



QUESTIONNAIRE

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

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

PART A VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS

1. Enhanced Support for a Resilient Post-COVID-19 Recovery in SIDS

Vulnerability reduction and resilience building are critical issues that must be addressed by SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any resilience building interventions or strategies (proactive or preventive) that have been or are being implemented at national or regional levels that aim specifically at improving resilience in SIDS. Please include financial resources expended in this regard, if available (750 words).

The **2030 Portuguese Development Cooperation Strategy** prioritises partner countries that are classified as LDCs, SIDS and/or countries in fragile situations, as well as implementing approaches adapted to country-specific contexts in partner countries under a graduation process or recently graduated from LDC status. In fact, around 60% of our bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) goes to LDCs and 33% towards SIDS. Portugal has been a strong supporter of SIDS development, prioritizing national capacity building, through innovative approaches and new technologies. Lead by long-lasting partnerships, our country has assisted SIDS efforts to include climate and risk reduction in their national plans, facilitating access to global climate funds and reducing dependence on concessional finance. With investments in the development of the national private sector, in particular MSMEs, there has been a clear focus on reducing exposure to external shocks, by enabling access to innovative financing and risk-sharing mechanisms that make these countries more attractive to Foreign Direct Investment.

Here are some examples of our work:

- **Strengthening institutional capacities in Cabo Verde and Sao Tome and Principe** to fulfil the countries' commitments under the UNFCCC and the Paris

Agreement in terms of mitigation and adaptation. The main actions are focused on the waste sector in Cabo Verde and on water efficiency, with regard to strengthening the resilience of the water and sanitation sectors in both countries. These actions also target public water and sanitation companies and were complemented by education campaigns for the sustainable use of water resources.

- **“100% local consumption! Strengthening the countryside-city link in response to the COVID-19 crisis”** (2020). This project was focused on the increasing of economic resilience, expanding and stimulating the local food market for producers in Timor-Leste.
- **“Etikapun n’há – Urok, Bijagó Culture Resilience Laboratory”** (2020). Its aim was to strengthen the experience of the Urok Islands as a laboratory for the resilience of the Bijagó culture, as a tool for socio-economic development and for connecting communities to their natural environment.
- **“Action Plan in the Health Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic”** between Portugal, the PALOP and Timor-Leste. This Plan is the result of a coordinated effort by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Defence, Interior Administration, Science, Technology and Higher Education, Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, including other entities. Its main activities are focused on providing medical supplies and protective equipment; online and face-to-face training and technical assistance in several areas (COVID-19 diagnosis and handling of equipment) and organizing flights to transport humanitarian aid.
- During the **Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU** (1st semester of 2021), an attempt was made to deepen the discussion on climate change in the humanitarian context, within the framework of the **Environment Nexus - Humanitarian Action and Displaced Persons – Environment**, developing synergies between three international agendas: the **2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change**.
- Collaboration and financial support to UNDP’s **“Climate Promise”** work on SIDS, which has helped to not only raise mitigation and adaptation ambition, but also support dozens of countries to implement their enhanced NDCs as roadmaps for investment in sustainable development.
- Financial allocations to the **SIDS Team of UNDESA**, which is developing crucial work for the implementation of the SDGs and advocacy for SIDS, namely with the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.
- In regards to the **High-Level Panel of Experts on a Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index** (MVI) for SIDS, Portugal has been a firm supporter of the development of the MVI, which we consider essential to adequately capture the notion of vulnerability, in its different dimensions.
- Portugal also actively participates in a number multilateral groups and fora that are at the forefront in addressing and tackling vulnerability and resilience, such as CPLP, Ibero American Conference, and a number of UN and DAC/OECD workgroups.
- Portugal is working with **Tuvalu** in the context of its **“Trade and Integrated Private Sector Development Project”**, aimed at achieving the goals of “Te Kete”, Tuvalu’s National Strategy for Sustainable Development, improving the business environment,

establishing a business incubator, increasing employment opportunities in fisheries and agriculture, and strengthening links between tourism and other productive sectors. Considering the risk of natural disasters, the project includes building resilience of economic agents for rapid recovery from pandemics like COVID-19.

