CAAs) during on-site visits to 11 States. Representatives from the CAAs of Samoa and Vanuatu participated as observers in some on-site visits. States that were not visited were invited to meet with the Senior Advisor of the PSIDS Study to provide their views and inputs. These activities were made possible by the monetary and in-kind contributions made to the project.

Based on the information gathered and the analyses performed within the study's time and resource constraints, a total of 30 recommendations have been formulated to be taken forward by the PSIDS, PIF and ICAO, as applicable. Some of the recommendations for ICAO aim to encourage assistance donors, training institutions and multilateral development banks to take further action to support PSIDS. The recommendations support a holistic approach to the development and implementation of a Pacific aviation road map to establish effective, sustainable and resilient aviation regulatory systems in the region.

To ensure the project's sustainability, ICAO is considering the designation of an ICAO Liaison Officer for Pacific Small Island Developing States. The position would provide support to PSIDS in delivering safe, secure and sustainable international civil aviation. The mandate of the Liaison Officer will be to facilitate coordination and cooperation, as well as strengthen communication and knowledge-sharing between ICAO and the PSIDS, PASO, PIF and other United Nations entities. The Liaison Officer will also facilitate the implementation of the relevant recommendations from the PSIDS Study, with a view to stimulating and sustaining the effective implementation of safety and security standards and recommended practices in these States.

Safe, reliable, cost-effective and environmentally responsible air transport is critical to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To illustrate just how essential a catalyst aviation is in the pursuit of the SDGs, ICAO mapped its work against them and found that its strategic objectives support 15 of the 17 SDGs. The initiative also contributes to SAMOA Pathway priority area on Sustainable transportation. ICAO is committed to working in close cooperation with States and other United Nations bodies to achieve these sustainable development targets.

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# Online Capacity Building to Support Sustainable Energy in Small Island Developing States



## Creating a network of regional sustainable energy centres for SIDS

### CHALLENGE

The development of inclusive sustainable energy technology markets in Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) requires a critical mass of professionals in the private and public sectors. However, many SIDS have a shortage of training institutions and quality programmes that respond to the particular needs and priorities of islands and that are affordable.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address this challenge, an online sustainable energy capacity building programme was established for SIDS around the world. The programme was developed under the umbrella of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Small Island Developing States Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Initiative (SIDS DOCK) and the Spanish Centre for Research in Energy, Environment and Technology (CIEMAT).

This programme is part of a wider multi-stakeholder and triangular partnership directed to implement the SAMOA Pathway, SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement (SDG 13). In 2014, UNIDO, the Government of Austria and SIDS DOCK signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) starting the partnership. The partnership is creating a network of regional sustainable energy centres for SIDS in Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean. In October 2015, the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) was formally established in Bridgetown, Barbados. The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) based in Praia, Cabo Verde, and established in 2010, acts as the SIDS DOCK hub for Africa. In the Pacific region, a centre (PCREEE) was established in 2017 and the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) was set up in 2015.

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Small Island Developing States

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 9.1, 9.4, 13.b

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustainable energy

#### SUPPORTED BY

Small Island Developing States Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Initiative (SIDS Dock), Government of Spain (Spanish Centre for Research in Energy, Environment and Technology), Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers (GN-SEC), Spanish Agency for International Development (AECID) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Government of Norway

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNIDO

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2020 – Ongoing

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

– <https://training.gn-sec.net/course/index.php?categoryid=1>  
– [www.gn-sec.net](http://www.gn-sec.net)



This global network of regional sustainable energy centres (referred to as GN-SEC) is a powerful global South-South multi-stakeholder partnership, coordinated by UNIDO's Energy Department in partnership with various regional economic communities and organizations. The regional centres respond to the need for greater South-South cooperation and the building of capacities to promote inclusive and sustainable energy industries and markets in developing and transforming countries. The centres enjoy high levels of support from energy ministries and respond to the individual needs of national governments. The regional centres play an instrumental role in empowering local energy industries to take advantage of growing renewable energy and energy efficiency market opportunities.

The new online capacity building programme is complementing the efforts of UNIDO and its partners in renewable energy in SIDS, through the GN-SEC initiative. Online training is available free of charge and is disseminated through the regional renewable energy and efficiency centres around the world in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

SIDS energy experts in the Pacific, Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Africa have contributed to the curriculum, which is based on good practices for sustainable energy development in SIDS. The programme includes nine online modules covering the following technologies and energy issues: solar photovoltaics, solar thermal technologies, ocean energy technologies, bioenergy, energy efficiency and thermal optimization in buildings, mini-grids, energy storage in insular power systems, e-mobility and an overview on energy, climate change mitigation and resilience in island regions. Learning takes place in an e-learning platform and delivery can be done either via self-study or through trainers.

The programme targets policymakers in energy and related sectors, national institutions in charge of promoting sustainable energy and rural energy, educational and training institutions, energy manufacturing and service industries and national utilities and regulators. The programme was developed on the basis of quality criteria defined by the Spanish Centre for Research in Energy, Environment and Technology (CIEMAT) in terms of scientific and technical expertise, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) tools, methodological and pedagogical resources. A large-scale dissemination of the programme is planned for 2021. The programme features a Training of Trainers function so that the training can be replicated and scaled up as needed and national and regional training institutions in SIDS are encouraged to include the programme in their curricula.

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# Strengthening the Centre for Excellence in Information Technology in Papua New Guinea



## Improving economic opportunities for the youth by bridging academic preparation and skills requirements for employment in the ICT sector

### CHALLENGE

Globally, internet and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) account for a growing proportion of Gross domestic product (GDP). In the Pacific, use of these technologies is expected to benefit communities, creating 16,000 new jobs and raising the GDP by an estimated 6.2 percent<sup>1</sup>. The use of ICT in Papua New Guinea, however, has been relatively low in comparison with many of its neighbours, in part due to a lack of learning opportunities, qualified teaching staff and adequate teaching facilities.

Limited ICT capacities and use reduces opportunities for Papua New Guineans to enter the formal labour market, start e-businesses and for businesses to grow and prosper. The rapidly advancing ICT sector plays a pivotal role in reforming the ways traditional services are being delivered and ICT is extending support to the achievement of key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With over 50 percent of the population of Papua New Guinea being under the age of 25,<sup>2</sup> the ICT sector is seen as a way of progressing social and economic opportunities for the growing urban youth populations. In addition, ICT is seen as a key opportunity for connecting the 85 percent of the population living in hard-to-reach rural areas of the country.



### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

India, Papua New Guinea

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

10.1, 10.2, 4.1, 4.4, 4.5, 17.5, 17.6, 17.9

### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all

### SUPPORTED BY

India through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, the University of Papua New Guinea, the Government of Papua New Guinea

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Papua New Guinea

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

March 2018 – December 2019

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://open.undp.org/projects/00110182>

1 [The Mobile Economy Pacific Islands](#), GSM Association, 2015

2 [World Population Review](#), Papua New Guinea population, 2021

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address lower funding levels and a lack of adequately qualified teaching staff and adequate infrastructure and to expand the country's ICT markets, the Government of Papua New Guinea, through the University of Papua New Guinea, developed an ICT learning facility in partnership with the Government of India and UNDP. The project resulted in the official launch of the Centre for Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) facility at the University of Papua New Guinea with the first learning opportunities commencing in March 2020, offering various courses ranging from seven to 18 weeks in length, including 12 unique certificate programmes.

The project supports Papua New Guinea in meeting its SDG targets, specifically SDG 4 to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,” SDG 10 to “reduce inequality within and among countries,” and SDG 17 to “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.” It addresses SAMOA Pathway priority of “sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all” by bridging academic preparation and skills requirements for employment in the ICT sector in Papua New Guinea, improving economic opportunities for youth.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing in India developed the concept design for the CEIT facility. South-South knowledge exchanges guided the installation of IT equipment at CEIT. This project exemplifies the potential of South-South cooperation in addressing development challenges through genuine partnerships among countries who are or have faced similar development challenges.

Embedding the facility in the country's premier university ensures the facility will continue to receive funding and can act to leverage additional resources and ultimately increase its sustainability for future users. Through this project, the need for ICT was recognized, and the Government of Papua New Guinea allocated PGK 4 million in its 2020 national budget to the University of Papua New Guinea where the CEIT is housed to extend the training facility to a wide group of professionals. The University of Papua New Guinea also announced its plan to extend the facility to other parts of the Pacific region and to Timor-Leste.

The CEIT facility helps Papua New Guinea meet its potential in the ICT sector. The project provided a venue for skills development and a model learning environment, including education software, curriculum to support teaching staff and teaching facilities, to help ensure increased ICT capacity in the country for years to come. Such facilities in Papua New Guinea have increased interest among senior policymakers on how technology can be better used, not only for learning outcomes, but to stimulate economic activity.



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# Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility



## Channeling finance to local governments for community-led climate adaptation focusing on countries on the climate change frontline

### CHALLENGE

Countries and communities that contribute least to the world's climate change crisis are bearing the brunt of the fallout. Those communities are disproportionately Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Local governments in such countries face several obstacles to effectively contribute to building climate adaptation and resilience of their constituencies. They lack appropriate budgetary allocations from the national level, leading to unfunded mandates for climate-sensitive sectors. They often have weak or lack institutional capacities to deal with climate change issues. They are unable to absorb the incremental costs of climate change adaptation and the main sources of climate finance are often only available and accessed through application to national programmes that have specific, earmarked arrangements and which fall outside of established decision-making processes and the public expenditure management cycle.

Tapping into these issues requires devising mechanisms and processes that enhance the effectiveness of adaptation finance at the subnational level, including strengthening transparency and responsiveness of donor funding, increasing ownership and participation of local communities, building the capacity of local stakeholders and of local financial structures to better manage finance and deliver adaptation results. This must be done while also addressing asymmetries, in particular the gender dimension, and it must ultimately empower local governments and their communities to contribute towards Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plan implementation.

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

In Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal), in Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda), in the Pacific region (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) and in the Caribbean (Jamaica)

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.5, 11.a, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.b

### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Climate change; Disaster risk reduction

### SUPPORTED BY

European Union, Sweden, UNCDF, NDC-Partnership, Italy, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Belgium, Benin, Mali, Bangladesh, Cambodia

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministries of local government, finance and environment and climate change

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2014 – 2022

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

[www.uncdf.org/local/](http://www.uncdf.org/local/)



## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

A standard, internationally recognized mechanism designed and hosted by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the Local Climate Adaptive Living (LoCAL) facility promotes climate change resilient communities and local economies, helping local governments and their communities in developing countries, mainly SIDS and LDCs, to access the climate finance and assistance they need to adapt to climate change.

