**Supporting SDG Implementation in the Pacific Small Island Developing States**

**UNDP Concept Note**

**15 December 2015**

1. **Introduction and Context**

At the UN Summit (25-27 September 2015), Member States of the United Nations adopted *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* with a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core. The Agenda commits stakeholders to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and to benefit all, including women, children, youth and future generations. The new universal agenda will require an integrated approach to sustainable development with an overarching imperative of ‘leaving no one behind’ and addressing inequalities and discrimination as the central defining feature.

The SDGs and targets are global in nature and universally applicable with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Mainstreaming The 2030 Agenda, which includes an ambitious results framework with 17 goals and 169 targets, into country strategies, plans and budgets will require significant effort and support, particularly for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific, where capacities and resources are limited.

One of the lessons of MDG implementation was that early strategic planning is important in laying the groundwork for long-term progress, as putting in place priority actions at an early stage can have multiplier effects on development outcomes. UNDP has already begun mapping regional demand for support, an effort that has revealed strong interest for support across the Pacific SIDS. Some governments have also already started to translate the new agenda into their national development visions, strategies and plans.

UNDP is therefore proposing a regional initiative to support the SDG localization and implementation process and the sharing of innovations and lessons being learned at the country and regional level. Specifically, this initiative will support Pacific SIDS to:

* Mainstream *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* into national development strategies and plans.
* Initiate the development of integrated financing frameworks.
* Assess data availability and assist with baseline analysis for monitoring progress towards the SDGs.
* Deepen South-South Cooperation across the Pacific SIDS through exchange of experiences and good practices.

In country support will focus on 4 to 6 countries with knowledge exchanges involving all Pacific SIDS. UNDP will seek to mobilize additional funding to roll out activities to all Pacific SIDS.

1. **Approach**

The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) has created a framework to assist countries in implementing the SDGs, called “MAPS” (Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support). MAPS will guide UNDP’s approach in the Pacific SIDS. Where necessary globally developed tools will be adjusted to the specific needs of the SIDS.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Based on scoping missions to several countries and consultations to date, several entry points have been identified including:

1. Working with Government, civil society, academia and private sector to raise awareness of The 2030 Agenda and establish broad-based multi-stakeholder partnerships. This component recognizes that achieving the 2030 Agenda will require coordinated action from all sectors of society, and leveraging the knowledge and resources of the private sector and non-government actors as well as Government systems and capacities at the central and local levels. Efforts should be made to reach out and to engage also with stakeholders in remote areas/ outer islands.
2. Supporting the integration of the SDGs into national and local policy-making, planning and budgeting processes. This component will identify ways to effectively integrate SDGs into national and sub-national policy frameworks, development planning processes and budgeting and implementation frameworks. It will also explore ways to strengthen policy coherence and whole of government approaches. The strengthening and/ or establishment of national SDG consultation and coordination systems (e.g. SDG taskforce, parliamentary committees, etc.) will facilitate this process.
3. Supporting the identification of priorities and areas for ‘acceleration’, i.e. areas where progress has been lagging. This work will build on the experience of developing MDG Acceleration Frameworks (MAFs) and build capacity in applying tools and approaches for prioritization.
4. Piloting the development of an integrated financing framework in a country with sufficient capacity and budget systems. Lessons learnt will be shared and resources mobilized to roll out the development of integrated financing frameworks to other countries. This work will build on the Development Finance Assessments methodology, Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) and other related work and closely coordinated with ADB, World Bank and IMF.
5. Assessing data availability and support the determination of baselines for localized SDG targets. Assessments should consider using innovative ways of collecting and communicating data. Specific emphasis needs to be on ensuring sufficient disaggregation to track progress against ‘leaving no one behind’.
6. A regional process to distil and share experiences. This knowledge sharing process will enable horizontal exchanges amongst the national and sub-national partners engaged in the initiative, as well as sharing lessons vertically with national and regional platforms. It will also provide an opportunity for deepening South-South Cooperation with partners where relevant.

All activities will seek to leverage support from other UN agencies and be closely coordinated with other development partners in particular the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat.

1. **Rationale for UNDP Support**

Over the past 7 years, UNDP has supported Pacific SIDS to strengthen their data collection systems for monitoring MDGs, to formulate national MDG reports and to mainstream MDGs into their development strategies. UNDP also facilitated the development of MAFs for strategic and priority MDG targets that were off track, providing policy advisory services, awareness raising and advocating for the achievement of MDGs at the community level, local government level and political level. Local media and NGOs were trained on reporting on MDG progress and support provided to mobilize resources for achieving the MDGs.

1. **Indicative budget and timeline**

USD500,000 for a period of 18 months will complement regional and global funding for SDG roll out in Asia and the Pacific. The initiative will be implemented by the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) with technical support from the Pacific Regional Office and UNDP’s Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH). It will leverage support from and coordinate activities with other UN agencies and development partners in particular the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat.

In country technical support and capacity building will focus on Pacific Island countries with knowledge exchanges and small-scale capacity building interventions involving all Pacific SIDS. UNDP will seek to mobilize additional funding to roll out activities to all Pacific SIDS. Country selection for in-country support will be based on demand.

Please note that activities listed in the overview of interventions below all aim to support capacity building in the respective area to ensure sustainability.

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| **OVERVIEW OF INTERVENTIONS AND INDICATIVE BUDGET** |
|  | **Indicative Interventions** | **Indicative Inputs and Budget Allocations** |
| **Raising Public Awareness and Applying Multi-Stakeholder Approaches** | * Support to local public awareness campaigns incl. communicating in local languages and using social media (reaching beyond main island/ capital)
* Engagement of private sector including through exchanging of good practices on inclusive business as an example for sustainable business practices and exploring ways to align private sector activities and investments to SDGs
 | Consultants/ staff timeTravelConsultations/ workshopsUSD 80,000To Be confirmed – China (Fiji, FSM, Palau, Tonga, Vanuatu) |
| **Reviewing National Plans and Adapting SDGs to National Contexts**  | * Assist with mapping of existing development strategies and plans against SDGs (goal and target level)
* Assist with tailoring SDG targets to national context
* Support with prioritization exercises with special focus on ensuring integrity of agenda and interconnectedness (through for instance developing integrated analysis tools or adapting global tools to specific needs of SIDS).
* Assist with integration of SDGs into national strategies, plans (long-term/ medium-term, annual corporate plans, etc.)
 | Consultants/ staff timeTravelUSD 140,000To Be confirmed – China Priority countries for 2016: (Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga)  |
| **Budgeting/ Integrated Financing Frameworks** | * Initiate development of integrated financing framework and pilot in one SIDS
 | Consultants/ staff timeTravelUSD 80,000To Be confirmed – China Priority countries for 2015: (Fiji, FSM, Tonga) |
| **Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability** | * Review availability of data to monitor progress against SDGs incl. disaggregation
* Explore new innovative ways to generate and use data
* Support baseline analysis
 | Consultants/ staff timeTravelUSD 80,000To Be confirmed – China Priority countries for 2015: (Fiji, Tonga) |
| **Experience Sharing and Capacity Building** | * Support to adjusting tools (developed at global level) to specific needs and limited capacities of SIDS.
* Regional knowledge sharing events (at sub-regional level and regional level)
* Develop simple knowledge exchange platform and community of practice for peer to peer learning
 | Consultants/ staff timeTravelWorkshopsUSD 120,000To Be confirmed – China Regional forum/ symposium on SDGs |

1. United Nations Development Group *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Interim Reference Guide to UN Country Teams*, 7 October 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)