

Partnerships Briefs for Small Island Developing States



Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management



ISLAND VOICES
GLOBAL CHOICES | UN Conference on
Small Island Developing States

Division for Sustainable Development
UNDESA
2014

Introduction

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS Conference) will be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa, with the overarching theme as “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”.

The SIDS Conference will include six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues (Partnership Dialogues) that will serve as a forum to build on existing successful partnerships as well as to launch innovative and concrete new ones, to advance the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Member States have identified six clusters of priority areas that the Partnership Dialogues will address respectively. These are: Sustainable Economic Development; Climate change & Disaster Risk management; Social development in SIDS, Health and Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), youth and women; Sustainable energy; Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity; Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Waste Management.

The SIDS 2014 Partnerships Briefs have been prepared by the Division for Sustainable Development (UN-DESA) in consultation with the UN System through the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA Plus), with the intent to contribute to the preparations leading up to the Partnership Dialogues by:

- Reviewing key priorities related to SIDS in the selected priority area,
- Reviewing existing north-south, south-south, and triangular partnerships in the selected priority area, and
- Identifying gaps in the priority area, which could inspire renewal, build-up and scale-up of existing partnerships, and the launching of new innovative partnerships, focusing on public-private partnerships.

The current Partnership Brief will look at the priority area of “Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management”, and highlights illustrative examples of existing partnerships based on information available in the SIDS 2014 Partnerships Platform (www.sids2014.org/partnerships) and as indicated through consultations with the Secretariat of the SIDS Conference.

Challenges related to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management in SIDS

SIDS WERE FIRST RECOGNIZED AS A SPECIAL CASE OF the environment and development at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, in 1992. Its outcome document, Agenda 21¹, underscores these States to have all the environmental problems and challenges of the coastal zone concentrated in a limited land area².

About 26 percent of the land area of SIDS is 5 meters or below above sea level, and nearly 30 percent of almost 65 million people living in SIDS live within this zone³.

Although the total combined annual carbon dioxide output of SIDS accounts for less than one percent of global emissions, the level of emissions in SIDS is still on the rise raising grave concerns in reducing emissions and transitioning to clean energy⁴.

The recently released IPCC Fifth Report⁵ reaffirmed the high vulnerability of SIDS to sea level rise, in-

1 UN Sustainable Development (1992) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: Agenda 21.

2 Ibid.

3 UN-OHRLLS (2013) Small Island Developing States in Numbers.

4 UN DESA (2010) Trends in Sustainable Development Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

5 Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.

creasing air and sea surface temperatures, and changing rainfall. These cli

mate-related threats are forecasted to continue to increase with associated impacts and risks increasingly affecting the sustainability of islands and communities, and their adaptive capacity.

SIDS face threats, including the loss of vulnerable industrial capacities in key areas such as agriculture, fishery, tourism, electricity generation and distribution, also, food security, water scarcity and drought, changes to ecosystems and loss of biodiversity, including the loss of critical ecosystems services, inundation of islands, displacement, security, and human health.

SIDS share a common frightening reality. Owing to their location among some of world's hotspots in relation to the intensity and frequency of natural hazards⁶, combine with their small size, populations heavily concentrated in coastal areas, limited resource base and low economic resilience, among others, SIDS are extremely exposed to high levels of disaster risks. A conservative estimation of 110 and 187 disasters caused by various hazards affected the Pacific and Caribbean SIDS, between 2001 and

6 EM-DAT <http://www.emdat.be/> in UNISDR & UN-OHRLLS (2013), Joint Issue Paper- Addressing Risk, Harnessing Opportunity: Building Disaster Resilience in SIDS

2011, respectively. Although the death toll and the economic loss are relatively small compare to ‘mega disasters’ elsewhere, the local-level impact on communities and the economic impact to the affected countries are enormous, but a fact very much obscured from greater global attention⁷.