The LoCAL facility increases awareness and capacities, integrates climate change in local government planning and budgeting in a participatory and gender-sensitive manner and increases the financing available for locally led adaptation. It combines performance-based climate resilience grants— which ensure programming and verification of climate change expenditures at the local level while offering strong incentives for performance improvements in enhanced resilience – with technical and capacity-building support. The grants support local governments to maximize existing revenue streams, while also gaining access through and national governments to new, sustainable sources of funding (such as gaining accreditation to the Green Climate Fund).

LoCAL contributes at the local level to country achievement of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 13, 1 and 11. It is aligned with the following Samoa Pathway priority areas: climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Building on the experiences and stocktaking from two earlier LoCAL pilot countries, Cambodia and Bhutan, from 2012-2014, LoCAL has expanded to over 25 countries worldwide and has mobilized approximately US \$100 million that financed more than 1,660 locally led adaptation investments, which benefited some 11.5 million people across 293 304 local governments, mainly in SIDS and LDCs.

All LoCAL countries are part of a community, with member states taking an active part in the LoCAL Board, putting South-South and triangular cooperation into the very fabric of the LoCAL facility. The LoCAL Board defines and must collectively agree on the future priorities of the LoCAL mechanism. Experience from participating countries is shared across all participants creating a virtuous circle of learning and development. For instance, member countries have set the vision for LoCAL to be “a standard and recognized country-based mechanism for developing countries in particular the LDCs and SIDS, that supports direct access to the Green Climate Fund and other climate finance entities and mechanisms to transfer resources to local governments through national systems for building verifiable climate change adaptation and resilience”(LoCAL Board Decision, 2018). This process resulted in a collective effort by the countries and the LoCAL facility to spearhead a series of actions to support achievement of the LoCAL vision, including these listed below.

- ▶ The LoCAL experience guidelines were endorsed by the LDC Expert Group as supplementary material to the NAP Technical Guidelines of the UNFCCC.
- ▶ The development of LoCAL in standard under the International Organization for Standardization was initiated.



- ▶ A professional self-paced modular course on LoCAL and its performance-based climate resilience grants was developed with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and will ensure replication and shared experiences on the LoCAL approach across countries.

LoCAL's use of performance-based climate resilience grants is innovative as it rewards improvement, learning and good practice. These grants include minimum conditions, performance measures and a menu of eligible investments aligned with National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions. For local governments to be eligible for and to access the grants, they must meet and remain in compliance with a set of minimum conditions that ensure a certain level of capacity is in place to handle the funds and that they are adequately used year to year. Performance measures are applied through an annual assessment to incentivize local governments to meet climate change adaptation objectives. This makes the individuals and institutions involved stronger and better able to drive entrepreneurialism and investment in green and circular economies.

Pacific countries (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu,) are working together using LoCAL to tackle shared climate threats. LoCAL established a partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for co-development of a regional Green Climate Fund funding proposal to mobilize climate finance for the deployment and consolidation of the LoCAL and its grant system in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

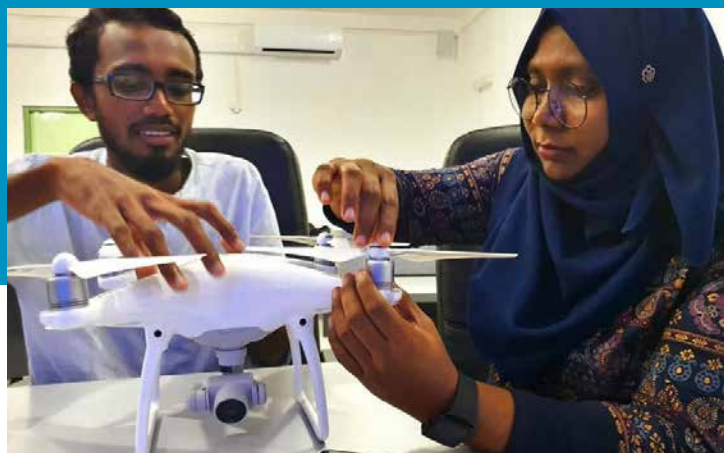
The LoCAL model works because it is systemic and scalable and uses existing local systems. It is flexible and sustainable because it is tailored to local circumstances yet standardized in its design, quality assurance, monitoring and reporting. The LoCAL vertical integration guidelines, endorsed by the LDC Expert Group to the UNFCCC as Supplementary Material to the NAP Technical Guidelines, provides guidance to countries on how to replicate the same standard and country-based mechanism, while further adapting it to the needs of each country. The LoCAL facility supports prospective countries to design and further deploy the LoCAL mechanism, upon official request by governments.

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# Drones for Resilience



## Scaling up national capacity for disaster risk reduction and management in Maldives

### CHALLENGE

Formed by a chain of 1,200 islands in the Indian Ocean and home to nearly 400,000 people, Maldives is the lowest-lying country in the world. Most of the islands are threatened by climate change; 80 percent are only one metre above sea level. Maldives, and many other island nations around the world, could soon disappear without urgent action. Shorelines are already changing rapidly, and scientists predict that rising sea levels will submerge most of the islands by 2050.

Maldives also faces a constant risk of being impacted by natural events, such as tropical cyclones, storms, thunderstorms, drought, flooding from heavy rainfall, storm surges, swell waves and tsunamis. The islands also face climate-related hazards, such as changes in monsoon patterns and rising sea levels and surface temperatures. The consequences of these events are visible, and locals are already feeling their effects.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The 'Drones for Resilience' project, a public-private partnership between Dhiraagu Plc (a Maldivian telecommunications company) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Maldives, aims to promote the use of drone technology for community-based disaster resilience planning in Maldives.

The project focuses on incorporating drones to create detailed, real-time maps of four islands to be used in disaster risk assessment. The collected data improve local authorities' capacity for disaster preparedness and disaster risk management. The maps are also used by local and national officials for land-use planning and to identify high-risk areas and safe zones within the islands.

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Maldives

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Maldives

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

11.b, 13.1

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Disaster risk reduction

#### SUPPORTED BY

Dhiraagu Plc

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNDP Maldives, Addu City Council, Maldives Red Crescent (MRC) Addu Branch, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – 2020

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

[tinyurl.com/trklo8t](https://tinyurl.com/trklo8t)



The project's objective is to improve the capacity of Addu City, in southern Maldives, to undertake risk-informed planning and develop evidence-based climate action plans. While data are a prerequisite for planning resilient communities, data collection for disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a challenge in Maldives, particularly at the local level. The project, therefore, provides information on integrating existing mapping efforts to create an evidence-based, data-driven disaster management information system. The collected data would be made available to both national decision makers and local communities.

As part of the project, representatives from the Addu City Council, the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) Addu Branch and Dhiraagu captured drone images of all the inhabited islands of Addu City. Once the images are processed, they will be used in a Geographic Information System (GIS). The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) assisted in layering these images with risk and hazard information collected by MRC. These maps will then be used by the Addu City Council for evidence-based planning that is mindful of disasters. The council can also layer additional information to be used in city planning that goes beyond DRR. A new subunit was formed within NDMA to serve as the primary hub for integrated disaster information and coordination.

While the newly formed subunit was tasked with addressing gaps in data, data integration, mapping and disaster information systems, the project also strengthened capacities in mapping and post analysis.

To achieve Sustainable Development Goal target 13.1 on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters and SAMOA Pathway priority area on Disaster risk reduction, a two-day workshop on drone usage for resilience planning was held in Addu City for 20 participants. Presented under the partnership between Dhiraagu and UNDP Maldives, the workshop provided information on drone technology, practical lessons on manoeuvring, flight planning and execution, the risks and limitations of drone mapping and local regulations governing drone technology.

UNDP helped to facilitate the training with a consultant. After the trained group of volunteers produce the images, the consultant will process the raw data to create orthomosaic maps, which will be handed over to the council, along with the newly purchased drones, for future planning purposes. UNDP procured the drones through a local provider, and Dhiraagu provided the financing resources.

Drone technology can be used for disaster risk mapping, and drone operators require minimal training. The use of drones to improve local disaster information systems is a cost-effective way to strengthen local capacities and collect reliable, real-time, high-quality data to improve local disaster prevention and action plans. In addition, the drone training may be useful in future stages of risk assessment or could be applied to other areas. Finally, providing training to local communities encourages their involvement in finding solutions and helps to raise environmental awareness.



This innovative project combined drone mapping with techniques to capture quality images in order to improve the GIS, which was accessed through the private telecommunications company. Participants learned about local regulations on drone technology and helped to shape them. This collaboration between UNDP, MRC, the local community, the local government and the private sector is an example of a successful public-private partnership at the local level. Innovations in DRR can be applied to other areas, such as planning for housing, green projects, utility mapping and monitoring coastal erosion, particularly if these innovations could be linked to satellite imagery. This partnership can be duplicated and scaled up across all the atolls in Maldives.

With regard to sustainability, Maldives is moving towards fiscal decentralization. Local island councils will have access to 40 percent of local revenue and 5 percent of the national budget. They will establish and manage their own plans and budgets. This type of partnership could be incorporated in community-based DRR plans, in collaboration with the private sector, to ensure that this training and the expanded mapping feed into local policies.

In terms of replicability, NDMA, under the Ministry of Defence, was involved from the onset and is best placed to ensure that these good practices are incorporated in other areas and included in local budgets. This partnership model can also be replicated in other Small Island Developing States. The potential for replicating the use of drones in improving resilience relies on three components: cost-effectiveness; local capacity development; and reliable, high-quality information for local risk reduction action plans.

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# Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security with Aquaponics Technology



## Addressing food production challenges while taking advantage of the environmental benefits of aquaponics

### CHALLENGE

The Caribbean has experienced climatic changes over the past few decades, and recent studies project that these changes will continue in the future. One study estimates that mean annual temperatures in the Caribbean will increase by between 1° and 5°C by the 2080s. Warming is projected to be greater in the north-west Caribbean territories (Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica).

These changes in the region's climatic conditions are predicted to adversely affect a number of key resources and economic sectors, including freshwater resources and agricultural systems.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Communities in Jamaica considered aquaponics as a possible solution to address these issues. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:

"Aquaponics is the integration of recirculating aquaculture and hydroponics in one production system. In an aquaponic unit, water from the fish tank cycles through filters, plant grow beds and then back to the fish. In the filters, the fish waste is removed from the water, first using a mechanical filter that removes the solid waste and then through a biofilter that processes the dissolved wastes. The biofilter provides a location for bacteria to convert ammonia, which is toxic for fish, into nitrate, a more accessible nutrient for plants. This process is called nitrification. As the water (containing nitrate and other nutrients) travels through plant grow beds the plants uptake these nutrients, and finally, the water returns to the fish tank purified. This process allows the fish, plants, and bacteria to thrive symbiotically and to work together to create a healthy growing

#### NOMINATED BY

Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Jamaica, Mexico

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

2.1, 2.4, 9.a, 12.2, 12.8, 12.a

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Oceans and seas; Food security and nutrition

#### SUPPORTED BY

GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Environmental Health Foundation, Jamaica

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed (with ongoing scale-up)

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – 2019



environment for each other, provided that the system is properly balanced"<sup>1</sup>. As such, this smart technology could address the climate-related challenges impacting food production and security, given the advantages of soil conservation, water recycling and the provision of organic nutrients from the fish to the plants.