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

Improved, tailored development co-operation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS are necessary if SIDS are to effectively recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. What are the expected results from these interventions in the targeted countries. Please include indications of resource allocations if available (750 words)

Portugal develops tailored country strategies, referred to as **Strategic Co-operation Programmes** (PECs), for, and with, each of Portugal's six priority partner countries (Portuguese speaking countries in Africa (PALOP) and Timor-Leste in Asia), with the objective of reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The PECs, negotiated for a five-year period, set a series of priorities and guidance, including, among other things, a timetable, areas of activity and respective investment in sustainable projects that include exit strategies, indicative financial envelopes, data frameworks and measurable objectives and results, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Portugal takes into account the local context and promotes a very close dialogue with the local authorities of partner countries. A sound articulation is done by the Development Cooperation Agency headquarters (Camos, IP), with line ministries and civil society stakeholders, as well as the Portuguese Cooperation Centers in the field.

Moreover, the PECs are aligned with the national development strategies and the SDGs, promoting ownership of targets and objectives by the partner country. PECs take into account the **2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation** and other international commitments.

The PECs establish the priority areas for development co-operation in each country, including the thematic priorities, reflecting the diverse nature of partnerships. As such, PECs are intended to serve as a macro framework guiding government public development co-operation strategies and activities with each partner country, that are tailored to country and context specific needs.

International partnerships are also a priority, as they promote opportunities for synergies and complementarities, particularly with the EU, through delegated cooperation, and other forms

of co-operation such as triangular cooperation. Integrating grants for technical assistance with financial instruments are envisaged through partnerships with the Portuguese Development Finance Institution (**SOFID**) and the “**Compacto Lusófono**” – a partnership with the African Development Bank to promote private investment in the Portuguese Speaking Countries through financing, risk-sharing and technical assistance instruments for bankable projects.

The majority of PECs (signed with **Timor-Leste [2019-2023]**, **São Tomé e Príncipe [2021-2025]**, **Guiné-Bissau [2021-2025]** and **Cabo Verde [2022-2026]**), take into account the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for a comprehensive social and economic recovery. Issues relating to gender, youth and the global partnerships, including with the private sector, are envisaged in all programmes/projects.

Timor-Leste PEC focuses on the: (i) consolidation of the rule of law and good governance; (ii) education, training, and culture; and (iii) inclusive socio-economic development (health, environment, humanitarian action, agriculture, energy and tourism). Interventions are be coordinated among the various cooperation actors following a participatory and inclusive approach. The PEC assumes an integrated approach to the different aid modalities, bilateral, triangular, and multilateral cooperation, that privileges the use of national systems, complementarity of the interventions of the various partners,

São Tomé e Príncipe PEC defines six priority intervention: (i) education and culture; (ii) health, employment; (iii) justice, security and defense; (iv) agriculture, fisheries, energy and environment; (v) public finance, economy and infrastructure, and (vi) cross-cutting areas.

Guiné-Bissau also defines six priority areas: (i) education and culture; (ii) justice, security and defense; (iii) health, employment; (iv) agriculture, fisheries, energy and environment; (v) infrastructure, economy and finance; and (vi) cross-sectional areas.

Similarly, for Cabo Verde: (i) education, science, sports and culture; (ii) health, employment (iii) justice, security and defense; (iv) environment, energy, agriculture and sea; (v) public finance, economy, digital and infrastructure; (vi) cross-cutting areas.

Portugal channels a considerable amount of its development budget through PECs. Using the examples mentioned above, the Portuguese development cooperation budgeted **EUR 70 million to Timor-Leste, EUR 60 million to São Tomé e Príncipe, EUR 60 million for Guiné-Bissau and EUR 95 million for the 5-year period of Cabo Verde’s sustainable development strategy.**

PART B

IDENTIFYING POLICY PRIORITIES IN SIDS FROM THE NEW AGENDA

The SAMOA Pathway contains a number of action areas which require policy formulation, programmes or projects to implement at national, sub regional and/or regional levels. While SIDS have made a fair amount of progress with actioning these over the last decade, a number of gaps remain. As the international community prepares for the 4th International Conference on SIDS, what are the key priority policies, programmes and projects that are needed to further advance the SIDS development agenda and why? (750 words).