A recent global assessment on disaster risk reduction⁸ shows SIDS representing 2 percent and 1.4 percent of the global total annual average losses from earthquakes and tropical cyclone wind damage but constitute 8 of the top 10 countries to lose the highest value of their urban produced capital in the case of a 1-in-250-year earthquake; 14 of the top

7 UNISDR & UN-OHRLS (2013), Joint Issue Paper-Addressing Risk, Harnessing Opportunity: Building Disaster Resilience in SIDS.

8 UNISDR (2013), Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: From Shared Risk to Shared Value-The Business Case for Disaster Risk Reduction.

16 countries in a similar scenario of wind damage from a tropical cyclone; and 6 of the top 10 in the case of a catastrophic cyclone⁹.

Guided by the Hyogo Framework of Action, SIDS have increasingly recognized, especially at the community level, there is little practical difference between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. While the rationale for integration remains clear, SIDS face challenges including easing the burden of programming assistance and compliance, minimising duplication and reducing potential conflicts in policy development and making efficient use of scarce resources.

Slow onset events such as coral bleaching, ocean acidification, and population displacement as an adaptation measure are among the issues of great concern and urgency in the area of climate change for SIDS, as well as addressing loss and damage.

9 Ibid.



Existing Partnerships

THE FOLLOWING PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES ARE brief examples of some of the existing north-south, south-south and triangular partnerships, global and SIDS-focused in nature, complementing the efforts of SIDS in the areas of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. Additional information on these initiatives, and more existing partnerships can be found on the SIDS 2014 Partnerships Platform at: www.sids2014.org/partnerships.



1. Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR): This program aims to complement other currently available adaptation financing for climate resilience in development planning, and assist in the development of core development policies and strategies in pilot countries in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions. In both sub-regions, the PPCR is leveraging substantial other funding to help SIDS retrofit vulnerable assets to climate-resilient norms, implement climate and disaster risk financing instruments, and build capacity on risk identification and early warning. Partners include national and regional institutions, the World Bank, GFDRR, the Climate Investment Funds, the Asian Development Bank and CARICOM.

<https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/node/4>

2. Partnership to develop the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development (SRDP): in 2011 the Pacific Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change ‘communities’ and regional intergovernmental mechanisms agreed to combine their efforts to develop an integrated Pacific regional strategy for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change by 2015 to more effectively address the risks and challenges posed by climate change and disasters in the context of national sustainable development.

<http://www.pacificdisasterclimatemeeting2013.net/index.php/about/joint-meeting>



3. The South West Indian Ocean Risk Assessment & Financing Initiative is a program started with Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zanzibar Governments, the World Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). Similar to the Caribbean and Pacific Island programs, it aims to carry out comprehensive risk assessments and develop risk financing and insurance instruments.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/04/28/the-southwest-indian-ocean-island-states-launch-a-risk-assessment-and-financing-initiative-to-address-vulnerability>

4. Sandwatch: a Global Observatory of Changing Environments in SIDS based on citizen science. It is an international partnership between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Sandwatch Foundation, University of Puerto Rico, together with other NGOs, schools (some of which are part of the Associated School Network -ASPnet), numerous national governments and ministries in 30 countries worldwide, half of which are SIDS, and sponsors such as Denmark. Sandwatch is an activities-oriented program, operational for 12 years, in which children, youth and adults work together to scientifically monitor, design and implement practical activities and projects to address particular issues facing their beach environment and build resilience to climate change.

<http://sandwatch.org>



5. Tsunami Early Warning Systems (EWS): The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO is leading a global effort to establish ocean-based tsunami warning systems as part of an overall multi-hazard disaster reduction strategy. In collaboration with Member States, other UN agencies and NGOs, the IOC Tsunami Unit is supporting Member States in assessing tsunami risk, implementing Tsunami Early Warning Systems (EWS) and in educating communities at risk about preparedness measures. It operates through Regional Tsunami Warning Systems in all basins where SIDS are present. These regional warning systems are in operations in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, North East Atlantic/Mediterranean and Pacific.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/ioc-oceans/sections-and-programmes/tsunami>

6. Partnership between the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC): Provides technical advisory support to the governments of the Caribbean SIDS on disaster reduction and mitigation. The partnership focuses on more efficiently linking the Rapid Needs Assessment that is conducted nationally immediately after a disaster with ECLAC's Damage and Loss Assessment that is conducted 2 weeks post-disaster. CCRIF is the world's first and only multi-national catastrophe risk facility which provides earthquake and hurricane catastrophe coverage services to the sixteen governments of the Caribbean region. UNECLAC specializes in technical and policy advisory services related to disaster risk reduction for the region.