With the support of the GEF Small Grants Programme, administered by the United Nations Development Programme, Jamaica participated in a South-South exchange to learn from practical experiences in sustainable aquaponic farming on both a small and commercial scale in Mexico. This initiative directly addressed how farmers in Jamaica could adapt technology to improve change climate adaptation with regard to extreme drought and rainfall conditions. It would also serve to diversify income and improve farming productivity as a whole. The project addresses SAMOA Pathway priority areas on Oceans and seas and Food security and nutrition.

The discussions, presentations and study tours focused on obtaining information about the partnerships that communities require in order to ensure sustainability. Participants also learned about the processes involved in setting up and maintaining a viable aquaponics farm and how communities can benefit from the varying products. In particular, they learned about the role of the Government in formulating the necessary policies and the role of academia in providing research. The experience was enriched through exchanges with Bofish Aquaponic farms, the National Autonomous University of Mexico and consultations with community members and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The good practices and innovations implemented by Bofish have resulted in significant growth and expansion for the business. Some of these innovations include the use of salt water to increase production and food security, as well as the infusion of biofloc technology with aquaponics to create more sustainable aquaculture through greater efficiency, production and environmental control. Additionally, the University demonstrated that snook, pompano, yellow snapper, octopus and shrimp could be bred as the aquaculture component for market consumption. It was also suggested that algae and small plankton could be produced to feed fish and shrimp in the larvae stage.

Following the mission, under the GEF Small Grants Programme, the University and Bofish agreed to support efforts in Jamaica to improve and expand aquaponics technology and further guide agricultural policy developments.

Since the exchange, the Environmental Health Foundation (EHF) in Jamaica has established four small-scale aquaponics systems in the rural parish of Clarendon. EHF is one of the country's leading NGOs and plays a key role in improving health, the environment and the education system. For over 26 years, the Foundation has managed over 40 major projects in Jamaica, with significant results that benefit children and vulnerable groups and communities.

1 FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 589



EarthStrong is a women-led NGO that established the first commercial aquaponics system in Jamaica. The design and construction mitigate disaster and facilitate agritourism. The facility is equipped with cold storage to reduce waste from harvests, which contributes to food security, and runs exclusively on solar energy. The system requires up to one-quarter acre of land and has the potential to produce over 119,000 heads of lettuce and other leafy vegetables annually.

To date, both groups have established partnerships with various government agencies, including the Rural Agricultural Development Authority; the Jamaica Agricultural Society; and the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE). These partnerships will assist in providing continuous oversight and technical support to farmers.

There is a growing cadre of aquaponics practitioners and influencers who are developing policies that will allow the Government to support farmers in adapting to and implementing aquaponics technology. Both the EHF and EarthStrong projects are currently demo sites. They are working on a manual and technical fact sheet to assist the targeted beneficiaries, particularly local farming communities that wish to become involved in aquaponics. The manual will be reviewed by the team in Mexico.

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# Rehabilitation of Barbuda's Key Public Infrastructure Following Hurricane Irma



## Resilient rehabilitation in Barbuda post Hurricane Irma

### CHALLENGE

On 6 September 2017, Hurricane Irma hit the Islands of Barbuda and Antigua with catastrophic effect. Hurricane Irma made landfall as a category 5 storm (Saffir-Simpson scale), packing winds in excess of 180 mph (277 km/h).

Hannah Thomas Hospital complex, composed of four main buildings, is the only health care facility on the island and was significantly impacted. As indicated by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the affected communities, the provision of health care services was critical to promoting the return of the displaced population as well as the sustainable resilience of the island.

The public administrative buildings on the island inclusive of the Post Office were significantly damaged by the hurricane. The Post Office is the only facility on the island that provides a number of essential services, including mail services (delivery of letters and parcels, selling postage stamps and packaging and providing important government forms and services (e.g., passport applications, birth certificates and social security benefits).

Following Hurricane Irma, the entire Barbuda population of approximately 1,800 residents was evacuated to the main island of Antigua. The rehabilitation of the hospital and the post office were therefore seen as essential for residents to be able to return to the island.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

With the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Hannah Thomas Hospital and the Barbuda Post Office were reconstructed and equipped in a sustainable manner, using Build Back Better approach. Both structures were built stronger to make them more resilient to future weather events. A focus was placed on strengthening local capacities through the enforcement of construction codes (OECS and Antigua and Barbuda Building Guidelines) and with quality control and quality assurance being done jointly with the Ministry of

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Antigua and Barbuda (specifically Barbuda), India

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

13.1,3.8

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Climate change; Disaster risk reduction

#### SUPPORTED BY

India through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Government of Antigua and Barbuda (National Office of Disaster Services); Ministry of Works; Ministry of Housing, Lands and Urban Renewal; Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment; UNDP

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

May 2018 – September 2020

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3wY05bV>

Works (MoW) and National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) representatives. This project was supported through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund managed by UNOSSC.

The return of quality healthcare and governance functions and the storm-resistant upgrades are consistent with SDGs 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and 13 (Climate Action) and the climate change and disaster risk reduction priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway. This directly benefited over 1,200 Barbudans who returned to the island.

The rehabilitation work at the Hannah Thomas Hospital, based on Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization recommendations, focused on the in-patient area, which included male and female wards, maternity, sterilization, orderly and conference rooms and a matron's office. Additionally, to help with long-term resilience and continuous operation in the case of natural hazards, the following upgrades were made:

- a. Installation of an uninterruptible power supply backup system that provides up to 12 hours of power;
- b. underground service connection installed;
- c. storm drainage system up-sized to minimize the risk of flooding;
- d. pump room retrofit, including the installation of a new pump system; and
- e. installation of hurricane shutters.

The rehabilitation of the Post office was done using more resilient standards—the OECS Code and Antigua and Barbuda Building Guidelines—to minimize damage from future disaster events.

UNDP worked collaboratively with key government stakeholders, including various ministries (the Ministry of Works, the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Urban Renewal, the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment; and the National Office of Disaster Services) to ensure adherence to nation priorities and to prepare and agree upon the Bill of Quantities and technical drawings.

This intervention successfully reduced long disruptions in health and governance services on the island by restoring access to safe government and health facilities. In designing a resilient and sustainable community-based recovery project and applying resilient designs and construction practices to Build Back Better in the health sector, ensured more robust and resilient public infrastructure.

Based on this project experience, the below recommendations for construction projects may have relevance to other Caribbean territories that wish to replicate this project.



- ▶ Partnership management is a sound investment allowing challenges to be overcome for the most part based on consultations with key partners under the leadership of the government.
- ▶ Operations in the Caribbean are complex and special consideration needs to be taken for projects implemented in sister islands, as is the case of Barbuda in Antigua and Barbuda. Logistically, all materials need to go through the main island and transportation is often a challenge.
- ▶ Engagement with line ministries is important to ensure adherence to national priorities and standardization across the country.
- ▶ Communication with community and government officials is critical to effectively manage expectations and respond to implementation challenges.
- ▶ Joint collaboration between UNDP and Public Works Department on Bills of Quantities and technical drawings finalization, although a relatively lengthy process, is a vital step to ensure works are completed to agreed national standards

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# Rehabilitation of Key Public Infrastructures Following a Natural Disaster



## Resilient rehabilitation of the Salisbury Educational Facility in Dominica post-Hurricane Maria

### CHALLENGE

On 18 September 2017 Hurricane Maria evolved from a category 1 storm to a category 5 storm in less than 18 hours, hitting the Caribbean island of Dominica with extreme winds and rain and causing mass destruction. The hurricane impact directly affected some 73,000 people (the entire population). There were 27 confirmed deaths and 31 persons reported missing.

The Salisbury Educational facility suffered severe damage. The first floor of the building was completely destroyed, inclusive of the roof, the ceiling and the contents of the rooms. Post Hurricane Maria, the staff resorted to using the upper floors for grades 3 to 6, including the space designated for preschool, however the conditions were not suitable for teaching. Health concerns arose, associated with mosquito-borne illnesses, mold and the presence of rodents in and around the school building. The conditions negatively impacted the quality of the learning environment, leading to poor student performance and learning outcomes, and affected the overall well-being of the Salisbury community.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address this challenge, UNDP provided technical and operational assistance through a rehabilitation project in partnership with Engineers Without Borders, to ensure the application of the Build Back Better approach. This project was supported through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund managed by UNOSSC.

Over the two years of the project implementation, two buildings at the Salisbury Educational Facility were rebuilt and Early Warning Systems (EWS) developed. The support provided included the enforcement of building codes, use of adequate construction materials, the application of proper building reconstruction techniques including the rehabilitation of buildings to meet wind and seismic

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Cuba, Dominica, India

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

13.1; 4a

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Climate change; Disaster risk reduction

#### SUPPORTED BY

India through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Education, HR Planning, Vocational Training and National Excellence, Cuba, Engineers Without Borders

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

November 2018 – September 2020

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3jdkhCD>



standards and the construction of new metal roof structure, sound procurement and strategic sourcing guidelines, local and national capacity building and continuous communication with the affected population about the recovery process. Rehabilitation works on the buildings have been approved by the government after a final walk-through conducted on 4 September 2020.

Building on previous work on early warning systems in Dominica, and utilizing the recently developed school plans under the UNICEF recovery programme, UNDP supported the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development to design an EWS that not only directly benefits the school population but also the surrounding community of Salisbury through notification of an impending hazard. The EWS is linked to the national warning system and employs a loudspeaker so that warning messages can be communicated by the school principal from his office. The system has been tested, is fully operational and ready to be utilized when needed.

Successful implementation was achieved due to strong collaboration with numerous national and international institutions and partners, such as the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Planning, Vocational Training and National Excellence, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, the Government of Cuba and Engineers Without Borders. The Ministry of Education was the lead agency for the construction and supported UNDP in the coordination of partners. The Ministry of Education served as the Chair of the Project Board. The Government of Cuba, based on an agreement with the government of Dominica, provided quality labourers during the initial construction phase of the initiative which was essential for the project to achieve its stated objectives.

The project supported climate resilience in Dominica's education system through application of the Build Back Better approach and is consistent with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and the climate change priority area of the SAMOA Pathway. It directly benefited 109 students (47 boys and 62 girls) who have now returned to formal schooling at the facility. Due to the social distancing requirements of COVID 19, student enrolment was less than anticipated but this is expected to increase with a viable vaccine. The new EWS, while mainly for the school, will benefit the entire Salisbury community, estimated to be 2,590 persons.