While progress has been made in implementing the SAMOA Pathway, SIDS still face several economic, social and environmental challenges that need to be addressed. These include:

1. **Climate change adaptation and resilience:** SIDS are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise and extreme weather events. Priority policies and programs should focus on enhancing climate change adaptation measures, including strengthening climate-resilient infrastructure, including coastal defences, improving early warning systems, and promoting climate-smart agriculture and fisheries.
2. **Energy transition:** SIDS heavily rely on imported fossil fuels for their energy needs, which is expensive and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. Promoting policies and programs that support the transition to renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal, can reduce dependency on fossil fuels, increase energy security, and promote sustainable development.
3. **Sustainable ocean management:** the health and sustainability of oceans are critical for SIDS (large ocean countries), as they depend on marine resources for livelihoods, food security, and tourism. Policies and programs should prioritize the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, including the establishment of marine protected areas, fisheries management, and initiatives to reduce marine pollution and decarbonize maritime transportation.
4. **Enhancing resilience to natural disasters:** SIDS are highly vulnerable to natural disasters, including hurricanes, cyclones, and tsunamis. Priority policies and programs should focus on strengthening disaster risk reduction and readiness, including early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, and capacity building for effective emergency response.
5. **Sustainable tourism:** policies and programs should prioritize sustainable tourism practices that promote responsible tourism, local community's engagement, and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.
6. **Capacity building and technology transfer:** SIDS often face challenges in implementing and monitoring sustainable development initiatives due to limited technical and financial capacities. Priority policies and programs should focus on capacity building, technology transfer, and financial support to enhance SIDS' ability to implement and track progress on the SAMOA Pathway.
7. **Sustainable agriculture, fisheries and food security:** SIDS often face challenges in achieving food security due to limited arable land, vulnerability to

climate change impacts, and reliance on food imports. Priority policies and programs should promote sustainable agricultural practices, such as organic farming, agroforestry, and efficient water management. Additionally, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture initiatives that support local food production are key for blue economy.

8. **Access to finance and investment:** priority policies and programs should focus on enhancing access to climate finance, innovative financing mechanisms (debt-swaps), and attracting private sector investment. This can be achieved through partnerships with international financial institutions, the establishment of green investment funds, green and blue bonds, and the promotion of public-private partnerships.
9. **Access to healthcare and resilient health systems:** SIDS often face challenges in providing quality healthcare services, especially in remote and vulnerable island communities. Priority policies and programs should focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure, improving access to essential medicines and vaccines, and enhancing the capacity of health systems to respond to emergencies and climate-related health risks.
10. **Education and skills development:** priority policies and programs should aim to improve access to education at all levels, promote vocational training and lifelong learning, and integrate sustainable development concepts into educational curricula. Emphasis should be placed on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education to build local capacity in key development areas, such as entrepreneurship, renewable energy and climate change adaptation.
11. **Gender equality and women's empowerment:** priority policies and programs should promote women's leadership and participation in decision-making processes, improve access to education and healthcare, and address gender-based violence. Supporting women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment can also contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development.
12. **Partnerships and international cooperation:** collaboration and partnerships among SIDS, development partners, and international organizations are essential for advancing the SIDS development agenda. Priority policies and programs should promote South-South and Triangular cooperation, regional integration, and knowledge sharing. Strengthening existing partnerships and fostering new collaborations can facilitate the exchange of best practices, technology transfer, and capacity building.

It is important to note that the specific priority policies, programs, and projects may evolve as new challenges and opportunities arise. We expect that the 4th International Conference on SIDS can provide an opportunity for SIDS and the international community to further assess the progress made and identify new areas of focus to advance the SIDS development agenda.