<http://www.ccrif.org>

7. The Pacific Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program:

Builds on the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI). PCRAFI is a joint initiative between the Secretariat of the Pacific Community SPC/SOPAC, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank, with financial support from the Government of Japan and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The initiative aims to provide the Pacific Island Countries with disaster risk modeling and assessment tools for enhanced disaster risk management and to engage in a dialogue with PICs on integrated financial solutions to increase their financial resilience to natural disasters and to climate change.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTFINANCIALSECTOR/EXTDISASTER/0,,contentMDK:23093927~menuPK:8707838~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:8308421,00.html>

8. **Pacific Climate Change and Migration (PCCM)**: is an EU-funded project with the ILO, UNESCAP and UNDP. The partnership is focused on helping governments in the Pacific to proactively build interventions that not only address climate change migration risks but also utilize the positive benefits of voluntary migration (particularly labour migration) as a valuable strategy to help households to diversify household income and improve resilience to the impacts of climate change.

http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/WCMS_229790/lang--en/index.htm

9. **Building capacities for increased public investment in integrated climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction** is an initiative of UNISDR, supported by a variety of donors including the European Commission, working with a number of SIDS across the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific to systematically account for disaster loss and to develop probabilistic estimations of future risk, with an emphasis in weather and climate change related hazards. The initiative provides evidence to support the integration of climate change adaptation measures in development activities and improve preparedness for climate-related disaster and governance by informing public investment planning.

<http://www.unisdr.org>

10. **The UNDP-UNEP National Adaptation Plan (NAP)**: aims at establishing a global support mechanism (GSP) that will enable Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to identify, finance, and implement appropriate medium to long term adaptation actions at national, sub-national and local levels. The NAP GSP is a global collaborative effort, with more than ten international organizations involved, including UNITAR, FAO, IFAD, WHO, UNFCCC and UNISDR. The goal of the project is to facilitate effective medium to long-term planning for adaptation to climate change in LDCs by strengthening institutional and technical capacities for an integrated, country-driven and participatory development of NAPs.

<http://www.undp-alm.org/projects/naps-ldcs>



11. The Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP):

The NWP, through the work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the UNFCCC, offers technical assistance to all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDCs) and SIDS, to assist them in making informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change, taking into account current and future climate change and variability. The NWP catalyzes stakeholder engagement in the work on adaptation under the UNFCCC process, and disseminates knowledge on adaptation. www.unfccc.int/nwp

12. The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN):

is part of an international Technology Mechanism established under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Its aim is to help accelerate the deployment of low carbon technologies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. As the host of the CTCN, in collaboration with UNIDO and other partners, UNEP is holding a series of training of the national focal points to the CTCN known as the National Designated Entities (NDEs) including a dedicated one for SIDS NDEs. <http://www.unep.org/climatechange/ctcn/AboutUs/tabid/155769/Default.aspx>

13. The Global Adaptation Network (GAN): is a platform for knowledge sharing in the field of adaptation to climate change. Alongside and complementary to existing regional sub-networks (most relevantly APAN in Asia Pacific, Regatta for the Caribbean, AAKNet for Africa), the GAN steering committee has endorsed the idea, in principle, of a global SIDS thematic sub-network. www.ganadapt.org



14. Local Climate Adaptive Facility (LoCAL): is an innovative initiative of the UN Capital Development Fund supported by partners, including UNDP, UNEP, CCCA Trust Fund, Adaptation Fund and SIDA, designed to mobilize global adaptation finance for investment in local level climate adaptation and resilience activities, in least developed countries. The goal to incentivize local authorities to mainstream climate adaptive thinking into everyday planning and investment, and ensure ownership, accountability and results. UNCDF transfer adaptation funds to local authorities by leveraging the existing central government fiscal transfer systems and processes to supplement transfers to local governments. <http://www.unCDF.org/en/local>