The intervention successfully reduced disruptions to the learning and development of boys and girls by restoring access to a safe education facility. Through the establishment of the Early Warning Systems, the intervention reduced beneficiaries' vulnerability to extreme weather events and future disruptions.

Due to its success, it is envisioned that all new school construction in Dominica will follow a similar approach to that utilized under this project. To this end, below are a set of recommendations for the scaling up and replication of the project.

- ▶ Partnership management is a sound investment with key challenges being overcome in most part based on consultations with key partners under the leadership of government. The success of this project was due to these successful partnerships.
- ▶ The presence of full-time specialized engineering staff is critical to ensure the quality of the outcome.
- ▶ Initial cost estimates for school repair vary dramatically in Dominica, thus making planning and decision-making difficult. Adoption of a quality assurance programme and peer review of projects of this magnitude should be mandatory with ISO 9000 being considered the "gold standard."

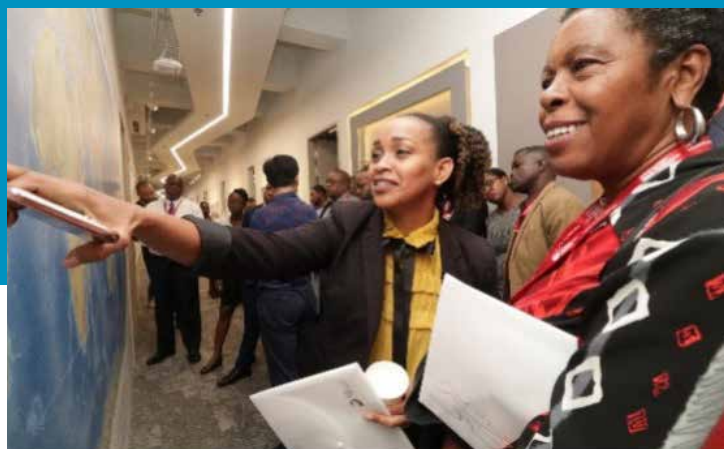
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# Singapore's Climate Action Package



## Capacity-building programmes to support climate action efforts in developing countries

### CHALLENGE

Climate change is a complex challenge that requires a global and multifaceted response. However, many developing countries lack sufficient capacity to deal with many of the challenges brought about by climate change. The importance of capacity building for developing countries to effectively address climate change is recognized in various international agreements and documents, including the Paris Agreement and the SAMOA Pathway.

The consequences of climate change are far reaching and affect all countries. They include more frequent extreme weather events, food shortages, forced migration and the emergence of new diseases. Like many Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Singapore is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, in particular to rising sea levels and surface temperatures.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Singapore strongly believes in the value of capacity building as the best means for fellow developing countries to help each other. The sharing of experiences and best practices has a multiplier effect by allowing participants to learn, adapt and impart knowledge to other policymakers and practitioners within their own countries over the long term.

Thus, in 2018, Singapore launched a Climate Action Package (CAP) under its flagship technical assistance programme, the Singapore Cooperation Programme. The CAP aims to build the capacities of fellow developing countries in areas such as climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, disaster risk management and stormwater management, with a view to helping them fulfil their Paris Agreement pledges. Most CAP courses are conducted in Singapore, sometimes in partnership with other countries and United Nations agencies. The expertise of various Singapore government agencies are pooled to organize and deliver the

#### NOMINATED BY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

All developing countries are eligible, in particular Small Island Developing States that participated in the Climate Action Package courses (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kiribati, Maldives, Mauritius, Nauru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tuvalu).

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.b, 6.3, 6.5, 6.a, 7.a, 11.5, 11.6, 11.b, 14.2, 15.1, 15.9

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Climate change; Disaster risk reduction; Means of implementation including partnerships (Capacity-building)

#### SUPPORTED BY

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore and Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment Singapore

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – 2023

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

[www.scp.gov.sg](http://www.scp.gov.sg)

courses, and course content is jointly curated with United Nations agencies, where appropriate. Over 600 officials from over 100 countries and territories have attended CAP courses.

Through Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), Singapore shares its development experiences, best practices, learning points and latest innovations, with fellow developing countries. However, recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to achieving the SDGs, participants are also encouraged to share their own experiences to enrich the learning experience and to adapt what they have learned to suit their own national circumstances. Outcomes observed from the training include: a) participants imparting knowledge to people in their network, including fellow government officials and other stakeholders (e.g., incorporating information from the course into curricula); b) building networks of like-minded people to share best practices; and c) participant requests for follow-up training and workshops, customized for their own countries' needs. More than 132,000 officials from over 180 countries and territories have attended SCP courses.

An example of a CAP-customised course was Singapore's partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to run a programme for participating states of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) on 'Understanding Risk Management and Risk Financing for Disaster Resilience' in June 2019. This Training of Trainers course sought to enhance cooperation and increase disaster risk-informed development planning, preparedness and recovery in the Caribbean. The course complemented efforts to support Comprehensive Disaster Management Country Work Plans/National Plans and contributed to the achievement of the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), including Target E<sup>1</sup>. This in turn helped participating countries to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway. At the end of the course, UNDRR created a [facilitation guide](#) to support participants to replicate the course in their home countries.

Another example of a workshop conducted under the CAP is the 'Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions' workshop that took place in January 2020 in Singapore. The workshop was co-hosted by the NDC Partnership, with support from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat and the 2050 Pathways Platform. Participants found the workshop to be helpful in guiding their application of agreed UNFCCC reporting guidelines, as well as in the accounting and tracking of the progress of their countries' nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Furthermore, participants also expressed that the workshop provided an encouraging platform for NDC administrators to share valuable experiences. In the longer term, with sustained participation, workshop attendees can build and develop a cadre of officers oriented towards sustainable development, who could then influence and implement policies to boost collective climate change efforts.

1 Target E from the Sendai Framework is a measure that estimates the number of countries and local actors that have DRR strategies in place. Its goal is to "substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020".



Singapore is constantly looking for opportunities to expand its partnerships with new and existing agencies. For instance, Singapore partners with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to conduct programmes supporting Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). In 2019, based on UNICEF's revised Water, Sanitation and Hygiene mandate, Singapore invited UNICEF to work on the design of a CAP course on 'Sustainable Integrated Water Resources and Stormwater Management,' which will be conducted virtually in November 2021.

Although the CAP was initially launched as a three-year programme until 2021, given the strong interest and positive feedback on the courses, it was extended a further two years until 2023. It is this type of result that has encouraged Singapore to remain committed to strengthening the global partnership for sustainable development through technical assistance initiatives.

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# The Climate Early Warning Systems in Pacific Island Countries Project



## Enhancing the adaptive human and technological capacities for disaster preparedness and recovery in Pacific Island countries

### CHALLENGE

The Pacific Island countries are exposed to extreme weather events such as tropical storms, cyclones, drought, floods and heat waves. Since 1950, extreme events have affected 9.2 million people in the region, causing 9,811 fatalities. The Hydro-meteorological Disasters in the Pacific report by the Pacific Community's Geoscience Division reported 615 disaster events in a thirty-year period (1983-2012), of which 75 percent were hydro-meteorological in nature, the most common being cyclones followed by floods. The total cost of these disasters over the same period was estimated to be US \$3.9 billion.

With the increasing severity of extreme weather events, many Pacific Island countries are likely to encounter greater vulnerability, with many of the islands of the Pacific possibly even becoming uninhabitable. An improved awareness of the need for climate change adaptation measures and a strengthened capacity to anticipate and prevent major catastrophes related to extreme events (early warning systems) and for disaster risk reduction action will significantly contribute to a reduction in the vulnerability to variability and longer-term changes in Pacific Island countries.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Climate Early Warning Systems in Pacific Island Countries Project was implemented to enhance the adaptive human and technological capacities for disaster preparedness and recovery in Pacific Island countries. Building on UNDP's ongoing work in the region, the project focused on national meteorology and hydrology services in seven Pacific countries (Cook Islands, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Solomon Islands and Tonga), enabling them to be more resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change and disasters.



#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Solomon Islands and Tonga

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

6.a, 13.b, 17.9

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Climate change; Disaster risk reduction; Water and sanitation

#### SUPPORTED BY

India through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 – 2019

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3h6DmU5>



The project was implemented by the UNDP Pacific Office through the support of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South cooperation (UNOSSC). Partnerships were made with the Pacific Island Government agencies, the India Institute of Technology Roorkee and the Central Training Institute Pune-RTC India, the Pacific Community Hydrological Department, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, the Pacific Meteorology Council and the World Meteorological Council.

The salient features of the project are described below.

First, the project was, at its heart, a South-South cooperation project, which emphasized mutual responsibility and solidarity between countries of the South. It recognized that the Government of India and the Pacific Island countries have valuable resources and experiences to share in the areas of climate and hydrology early warning systems. The project provided learning opportunities for meteorology and hydrology technicians from the Pacific at India's World Meteorological Organization-accredited training institutions, including a capacity development training of 17 Pacific hydrologists in India in 2018. The participants were introduced to the latest hydrology techniques for addressing water shortages and contamination issues. Participants not only learned from Indian experiences but also shared success stories and lessons from the Pacific Island countries.

Second, in addition to climate early warning systems of national meteorological services, the project focused on hydrology services, including atoll freshwater lens management, flood warnings and alerts. It was a paradigm shift that made for a more comprehensive management of the conditions faced by the Pacific Island countries. The importance of this approach was emphasized during the Fourth Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting and subsequently reiterated by the Second Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology.

Third, in keeping with the principle of "leaving no one behind," the project, at the commencement of its activities, conducted stakeholder consultations with women and other marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as youth and people with disabilities. The findings informed future project activities, including equal training opportunities for both male and female national meteorologist and hydrologist.

Fourth, as groundwater remains the most reliable source of freshwater in many atoll nations, the project focused on installation and use of in-line salinity meters to minimize potential salinization and help ensure that freshwater supply is not depleted. The Pacific Community was a responsible party for this aspect of the project.

Lastly, the success stories and experiences from the project were amplified through advocacy and media exposure. In 2018, 20 senior journalists in the Pacific region completed a week-long training and media workshop in Fiji through a partnership with the Pacific Environment Journalist Network. The workshop raised the profile of climate impacts and as a direct outcome generated 37 pieces of media articles.



