

RISING UP FOR SIDS



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UNDP's partnership with SIDS

UNDP has a long-standing partnership with Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Today, UNDP's support is wide-ranging, with an estimated annual value of US\$300m, supporting SIDS to advance national development priorities and respond to diverse challenges and opportunities. UNDP's support is delivered through a strong presence across the Pacific, Caribbean and Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS), supporting 50 non-member states and member states, through a network of nine Multi-Country Offices (MCOs) and 13 stand-alone country offices.

To better serve the people of SIDS, respond to the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and challenges expressed during the recent mid-term review of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, as well as the upcoming Decade of Action on the SDGs, UNDP has committed to "upgrade" its support to SIDS. This will include strengthening UNDP's programmatic engagement, increasing its ability to respond to urgent and emerging challenges faced by SIDS and improving its organizational agility and providing human-centered development. The offer is embedded within UNDP's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and identifies transformative levers for advancing sustainable development based upon national demand and needs. Building on UNDP's mandated role as the support platform of the UN development system providing an integrator function in support of countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda through tailored, multidimensional, human-centered development solutions.

From vulnerabilities to opportunities

Development challenges faced by SIDS include structural constraints, such as lack of economic diversification, need for social protection and inclusion, fiscal constraints, heavy indebtedness and barriers to full

integration into the global economy. At the same time SIDS are among the world's most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change feeling intimately and urgently the consequences of intensified extreme-weather events, rising sea levels and ocean acidification, exacerbated by degradation and depletion of natural capital which sustain livelihoods and economy.

But there are also opportunities. People are the greatest resources of SIDS and their sustainable development pathways must put people at the center in line with the commitments of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway and 2030 Agenda. SIDS' small sizes allow them to become innovation incubators, SIDS have the potential to become microcosms for new technological solutions or innovative nature-based solutions that may be replicated and scaled up across SIDS and elsewhere. Furthermore, SIDS are defined not exclusively by their small land area. They represent nearly twenty percent of the world's offshore Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and are thus also "Large Ocean States". These opportunities, along with SIDS' collective commitment to transformational change and global action, provide an ideal frame for UNDP to act as a key development partner for SIDS.

Scaling up

UNDP's upgraded SIDS offer responds to their most pressing needs as well as greatest opportunities for accelerating sustainable development. Accordingly, building on multipliers that promise to accelerate progress across the SDGs, and building on UNDP's comparative advantage and specific expertise, UNDP over the next 10 years will elevate and expand its support in: Climate Action, developing Blue Economies and promoting Digital Transformation, with access to financing harnessed as a key enabler. UNDP will intensify support for sustainable management of natural capital that

underpins climate action, blue economies economies and sustainable development of SIDS, promoting nature-based solutions for achieving SDGs.

UNDP's vision is to help countries promote decarbonized and resilient societies through scaled up climate action across all SIDS. Our support will be based on national development and climate policy priorities, under the overarching objective of accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNDP's scaled-up climate action offer consists of three pillars, all key for transformative development impact in SIDS: (1) energy transformation; (2) adaptation and resilience; and (3) nature-based solutions.

UNDP's vision is to provide support to transform SIDS' blue economies towards prosperity through an integrated approach rooted in sustainable finance and development. To support SIDS in realizing their blue economy opportunities and aspirations, UNDP is committed to provide SIDS with significant technical, financial and capacity building assistance, focusing on: (1) assisting 20-30 SIDS with implementing national Blue Economy strategies; (2) Blue Economy on-the-ground pilots in 20-30 SIDS; (3) mobilizing US\$30 million or more in new and additional Blue Economy grant finance.

Recognizing the demand for digital transformation from the SIDS countries, understanding the necessity to bridge the persisting digital divides, **UNDP's vision is to support SIDS in not only taking advantage of the opportunities of a digital age, but also managing the associated challenges and overcoming existing constraints with access to technologies and limited capacity.** UNDP's offer includes (1) supporting design and implementation of national digital strategies

(2) increasing resilience and inclusion of public institutions through digital technology and digitization; (3) enhance digital ecosystems and strengthen digital capacity in SIDS.

UNDP's support to SIDS within these three pillars is rooted in **improving access to finance, through innovative financing methods and traditional financing sources.** UNDP will support SIDS in accessing finance in four areas:

1. Innovative finance including blended finance approaches and risk-mitigating solutions like insurance for protection from disasters ex-ante and enhancing protection for coral reefs and other types of natural capital.
2. Financing for conservation and debt restructuring (in hand with fiscal policy advice) using blue bonds and resilience bonds.
3. Catalysing private sector investment for infrastructure (natural and manmade) through green bonds.
4. Domestic resource mobilisation and scarce public investment leverages other sources of finance for sustainable development in SIDS.

Genuine and durable partnerships for SIDS

Leveraging and scaling up existing partnerships as well as engaging in new partnerships is essential in realizing UNDP's ambitions to enhance its support to SIDS. Across the three pillars of UNDP's offer, genuine and durable partnerships are needed to catalyse their transformative potentials. UNDP works with a wide range of UN, IGO, NGO, bi-lateral and multi-lateral, private sector and philanthropic partners in SIDS. UNDP will further enhance its support to SIDS through continued advocacy for SIDS on the global stage.