15. The United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness: was launched in 2012 by FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNITAR and WMO at COP 18/CMP 8 with a view to promoting meaningful, result-oriented and effective international cooperation in support of the action on climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and access to information on climate change. https://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/7403.php

16. Cities and Climate Change Initiative: UN-Habitat launched the Sustainable Urban Development network (SUD-Net), an innovative network of global partners, promoting inter-disciplinary approaches to sustainable urban development. The initiative aims to strengthen the climate change response of cities and local governments by developing tools for enhancing capacities of local governments. The Programme works closely with a diverse range of partners within the UN system, governments at all levels, NGOs, communities, institutions of research and higher learning; capacity building and training agencies; land and property organizations, the private sector, among others. <http://unhabitat.org/urban-initiatives-2/cities-and-climate-change-initiative>

17. Censuses: Several SIDS are undertaking censuses to get a better understanding of essential characteristics of their populations, including the changes in the size, age structure and location of the population. Supporting countries in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data for development is a critical component of UNFPA's mandate. Today, with major demographic shifts occurring and attention focused on meeting international development goals, the availability of accurate and timely data is more important than ever. <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/datafordevelopment>



Suggested opportunities for Partnerships

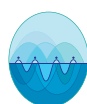
In moving forward, the Partnership Dialogue on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management may consider to include the following areas in key partnerships which support SIDS in strengthening resilience through:

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- Investments in safer assets, integration of climate and disaster risk considerations into spatial and development planning and social protection strategies, and social protection strategies, and adoption of risk financing instruments, including contingency funds and insurance.
 - Development of the fiduciary and operation capacity of SIDS to access and manage global climate funds directly.
 - Strengthening the resilience of the local industries (eg. agriculture, electricity generation and distribution, fishery, tourism) and private sector through capacity building and technical assistance with specific focus on public private partnerships.
 - Enhancing the adaptive capacity of institutions, including national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs), local communities, including local governments, as well as the industry and private sector, through evidence-based risk modelling to inform risk-sensitive investment decisions, capacity building and technical assistance, and improvement of observation networks and early warning systems.
 - Strengthening systems and infrastructure to support and facilitate effective collection and systematic use of population data, including gender and age disaggregated data, baseline data, disaster loss and economic, environment, climate and social data to better understand vulnerabilities and risks;
 - Promoting universal access and connectivity to ICTs/telecommunication for providing Emergency Telecommunications, and assisting in disaster prevention, preparedness and relief/response and telecommunication infrastructure reconstruction/rehabilitation in countries affected by disasters;
 - Developing and establishing early warning systems under four fundamental principles proposed by the International Telecommunication Union: Multi-Hazard, Multi-Technology, Multi-Phase and Multi-Stakeholder in order to mitigate the effects of the increasing disasters;
 - Strengthening the capacity of SIDS to develop and use climate services which provide critical information for prevention, preparation, contingency planning and response and reconstruction for climate, water, marine and weather related extremes that can result in disasters.
 - Strengthening dialogue with marginalized groups, including poor women, on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, in order to ensure policy and programme development in these areas are gender responsive.
 - Participation and leadership of women in shaping the climate and change and disaster risk reduction discourse, priorities and measures at the global, national and community levels.
 - Addressing the increasing levels of urbanization by developing a specific urban agenda for SIDS, carefully reflecting particular characteristics at national and local level, providing a framework for developing sustainable human settlements.
 - Adopting an integrated flood management approach and the establishing national floodplain management policies.
 - Strengthened coordination across the different levels of the government (federal, state and local) and with the private sector and NGOs regarding reduction of risks associated with changing characteristics of weather and climate extremes associated with climate change.

Produced by UNDESA
Division for Sustainable Development
2014

www.sids2014.org

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