The project results contributed towards SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SAMOA Pathway areas on climate change, disaster risk reduction, water and sanitation. Additionally, South-South cooperation among the countries and between India and the Pacific were strengthened and supported the experience and knowledge exchange on disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

To ensure project sustainability, various stakeholders have been engaged in the articulation, implementation and monitoring of climate risk and recovery management plans. The existing coordination mechanisms have been strengthened among national and regional institutions and civil society. The knowledge generated has been applied to strengthen national and regional capacities to provide effective climate services and to enhance advocacy for mainstreaming of risk management for climate and disaster-resilient development planning, policies and programmes. At the regional level, governments of Pacific Island countries and other donors have discussed possible next steps beyond this project to support enhanced climate and disaster-resilient development

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# Pacific Regional Policy Dialogue on Climate Mobility



## A rights-based response

### CHALLENGE

Pacific communities are affected by a range of hazards. These hazards include both sudden-onset disasters, such as tropical storms, king tides and floods, and slow-onset disasters, such as droughts, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification. Disasters have had far reaching impacts on human security in the Pacific Islands, especially in atoll countries, and are expected to increase in intensity even more due to climate change. Disasters often interact with socio-economic conditions of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and shape migration patterns in the region.

Pacific communities are affected by a range of sudden-onset and slow-onset hazards that are either made more intense, accelerated by, or caused by climate change. This contributes to voluntary migration flows but at the same time, could increase displacement both internally and across borders. In order to adapt to the impacts of climate change, some governments are already supporting the movement of climate change-affected communities. The movement of people in the context of climate change and disasters presents unique human rights challenges.

Some of the challenges the Pacific islands face in this respect include insufficient coverage in national policy frameworks, capacity constraints, problems with land use and access, limited public financing, limitations of data and evidence, increasing needs of vulnerable populations, economic and social costs of migration, pressure on service and infrastructure provision and maintenance of culture and identity.

Several global policy frameworks on climate change, disaster risk reduction and migration make action recommendations for governments to pursue at national and regional levels. Similarly, core policy initiatives in the Pacific, such as the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) (2017-2030) and the Boe Declaration on Regional Security (2018), reiterate the need to protect individuals and communities most vulnerable to climate-related displacement through targeted national and regional policies, including regional labour migration schemes. Despite these achievements, there is an absence of agreed frameworks and arrangements between Pacific governments to address climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation.

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

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

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

13; 10.7

### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Climate change; Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all

### SUPPORTED BY

United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ESCAP, IOM, ILO, OHCHR, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Platform on Disaster Displacement

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

February 2019 – January 2022

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3gWx1fq>



## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Under the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security programme, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) facilitates discussions in the Pacific region around potential regional responses to climate change-related mobility (migration, displacement, planned relocation) that are based on human rights principles. The multi-stakeholder platform supports policy dialogue for senior officials from 12 SIDS in the Pacific to examine global, regional and national frameworks. Through the project, SIDS in the Pacific are able to learn from each other's policies and experiences and to identify regional, national and sub-national policy measures on climate change-related mobility.

Such regional responses support governments to build community resilience to some of the impacts triggered or compounded by climate change (SDG 13; SAMOA Pathway priority 'climate change') and to formulate or strengthen the implementation of planned and well-managed policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility (SDG 10.7).

The 12 member and associate member states are: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Due to travel restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the regional policy dialogue was conducted virtually through six two-hour webinars over a three-month period from September to November of that year. Participants included senior officials from government ministries (foreign affairs, climate change, lands, disaster management), academia, civil society organizations and development partners.

Participants of the regional policy dialogue reviewed and examined: (i) the challenges and opportunities to enhance protection of people migrating in relation to climate change; (ii) relevant global, regional and national initiatives; (iii) the human security implications of climate change and migration; (iv) options that the region could take to ensure the protection of climate-related migrants; and (v) existing regional agreements in the Pacific and how these agreements can be further strengthened and implemented.

Through the regional dialogue, opportunities were identified to close policy and legal gaps to protect the Pacific communities most prone to the impacts of the climate change. South-South exchanges and learning on the policies and measures adopted by individual Pacific countries to address challenges and harness opportunities of the climate change-related mobility are being compiled in compendium. A regional framework will be developed by the Pacific countries and development community to promote recognition of and legal protection of migrants and displaced persons, particularly in the context of climate change. Commitments were made to conduct consultations at regional, national and sub-national levels so that this regional framework will be inclusive of all voices, respectful of national experiences and anchored in existing political processes.



The virtual format of the dialogue, while requiring significant support from ESCAP to sustain it over several months, proved to be an invaluable tool for South-South dialogue and engagement and allowed for broad and in-depth discussions of complex topics.

A targeted regional response—an ambitious goal that the programme is supporting—will establish the Pacific region as a forerunner in South-South cooperation in developing policy that focuses on the emerging issue of climate change-related mobility.

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# The Coral Restoration Project



## Reducing the impact of climate change on local communities and coral reef-dependent economic sectors in Mauritius and Seychelles by carrying out coral reef restoration with heat-tolerant corals

### CHALLENGE

In recent decades, climate change has intensified coral mortality and bleaching events, which are predicted to further increase in frequency and intensity. In Mauritius and Seychelles, coral reefs and their coastal and marine ecosystems have been threatened by habitat destruction and fragmentation caused by coastal development, overexploitation of fishery resources, destructive fishing practices, pollution, invasive alien species and recurrent bleaching events, particularly those that occurred in 1998, 2016 and 2018.

Beaches in Mauritius have shrunk by as much as 20 metres in recent decades due to rising sea levels and weakened coral ecosystems. The Government indicates that the resulting loss of tourism could cost over US\$100 million per year by 2060 if no action is taken. In Seychelles, the nation's marine ecosystems have been significantly impacted by chronic coastal erosion from increased demand for construction along the coasts, regular coastal flooding, the destruction of marine and coastal habitats, overfishing and other impacts.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In response to these challenges, the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) established a programme in 2008 to develop techniques for coral culture and small-scale reef rehabilitation. Successful implementation of this experimental phase has prompted MOI and other local partners, together with their Seychelles counterparts, to scale up the project to incorporate large-scale reef restoration in both countries.

#### NOMINATED BY

Government of Mauritius

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Mauritius, Seychelles

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

14.2, 14.5, 14.7, 14.a

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Oceans and seas

#### SUPPORTED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Adaptation Fund Board

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Mauritius: Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping - Albion Fisheries Research Centre; Mauritius Oceanography Institute  
Seychelles: Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change - National Parks Authority; Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles; Nature Seychelles

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2020 – 2025

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/2YE54iF>



To reduce the adverse impact of climate change on local communities and economic sectors dependent on coral reefs in Mauritius and Seychelles, the project entitled 'Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Restoring Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Future' aims to develop sustainable partnerships and community-based, business-driven approaches for reef restoration. It also seeks to establish coral farming and nursery facilities and actively restore degraded reefs. On a regional and international level, the project will improve understanding on the use of coral reef restoration as a tool for climate change adaptation, provide models for the sustainable management of reef ecosystems and build capacity for the long-term restoration and management of these precious habitats. The project directly addresses Sustainable Development Goal target 14.2, on sustainably managing, protecting and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems, and target 14.5, on conserving at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas. It also addresses SAMOA Pathway priority area on Oceans and seas.

The Governments of Mauritius and Seychelles have received a new US\$10 million grant from the United Nations Development Programme Adaptation Fund to restore their reef ecosystems. The new six-year project will protect their growing tourism industries, which account for over 30 percent of their gross domestic product and employ approximately half of the population in both countries. It will also reduce risks from high-intensity storms and ensure food security for fishers who depend on the reefs to feed their families.

In Mauritius, the project's objectives are to develop a sustainable partnership and community-based approach to reef restoration, establish coral farming and nursery facilities and actively restore degraded reefs. In Seychelles, the project aims to develop a sustainable partnership and business approach to reef restoration, establish coral farming and nursery facilities, actively restore degraded reefs, improve understanding and knowledge management on the use of coral reef restoration for climate change adaptation, share experiences learned in sustainable coral reef restoration at the regional and international level and provide training to build capacity for long-term, sustainable coral reef restoration.

The project also provides an opportunity for South-South exchange between the two countries. This will include knowledge-sharing on coral culture techniques. MOI will conduct site selection surveys, geographic information system mapping and water analyses and will identify heat-resistant coral genetics for its counterparts in Seychelles. In return, experts in Seychelles will train their Mauritian counterparts on techniques in micro fragmentation and sexual propagation of corals. Finally, a genetic connectivity study between the two countries will also be undertaken. A Restoration Toolkit Manual will also be published at the end of the project, which can be used as a good practice manual to replicate the project in the Western Indian Ocean region.

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# Singapore-International Maritime Organization (IMO) Third Country Training Programme



## Providing capacity-building assistance to International Maritime Organization member states to enable universal implementation of IMO instruments

### CHALLENGE

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its Member States, including Singapore, are actively working to fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related SDGs. To this end, it is necessary to ensure that shipping remains safe, sustainable and secure to support global trade. IMO Member States need to be able to uniformly implement IMO instruments to enhance maritime navigational safety and promote efficient and sustainable international shipping.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Singapore is a firm believer in developing human capital for the international maritime community through capacity-building. Thus, the Singapore-IMO Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) was established to disseminate technical knowledge needed to operate a safe and efficient shipping industry so that IMO member states can implement international maritime regulations and standards.

On 1 September 1998, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established under the TCTP that supported the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore to work with the IMO to provide capacity-building courses for countries. Courses cover implementation of relevant IMO instruments, including those that protect the marine environment through the prevention of pollution from ships, and address SDGs 14.1, 14.2, 14.A, 17.16 and 17.17. These courses have allowed for the sharing of best practices and knowledge transfer, with participants applying the knowledge gained in their respective countries to bridge information gaps and better implement regulations. The courses have also been useful to prepare countries for the mandatory IMO Member State Audit Scheme that reviews country implementation of IMO instruments. The MOU was the first of its kind

#### NOMINATED BY

Singapore

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Open to all countries identified by IMO as requiring specified capacity building assistance. To date, Singapore has trained participants from more than 90 IMO member states, including those from SIDS countries, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Dominica, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

14.1, 14.2, 14.A, 17.16, 17.17

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Means of implementation, including partnerships (Capacity-building); Sustainable Transportation

#### SUPPORTED BY

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Academy and IMO

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

1998 – Ongoing

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3wWP5LT>



by institutionalizing a Member State's commitment to assisting the implementation of the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP). Since then, several countries and maritime organizations have entered into similar MOUs with IMO.

Under this MOU, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore has trained more than 2,100 maritime officials from over 90 countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and from regions that include Asia, Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean, the Middle East and the Pacific Islands.

New TCTP courses have been rolled out over the years to help countries understand and adhere to new regulations adopted at IMO, while existing courses have been continually refined and updated to meet the evolving needs of participants.

On 25 April 2018, building on this MOU, Singapore launched an enhanced five-year technical cooperation and training package valued at US \$5 million for IMO and its member states. The package comprises fellowships, scholarships, workshops and courses to further enhance capacity building and human resource development for the international maritime community.



