

# Partnerships Briefs for Small Island Developing States



## Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Waste Management



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 “Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Waste Management”, and highlights illustrative examples of existing partnerships based on information available in the SIDS 2014 Partnerships Platform ([www.sids2014.org/partnerships](http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships)) and as indicated through consultations with the Secretariat of the SIDS Conference.

The Brief does not intend to be exhaustive.

# Challenges related to Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Waste Management in SIDS

## THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY OF IMPLEMENTATION

clearly highlighted these priority concerns as caused in part by deficiencies in water availability, water catchment and storage, pollution of water (which may be heightened, inter alia, by rising sea level, the unsustainable management of water resources and climate variability and climate change), and leakage in the delivery system. Lack of human, institutional and financial resources places pressure on the sustainability of urban water supply and sanitation systems<sup>1</sup>.

Rapid population growth, increasing urbanization and development activities, and lack of human and financial resources, compounded by climate change, including environment degradation are expected to exert more pressure in the sustainability and management of the freshwater resources of SIDS<sup>2</sup>.

Lack and poor sanitation facilities in SIDS pollute water supplies affecting the quality of water. Indiscriminate disposal of excrete pose significant implications on human health through water-related diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, malaria, schi-

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1 Mauritius Strategy For the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2005) p.28

2 Ibid.

tosomiasis, trachoma, among others<sup>3</sup>.

A study by the Commonwealth Secretariat on 47 small states reveals about 12 million without access to safe water and about 22 million without access to safe sanitation by 2008<sup>4</sup>. The report underscore

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3 UNESCO(2012)UN Water Report: Managing Water Uncertainty Risk: The United Nations World Water Development Report 4, Vol. 1.

4 Commonwealth Secretariat (2012), The Big Divide- A Ten Year Report of Small Island Developing States and the Millennium Development Goals.

the significant link of safe water and sanitation for mothers and babies in relation to saving infant lives. Furthermore, it shows the high incidence of malaria and associated death rate per 100,000 population ranging from 0 to 142in some SIDS<sup>5</sup>.

Food security and nutrition, and agriculture in SIDS depend largely on water availability. Water-related challenges compounded by climate change, includ-

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5 Ibid.



# Existing Partnerships

**THE FOLLOWING PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES ARE** brief examples of some of the existing agricultural and rural development partnerships that have been established in the past decade. These partnerships are focused on the areas of: **Food Security and Nutrition, Water, and Sanitation, and Wastewater Management.** Additional information on these initiatives, as well as creating partnerships, can be found on the SIDS 2014 Partnerships Platform at: [www.sids2014.org/partnerships](http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships).







**3. Food Secure Pacific:** a multiagency partnership to improve food security in Pacific island countries and areas. The partnership is guided by the Framework for Action on Food Security in the Pacific en-



knowledge network that focus on local authorities, and public utilities.

<http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&nr=1676&menu=1507>.





**5. Accelerated Agribusiness and Agro industries Development Initiative (3ADI):** supported by UNIDO, FAO, IFAD and AfDB with the key objectives that include support for development of inclusive and sustainable industries through the strengthening of productive capacities through upgrading of technologies and skills for processing of food and non-food agro products and the improvement of marketing linkages in agro-food value chains and support to food production systems; contributing to enhanced economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable food nutritional security.

<http://www.3adi.org/resources>.

**6. UNESCO-IHP International Initiative on Water Quality:** is a newly established initiative aimed to strengthen knowledge, research and policy on water quality and wastewater issues by promoting international scientific cooperation and to develop innovative approaches to tackle water quality challenges, including water and sanitation in developing countries.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/ihp/ihp-programmes>.

**7. The joint UNIDO-UNEP Programme on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP):** advances sustainable industrial development and consumption and production in developing and transition countries. It specifically aims to improve resource efficiency and the environmental performance of businesses and other organizations through scaling up and mainstreaming the application of RECP methods, techniques and policies.

<http://recpnet.org/page/about-us>.

**8.8. Global Wastewater Initiative:** a multi-stakeholder platform made up of UN agencies, international organizations, governments (Health, Agriculture, Environment and Economic development), scientists, private sectors and Major groups and stakeholders to provide the foundations (including information, tools and policy mechanisms) for partnerships to initiate comprehensive, effective and sustained programmes addressing wastewater management.

<http://www.gpa.unep.org/index.php/global-wastewater-initiative>





# Suggested opportunities for Partnerships

Opportunities for partnerships in this priority area may include, but not limited to:

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- Strengthening regional mechanisms for managing hazardous wastes and ship-generated wastes, and cooperation for the transfer of appropriate waste management technologies for reducing and eliminating land-based pollution and marine debris;
  - Enhancing capacities of cities to deal with sanitary sewage collection, urban garbage collection, solid waste management and urban rainwater drainage, and promoting resource efficiency as a means to reduce the generation of waste and wastewater.
  - Strengthening the capacity of SIDS to maintain natural ecological processes that support food production systems;
  - Strengthening the capacity of SIDS to promote sustainable and inclusive industrialization for the development of agro-food value chains and support to food production systems, including incorporating climate information into practices and policies for supporting agriculture and food security;
  - Protecting SIDS from the negative impacts of bilateral and global trade and other agreements;
  - Adopting an integrated drought management approach and development of national drought management plans.

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[www.sids2014.org](http://www.sids2014.org)

For questions: [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/contact](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/contact)



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