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# Our Ocean Conference



## Supporting the voices of a Small Island Developing State in ocean conservation

### CHALLENGE

The Republic of Palau is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) that sits on the frontlines of climate change. By hosting Our Ocean Conference 2020, which was rescheduled for 2021 due to COVID-19, Palau seeks to elevate the global profile of island innovations in ocean conservation and catalyze tangible global commitments and investments in emerging innovations. This seventh International Our Ocean Conference is expected to deliver progress on global commitments on oceans and provide opportunities for new commitments based on gaps and needs, highlighting commitments necessary for small island states. However, Palau lacked adequate venues and facilities to host the international conference on ocean conservation.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To enable Palau's involvement in the conference and strengthen key areas of planning and capacity building related to its national execution of Agenda 2030, UNOPS supported the rehabilitation of existing infrastructures to make them suitable for hosting a conference of this magnitude. Through UNOPS, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), funded US \$1 million to renovate the Palau Community College. The Service Agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Palau and UNOPS, which were the implementing partners. Project activities were identified in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Palau and UNOPS, and concurrence to the identified works was sought from the Government of India, in keeping with the spirit of the South-South partnership. From the design of the project through to completion, the Government of the Republic of Palau was consistently involved, and upon deriving consensus, the activities were implemented. The donor was informed through monthly reporting and ad hoc reporting as required.

Once the conference has ended, benefits will continue to be reaped for the students and teachers at the Palau Community College, which provides vocational education not only to Palauan society but to other Micronesian countries and the Federated States of Micronesia.



### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

India, Palau

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

9.1,11.5,13.1 13.2,14.1 14.2 14.3 14.4 14.5 14.6 14.7,17.2

### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Means of implementation, including partnerships; Climate change; Oceans and seas.

### SUPPORTED BY

India through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNOPS

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2020 – 2021



UNOPS used E-sourcing, an online system of procurement for all works, goods and services, which is the first of its kind in Palau. This replaced the traditional practice of paper-based activities. Through a series of training sessions and workshops, with help provided by UNOPS procurement experts and through the help of local mainstream media, the E-sourcing went smoothly. All works received sizable bidders and the project concluded successfully. Through E-sourcing, the online sourcing of vendors brought forth open international tenders, thus enabling bids from any corner of the world. Local bidders were made aware that they would face international bidders and could only win the bid with quality and competitive pricing. The E-sourcing platform also made procurement fully transparent, with all information, queries and clarifications on bids visible to all bidders. Palau is now aiming to replicate the E-sourcing system for all governmental procurement processes.

This cooperation between India, UNOPS and Palau addressed the Samoa Pathway preamble point 5, that states: "We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development. We recognize the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, but stress that in the absence of international cooperation, success will remain difficult."

Sustainability aspects of the project are: a) henceforth, local contractors can apply for the international tenders of all United Nations agencies as they are registered in the United Nations Global Market; 2) local engineers were used to design, draw and estimate all the works, thus exposing them to United Nations standards that can be locally replicated in the future; and 3) all the works were executed through local contractors under the supervision of UNOPS experts.

Online procurement using E-sourcing can be easily replicated, as it does not require a high level of skills from the supplier side, but only basic access to internet. Using local resources, E-sourcing can contribute to the sustainability of future initiatives.



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# Strengthening Technical and Functional Skills for Public Finance Control in Portuguese-speaking African Countries and Timor-Leste



## Good economic governance for an efficient and effective use of public resources

### CHALLENGE

Over the past decade, the Portuguese-speaking countries of Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Timor-Leste have experienced significant progress with economic governance. Public finance management reforms have been the main reason for this success. However, weaknesses, including inadequate institutional capacity, skills and human resources, continue to hamper public administration systems in these countries. This situation has undermined effective public finance management, budgetary oversight and control of public resources, which has significant adverse impacts on other governance and development sectors.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Since 2014, the European Development Fund, National Authorizing Officers of Timor-Leste and the African countries using Portuguese as an official language (PALOP), in coordination with the European Union, have partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to strengthen good economic governance through the ProPALOP project to bolster the effectiveness of external political, judicial and civilian controls of public finances in these countries. UNDP Cabo Verde is the implementing partner and hosts the Programme Management Unit. UNDP Country Offices in Angola, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste oversee project assurance and project support in the beneficiary countries.

The project aims to support good governance by strengthening the technical and functional skills of supreme audit institutions, parliaments, parliamentarians, civil society and the media in the countries. Beneficiary institutions, in particular supreme audit institutions and parliaments, fulfil an important role in the prevention of corruption and mismanagement of public funds and facilitate a more efficient and effective use of public resources.



#### NOMINATED BY

Government of Cabo Verde

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

16.6, 16.7, 16.8, 16.10, 5.1, 5.5, 5.a, 5.c, 17.6, 17.14, 17.15

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Partnerships; Gender equality and women's Empowerment; Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities

#### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Cabo Verde, Governments of Sao Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, European Union

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing (second phase)

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2014 – 2021 (may be further extended)

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://agora-parl.org/pt-pt/pro-palop-tl-sai>

The project has been supported by the European Union and UNDP for three cycles, with an expected end-date of November 2021. The first phase supported electoral cycles, making space for more voice and representation. Following this, the project concentrated on strengthening external control institutions (Supreme Audit Institutions, parliaments and civil society organizations) to enhance the efficiency of Public Finance Management Systems. In the third phase, economic governance and Public Finance Management Systems are being consolidated in the project countries, with the involvement also of Brazil and Portugal.

The logic for the project's multi-country intervention is grounded in the principles of mutual benefit, sovereignty, national ownership and equality. It creates conditions for participating institutions to form synergies and boost dynamics through the exchange of experiences and joint learning within the framework of South-South cooperation. The project supports partners in accessing good practices and knowledge in the area of external control, legislative oversight and public scrutiny of public funds. It addresses capacity needs in each of the programme countries and tailors activities to the common needs of PALOP.

The main outcomes achieved through the project to date are listed below.

- ▶ A platform was set up in collaboration with AGORA (the largest online platform for parliamentary strengthening in the world), the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and the Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (OISC/CPLP). In collaboration with the PALOP legal database ([www.legis-palop.org/bd/Home.aspx/Plataforma](http://www.legis-palop.org/bd/Home.aspx/Plataforma)) and the work of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries Open Budget Initiative, a Lusophone branch was established within the PALOP legal database and in the AGORA global knowledge management platform for parliamentarians ([www.agora-parl.org/projects](http://www.agora-parl.org/projects))
- ▶ Capacity development was provided to more than 1,300 individuals from beneficiary institutions.
- ▶ A letter of commitment on gender-sensitive budgeting was signed by the presidents of the PALOP-TL Networks, Groups and Women Parliamentarians' Offices to promote integration of the gender approach in planning and budgeting processes.
- ▶ The first Community of Practices of State Actors in the Public Finance Management System was created for the PALOP countries as a mechanism to promote South-South and triangular cooperation, which supports the exchange of experiences, peer learning and the development of technical capacities among the Ministries of Finance, Supreme Audit Institutions and parliaments of the PALOP countries and Timor-Leste. The entities produced a guiding document called The Luanda Charter, which includes important recommendations and lays out the commitments of the three state actors of the public finance management ecosystem in each country, for a national and collective strengthening of the management of public accounts.
- ▶ The first online platform of civil society organizations in the PALOP and Timor-Leste for national budgetary analysis and simplification purposes is in the process of being created. The platform will help increase transparency and citizen awareness.



The initiative's innovation is three-fold, as described below.

- ▶ It creates a shared history of processes, institutional practices, legal frameworks, cultural ties and fraternity that unite the African Portuguese-speaking countries and Timor-Leste.
- ▶ The engagement with key beneficiary institutions in the formulation and execution of the project has resulted in strong ownership of the participating countries.
- ▶ The online platforms created are anchored in existing, successful global and regional knowledge management and information-sharing platforms.

To ensure the project's sustainability, governance institutions not only in the project countries, but also from Brazil and Portugal, are engaged using South-South and triangular cooperation methods.

This project has proven to be scalable, with a similar intervention underway in countries in the Pacific region, including an intervention in Timor-Leste that is fully funded by the European Union.

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# Rights, Empowerment and Cohesion (REACH) for Rural and Urban Fijians Project



## Tracking service delivery to reach the unreached

### CHALLENGE

The geography of Fiji poses unique challenges for basic access to social, economic and legal services, especially for those in urban informal settlements, maritime zones and other remote rural areas. Citizens, many of whom reside in such areas, usually cover long distances to reach government offices, which are typically situated in urban and semi-urban areas. As a result, they face delays and challenges, in addition to lost income, as they must bear additional costs in transportation and accommodations in order to access basic public services. Moreover, public service delivery faces difficulties in ensuring start-to-finish service provision. It is not possible to track and monitor individual service delivery requests or update citizens in remote locations on the progress and ultimate resolution of their requests.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address this challenge, the Rights, Empowerment and Cohesion (REACH) for Rural and Urban Fijians Project was developed, with support from the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A mobile service delivery approach was undertaken to reach communities throughout Fiji, beginning with those furthest behind.

The project aimed to accomplish the following key results:

- ▶ Increase awareness in urban, rural and maritime communities of constitutional rights regarding socio-economic well-being and justice, with a focus on legal aid, through the deployment of mobile teams.
- ▶ Enhance the delivery of services provided by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and the Legal Aid Commission through the deployment of mobile teams to urban, rural and maritime communities.
- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and the Legal Aid Commission by supporting strategic planning and monitoring results for effective and coordinated service delivery.



#### NOMINATED BY

South-South Network for Public Service Innovation, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Fiji, Japan

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.10, 16.b, 5.b

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Social development

#### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Japan; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation of Fiji; Legal Aid Commission of Fiji; UNDP Pacific Office

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNDP Pacific Office; Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme of the Government of Bangladesh/ UNDP Bangladesh; REACH Project; Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Government of Fiji

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2015 – 2018

- ▶ Inform evidence-based policymaking through the research and analysis of areas related to the empowerment of women and girls; the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; access to justice for all; and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

The Start-to-Finish (S2F) Service Delivery Tracker consists of web-based software with a mobile application specifically designed to track applications to the Poverty Benefit Scheme, under the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. The existing services provided through the REACH mobile service delivery platform served as the foundation for an S2F pilot initiative, which was proposed for 2017 and 2018.

With support from the Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme of the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP experts shared innovations for initiating South-South learning opportunities with Fiji. Specialists from a2i innovation undertook a dedicated mission to Fiji and conducted multiple workshops on S2F service delivery from 5 to 7 July 2017 with key REACH Project stakeholders. During the mission, two additional consultations were undertaken with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and youth, as well as a small sample group in Suva to test the applicability of the S2F pilot programme. The feedback gathered was integrated into the overall design and tested during the pilot phase in the Eastern and Northern Divisions of Fiji in 2018.

The public service delivery system of Bangladesh had undergone systematic revisions to better meet the needs of its citizens, with a focus on the needs of the most vulnerable groups. As a result, it was easier to adapt a successful model to the context of Fiji. Adapting the existing Bangladesh system also provided savings in development costs. This partnership has created several opportunities for the two countries to share knowledge and resources to promote South-South cooperation and innovation in public service delivery.

As a result of the project, 22,233 people (9,306 women, 9,050 men and 3,877 children) benefited from the REACH mobile awareness-raising and service delivery, which impacted 956 communities in 139 districts in 15 provinces and the Rotuma dependency. The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation; the Legal Aid Commission; the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission; and other institutions immediately provided 37,807 services to 21,587 women and 16,220 men in the communities. In addition, 168 people (94 women and 74 men) from the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation; the Legal Aid Commission; the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission; and other key stakeholders further strengthened their capacity to undertake awareness-raising and service delivery.



The mobile application initiated during the REACH project has been integrated into the main system to track the progress of applications, with the ultimate aim of empowering citizens with up-to-date information, including final approval and delivery. The project also seeks to ensure full accountability and transparency in the process, providing the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation with concrete data and information to streamline the application process and improve business processes, thereby ensuring the project's sustainability. Adapted to the country context, this project could easily be replicated in any country where the connectivity and availability of digital devices can be ensured.

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# Asia-Pacific Civil Registrars



## Facilitating collaboration to strengthen national civil registration and vital statistics systems

### CHALLENGE

In the Asia-Pacific region, approximately 65 million children under the age of five are unregistered. This lack of identity denies children an existence before the law. As they grow older, it prevents them from accessing social, educational, health and financial services, as well as employment markets. They do not benefit from the legal protections necessary to increase their quality of life. In promoting universal civil registration and a legal identity for all, a State may therefore strengthen its ability to achieve a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets.

While civil registrars in Asia-Pacific face unique national challenges in achieving universal registration, they must also address practical registration issues, as well as cross-border issues such as migration caused by conflict, natural disasters and climate change. As such, civil registrars must strengthen information and communications technology and adopt innovative approaches to meet these challenges. They must network in an environment that is conducive to sharing ideas, learning from one another and finding common solutions through South-South cooperation.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Recognizing that universal civil registration is critical for sustainable and inclusive development, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and its development partners hosted a meeting of Asia-Pacific civil registrars in 2014. This meeting focused on improving the impact of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems on providing legal identity (SDG target 16.9), achieving universal health coverage (target 3.8) and early childhood education (target 4.2), eliminating child marriages (target 5.3), promoting entry into formal employment (target 8.7) and ensuring that women are not denied inheritance rights or financial services because of a lack of identification (target 5.a). It also



#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Pacific Civil Registrars Network: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu Civil Registration Professionals of South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

16.9, 3.8, 4.2, 5.3, 5.a, 8.7, 17.19

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Means of implementation, including partnerships (Capacity-building)

#### SUPPORTED BY

ESCAP, United Nations Children's Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Health Organization and Plan International

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Asian and Pacific Civil Registration Professionals

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2014 – Ongoing

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3aWWz7g>



contributed to SAMOA Pathway priority area on Means of implementation, including partnership with a focus on capacity-building. Participants agreed to create subregional networks in Asia and the Pacific to collaborate on cross-border issues in CRVS and share knowledge, ideas, good practices and lessons learned.

Two subregional networks have since been established, with assistance from ESCAP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Pacific Community and other development partners. In addition to the Pacific Civil Registrars Network and the Civil Registration Professionals of South Asia (CR8), a third subregional network for countries in North and Central Asia is currently underway. The networks have strengthened coordination and prioritized shared technological approaches to collaborate on common, transboundary challenges. For example, the Pacific Civil Registrars Network assist members in building resilience to natural disasters by adopting best practices for archiving data and use vital statistics to inform post-disaster services.

The subregional networks promote South-South cooperation by sharing innovative methods for improving CRVS systems among developing countries. They also promote the development of common data-sharing approaches and good practices to improve systems so that no one is left behind. These networks allow stakeholders to regularly communicate with one another and develop collective approaches to the storage and retrieval of civil registration data.

The 2015–2026 strategic plan for the Pacific Civil Registrars Network includes a communication and information-sharing strategy. Through collaborative efforts, States in the Pacific subregion have witnessed an increase in birth registrations and donor support. Papua New Guinea recently registered births for over 1 million unregistered adults as part of a national programme to issue 8 million identification cards prior to the April 2021 elections. Between 2013 and 2019, Kiribati achieved a 14.2 percent increase in territorial births registered within one year (SDG target 16.9).

These innovative subregional networks are the first of their kind in Asia-Pacific to prioritize the needs of national civil registration authorities while seeking common solutions to transboundary challenges. The networks have facilitated the increased use of innovative, technological solutions, such as cloud-based servers for data storage and retrieval. Each network addresses common issues while remaining flexible to local needs. They also support the achievement of the shared Asia-Pacific vision to see all people benefit from universal and responsive CVRS systems that facilitate the enjoyment of their rights and support good governance, health and development by 2024.

By emphasizing South-South cooperation while placing the needs of national registration authorities at the heart of their mandates, the existing subregional networks are self-sustained and driven by the participating countries themselves. This sustainability is further supported by subregional agreements. For example, under the Pacific Civil Registrars Network data-sharing agreement, national stakeholders are streamlining the process to recognize public documents from other members to facilitate data-sharing across borders and improve the daily work of



registrars. The Pacific Civil Registrars Network quickly recognized the need to improve procedures for sharing civil registration data. Because Pacific Islanders frequently travel overseas for medical treatment, the lack of data-sharing prevented countries from collecting accurate information on vital events, including births and deaths.

Learning from the success of the Pacific Civil Registrars Network, the CR8 identified a group of experts dedicated to addressing issues common to their own subregion. Each meeting has led to the release of a compendium showcasing common challenges and the solutions to address them.

Finally, replicability in additional subregions relies upon political commitments to improve CRVS systems and an openness to sharing information. Civil registrars across Asia and the Pacific will continue working together to expand registration coverage and meet the related SDGs by guaranteeing a legal identity for all. Thus, these networks promote South-South cooperation at the national and subregional levels.

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# Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative



## Access to information as a key to empowerment and knowledge-based development

### CHALLENGE

Many people in Samoa are exposed to living in hardship. Problems include water and sanitation issues, major gaps in specialized health care, inclusive and quality education and food system issues. These vulnerabilities are intensified by challenges in access to information and participation in decision-making at all levels.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative, funded by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund under the auspices of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), promotes knowledge-based sustainable development in Samoa, as inclusive knowledge societies are crucial for economic, social and political development. The initiative's objective is to establish a knowledge society that includes a digital library, a lifelong learning lab and an access to information policy. The initiative undertakes capacity development for policy and resource management.

The initiative is rights-based, acknowledging the right of all Samoans to access to information, contributing towards an enabling environment for enhanced digital development. As acknowledged by the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the initiative recognizes that partnerships are effective instruments for mobilizing expertise, technology and knowledge and can be powerful drivers for change, innovation and welfare. The initiative is premised on SDG target 16.10 and the principle that information not only empowers people to make decisions but also allows them to exercise their rights, be economically active, learn new skills and hold their governments accountable.



#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

India, Samoa

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

16.10, 1.4, 2.c, 3.7, 4.4, 5.b, 8.5, 9.5, 9.c, 12.8, 17.6

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all

#### SUPPORTED BY

India through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNESCO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

December 2019 – May 2021

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://samoaks.ws/>  
#SamoaKSI #KnowledgeSociety

The Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative has been developed under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNESCO following discussions with the Prime Minister, Members of Cabinet and the National University of Samoa and in consultation with several ministries, including those responsible for ICT, education, agriculture and health, and a range of professional associations, including educationists, librarians, health and agriculture professions, policy-makers, disabled persons organizations and public and private sector service providers. To elaborate a full proposal, the stakeholders engaged in dedicated consultations from 14 to 16 August 2019. A consolidated stakeholder consultation on implementation of the project was held on 20 August 2019 in the presence of all stakeholders involved. Accountability is ensured through a Steering Committee that provides national oversight. A technical committee is charged with overall coordination.

UNDP and UNESCO, through an India-UN Development Partnership Fund Commonwealth window, are implementing the initiative, drawing upon experiences from India, Uganda and elsewhere in applying good practices in advancing knowledge societies. The United Nations Country Teams responsible for implementation of the United Nations Pacific Strategy (2018-2022) have experience in Samoa in providing high quality technical expertise and impartial policy advice, based on international experience, technical expertise and good practices, including advocating for the inclusion of vulnerable populations. Access to information can have a profound impact in advancing sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all.

In monitoring knowledge societies and access to information a contribution will be made towards the reporting on SDGs, specifically SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). The initiative contributes to a number of other SDG targets, specifically, equal rights and access to services (1.4, 2.c, 3.7, 4.4), inclusive technological development and information technology as a tool for sustainable economic development (5.b, 8.5, 9.5, 9.c, 12.8) and South-South and multilateral cooperation (17.6). The initiative will be used as an opportunity to learn from the innovative promotion of knowledge societies in Samoa by using technologies.

The Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative marks the beginning of a broader effort in the region to support creating, organizing, accessing, disseminating, using and preserving information and knowledge to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030. For sustainability of the initiative, the United Nations System will seek to establish a dedicated facility in the form of a trust fund for the management of the digital library and other knowledge resources. The second phase of the project, planned from 2022-2025, will provide foresight, scale up and replication in the region and promote SIDS-SIDS exchanges.



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# Capacity-building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks Support for Pacific Island States



## Supporting harmonized policies for the ICT market in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific

### CHALLENGE

The 'Capacity-building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks Support for Pacific Island States' (ICB4PAC) project focused on Pacific States members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

The project addressed the needs of regional organizations and Pacific island States relating to capacity-building in e-readiness, as well as information and communications technology (ICT) policies and regulations. It aimed to harmonize and promote closer collaboration on telecommunication policies, legislation, strategies and regulations, with a view to empowering each country to implement the necessary reforms.

In the Pacific islands, the greatest challenges were the lack of harmonized policy, a legal and regulatory framework in the (ICT) sector and the relevant institutions to incorporate a new framework into domestic laws and regulations. There was also a need to strengthen the relevant human capacities and skills.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The ICB4PAC project, implemented by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), aimed to build human and institutional capacity in ICT through a range of targeted trainings and knowledge-sharing activities across the region. It addressed the need to develop competencies in subregional and national ICT sectors in terms of frameworks for policies, regulations, legislation and e-readiness. It also developed background material for harmonizing ICT market policies. Data were collected through questionnaires, in-person interviews and information-sharing during workshops. The ICB4PAC project was financed by the European Commission and ITU, the latter serving as the executing agency. The data were analysed to inform the outcome documents used by beneficiary countries to implement recommendations.

#### NOMINATED BY

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of ), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

17.9

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Means of implementation, including partnerships (Capacity-building)

#### SUPPORTED BY

European Commission

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ITU

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2009 – 2013

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3guntEJ>

The project was co-financed by the European Commission and ITU with the latter being the project execution agency. As a result of the project, harmonized guidelines on policy, legislation and regulation were adopted and have since been implemented in beneficiary countries.

The project focused on the countries of the Pacific belonging to the African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (ACP) Group of States. It addressed the needs expressed by Pacific regional organizations and the Pacific Island States (PIS) relating to capacity building in consistent ICT policies and regulations, and e-readiness. This is aligned with the SAMAO Pathway priority area on means of implementation, focusing on capacity building. The Project was a response to a request for support and cooperation to promote and implement closer collaboration and harmonization of telecommunication policies, legislation, strategies and regulations within ACP group. This was meant to empower each country to implement the necessary reforms so that the region can reap the benefits of a harmonized ICT regulative landscape.

Countries across the region have different levels of ICT development. More advanced countries have agreed to share their best practices with those less advanced, while also learning from international best practices. At all stages, the ICB4PAC project had to consider the challenging logistics created by the vast distances between countries. The dates of project meetings were therefore determined in close collaboration with regional organizations.

The objectives of the project were achieved resulting in the adoption of harmonized guidelines on policy, legal, and regulation which have since been implemented domestically by beneficiary countries. During in-person capacity-building trainings, countries from the global South shared experiences and jointly contributed to the project's outcomes. With regard to sustainability, the project received continued support from ITU operational plan activities and benefited from projects financed by ITU and the Government of Australia. It has already been replicated successfully in Africa and the Caribbean. The key to this success is that participating countries must commit to the project.



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# South-South Cooperation for Advancing the 2030 Agenda: A study in Barbados and Jamaica



## Fostering partnerships to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SAMOA Pathway

### CHALLENGE

In Barbados and Jamaica, national advances towards achieving the 2030 Agenda have been severely threatened by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The main challenges associated with South-South cooperation in both countries were identified as difficulties in tracking and quantifying technical cooperation activity and the need for appropriate methodologies and procedures to manage information gaps. Systems have not yet been developed to record, quantify, measure and evaluate the impact of such cooperation and much more could be done to consider the political value of South-South cooperation.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Under the Caribbean First Strategy of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Commission gives a prominent place to the Caribbean to better serve its member countries and address their specific needs and vulnerability. In this context, and in response to resolution 675 (XXXIV) of ECLAC, the Commission conducted a study on the evaluation of South-South cooperation in Barbados and Jamaica to share knowledge, experiences and best practices.

The main objective of the study was to examine how South-South cooperation has been implemented in Barbados and Jamaica in order to launch a broader discussion on the potential of such cooperation and foster partnerships to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway in the region in such an unprecedented crisis as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study includes conclusions and recommendations concerning the lessons learned that may be of broader interest to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In fact, Barbados and Jamaica illustrate the extent to which a country's sense of national identity, its foreign policy and its development agenda will

#### NOMINATED BY

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Barbados, Jamaica

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

17.6, 17.9

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Means of implementation, including partnerships

#### SUPPORTED BY

ECLAC

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ECLAC

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2019 – 2020

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3w5t3W9>

shape its attitudes towards South-South cooperation. Despite having similar historical backgrounds and development concerns in the 1960s, which resulted in significant joint regional initiatives, the two States demonstrated somewhat different foreign policy visions and directions.

South-South cooperation is a significant process in both countries that adds value to their development activities. Jamaica's engagements are on a larger scale and are more institutionalized than is the case of Barbados, where South-South cooperation has been conservatively defined and its scope more cautiously delimited. Jamaica has reached the point at which it is both a beneficiary of, and a contributor to, South-South cooperation. The experiences of Barbados demonstrate that it has played a contributory part and can assume more proactive roles in such cooperation.

It was found that much more could be done in both countries in terms of exploring the full potential of South-South cooperation. Both countries need to strengthen and consolidate their institutional capacity to document and archive all their development cooperation, disaggregate the different categories of cooperation, analyse the data, evaluate the development impacts of their South-South cooperation and use the findings to inform future policy.

The advanced version of the study was presented on 11 December 2020 by ECLAC during a virtual Expert Group Meeting on the Evaluation of South-South cooperation in the Caribbean in the context of the post-pandemic recovery. The online format facilitated wide participation in the meeting that included 22 Member States and associate members of ECLAC, representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat, the United Nations Office of South-South cooperation, the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System and academia.

The study was very well received by member countries and by the invited experts. It generated a stimulating discussion on the current value and the untapped potential of, and further opportunities for, harnessing South-South and triangular cooperation in the ongoing work to achieve Agenda 2030 in the Caribbean and also the agenda of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). During the meeting, Colombia offered to share its methodology for evaluating South-South cooperation with Caribbean countries. Other Caribbean governments requested to be part of a follow-up study to assess the potential of South-South, SIDS-SIDS and triangular cooperation in their respective countries. The study will be published and made available online and a follow-up online meeting will be organized in 2021 to broaden the scope of the discussions and foster the exchanges of good practices that could lead to cooperation agreements and other forms of regional collaboration.

As the attendees of the Expert Group Meeting realized, South-South cooperation holds possibilities that go way beyond traditional notions of technical cooperation. South-South cooperation partnerships should be used to explore new approaches to development financing, including debt swaps, public and private partnerships and other options. Likewise, many Southern actors, in Latin America and elsewhere are emerging as significant new partners in scientific and technological innovations, including in the areas of digital technologies. Relevant centres of expertise should be explored not only in those sectors but also in addressing ongoing social policy challenges that face the Caribbean subregion.

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# Documenting and Replicating Statistics Innovation in Asia and the Pacific



## Accelerating innovations in statistics

### CHALLENGE

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) struggle with compiling the required statistics for national development planning, including the statistics needed to implement and monitor progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SAMOA Pathway recognizes that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable SIDS to effectively plan, follow up, evaluate the implementation of and track successes in attaining internationally agreed development goals.

Much innovation is taking place in countries all over the world to increase the availability, accuracy and relevance of statistics for development planning and monitoring. Sharing and transferring these innovations is a challenge, as statistics production is often highly context-dependent, with solutions tailored to national legal and institutional situations. Well-documented success stories in statistics by developing countries are much more effectively replicated by statisticians in other developing countries working in similar conditions.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Documenting and Replicating Statistics Innovation through South-South cooperation in Asia and the Pacific project accelerated innovations in statistics in the project countries through documenting successful projects and facilitating their replication in other project countries. The methodology adopted was a combination of: (a) supporting successful statistics projects in six developing countries; (b) strengthening the capacity of national statisticians to document and communicate the projects; (c) supporting the layout and publishing of the results in replication studies; and (d) facilitating communication of the projects through a series of online events and the production of a video. The statisticians involved in the project were the main authors of the studies and were the main resource persons speaking at the events and in the video.

This project addressed the priority area of data and statistics in the SAMOA Pathway (means of implementation, including partnerships (data and statistics)).

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

17.18, 17.19 (The initiative also supports the monitoring of 44 SDG indicators, spanning SDG 1-16)

#### RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Means of implementation, including partnerships

#### SUPPORTED BY

the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ESCAP and the national statistical office of the five countries involved

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 – 2020

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

Documented innovations [2017-2020]:

– <https://bit.ly/3gRcE34>

SSC events to share for replication [2020]:

– <https://bit.ly/3wYyNBY>

– <https://bit.ly/35YtFlr>

– <https://bit.ly/3ddBx6Q>

Training in documenting successful projects [2019]:

– <https://bit.ly/3x955u4>

Video describing the projects [2020]:

– <https://bit.ly/2Sp4iWS>



This case study focuses on one of the participating countries, the Maldives, a Small Island Developing State. An international assessment team, jointly with the National Bureau of Statistics of the Maldives, conducted a review of the country's national statistical system, assessing institutional, organization, legal and technical aspects against the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The assessment team included a senior statistician from the Mongolian National Statistical Office which had a few years earlier gone through a similar assessment and was able to share Mongolia's experience and lessons learned during this process. The review resulted in several recommendations for improvement of the national statistical system of the Maldives, including the preparation of new legislation and establishment of a national indicator set to produce high-quality statistics necessary for formulating and monitoring national development plans, including for achieving the 2030 Agenda. (The report is available at: <http://statisticsmaldives.gov.mv/nbs/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/NSS-Review-Report-Maldives-FINAL.pdf>)

The National Statistics Bureau of the Maldives documented the process and results of the national statistical system review for the benefit of national statistical offices of other countries wishing to undergo a similar exercise. Staff from the National Statistics Bureau of the Maldives received tailored communications training from ESCAP, which enabled them to document the review process. This result of their efforts were published in a step-by-step 'replication' study *Reviewing the National Statistical Systems of the Maldives 2020: Documentation of process and results* ([www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/National\\_Statistical\\_System\\_of\\_Maldives\\_2020.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/National_Statistical_System_of_Maldives_2020.pdf)).

The study formed the basis for a regional knowledge sharing (virtual) Stats Café entitled "The good, the bad and the ugly: Revelations from reviews of national statistical systems," hosted by ESCAP ([www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-stats-cafe-series-good-bad-and-ugly-revelations-reviews-national-statistical](http://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-stats-cafe-series-good-bad-and-ugly-revelations-reviews-national-statistical)). The Chief Statistician of the Maldives participated as a resource person in the Stats Café which was attended by several other chief statisticians from interested countries of Asia and the Pacific. Another resource person was the Chief Statistician of Sri Lanka who had requested a similar review of the Sri Lankan statistical system following the lead of the Maldives ([www.statistics.gov.lk/Resource/reference/SriLankaNSSReviewReport](http://www.statistics.gov.lk/Resource/reference/SriLankaNSSReviewReport)). The links, collegiality and collaboration between Sri Lanka and the Maldives were further strengthened through the invitation and participation of the Chief Statistician of the Maldives in the launch event for the final review of the Sri Lankan statistical system.

This initiative was innovative as the involved statistical offices took the lead in documenting and sharing their experiences through South-South cooperation with minimal reliance on external advice and as a result fully owned the results. In addition to the concrete technical results of each project, the sharing has raised the profile, visibility and professional status of several statisticians from least developed and developing countries vis-à-vis their peers in the regional statistical community. These professionals are now paying it forward by sharing and supporting peers in other countries wishing to implement similar projects, making the initiative sustainable with cascading effects.

The initiative has resulted in several new statistical products and services being available: (a) new statistical legislation in the Maldives and in the Lao People's Democratic Republic; (b) new price indices in Bhutan; (c) new GDP estimates in Cambodia; and (d) a statistical business register in Myanmar. These successful projects have been documented in replication studies, making them easy to pick up by other interested countries through South-South cooperation.

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UN-OHRLS