



Country Vulnerability Resilience Profile

Under an European Union funded project executed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), an analytical framework for assessing progress in addressing the vulnerabilities of SIDS (to be known as the Country Vulnerability Resilience Profile) in the context of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and its implementation through the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) has been developed and will be piloted in selected SIDS starting September 2013.

Background

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are committed to promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty and improving the livelihoods of their peoples through the implementation of strategies that build resilience and capacity to address their unique and particular vulnerabilities. In 2010, the UN General Assembly decision A/65/2 reiterated the importance of data and information systems and called on the international community *“to assist the efforts of small island developing States to strengthen national disaggregated **data and information systems** as well as **analytical capabilities for decision-making, tracking progress and development of vulnerability-resilience country profiles**; the efforts of small island developing States in developing databases and in institutionalizing national indicators for monitoring and evaluating sustainable development should also be supported”*.

In line with the above-mentioned resolution, UNDESA with the financial support from the EU-funded project known as ISLANDS and executed by the Mauritius-based Indian Ocean Commission, began in 2011 the project to develop an analytical framework for assessing progress in addressing the vulnerabilities of SIDS in the context of the BPOA and its implementation through the MSI. The result of this work is the Vulnerability-Resilience Profile (VRP), which is an analytical framework or methodology to monitor and evaluate their progress towards building resilience to their unique vulnerabilities.

The VRP will be piloted in seven SIDS: two in the Caribbean (Jamaica, Barbados), three in the Indian Ocean (Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles) and two (Tonga, Vanuatu) in the Pacific as from September 2013 to April 2014. The aim of the piloting is to test the VRP methodology in practice, and to incorporate the lessons and best practices from the pilot projects into further refinement and development of the VRP. A revised and updated framework incorporating the experiences of the pilot countries will be made available in a Handbook at the Third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa in 2014.

The VRP addresses the **vulnerability-resilience nexus** and consists of an assessment of a country's vulnerabilities and its capacity to cope with these vulnerabilities. The **vulnerability assessment** is based on both qualitative and quantitative indicators and indices that reflect a country's vulnerabilities to threats in terms of the three dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, economic and social. The **resilience assessment** evaluates the measures that strengthen the coping capacity of the country to prevent, adapt to, or mitigate these exogenous

and endogenous risks and threats for each of the three dimensions of sustainable development in term of actions at three levels: national, regional and international. The **national** actions would include government policies, plans and projects, as well as actions by communities, civil society and the private sector – all of which would ultimately build a country’s resilience. These national efforts would be supported by **international and regional** responses such as technical assistance, information sharing and capacity building activities by regional organizations, and **international** responses such as technical, logistical and financial support from the United Nations system and development partners.

The VRP

The VRP methodology is based on a five-step systematic and participatory process. These five steps are to be carried out by each SIDS using an inclusive process based on multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary consultations. The VRP will enable each country to assess its vulnerabilities in each of the 19 thematic areas of the MSI, and to rate its performance in strengthening resilience for achieving sustainable development.

Step 1: Priority themes and major issues

Rank the 19 priority themes of the MSI in the order of importance for the country, focusing the main analysis on the themes that are considered to be the most important for the country. Other priority themes of the MSI should also be considered, in less detail, to ensure the VRP addresses the whole of the MSI.

Select three major issues/concerns facing the country for each theme, identifying the social, economic and environment vulnerabilities and possible resilience measures for each issue at the national/community, regional and international levels.

Step 2: Selection of criteria

Select criteria for assessing vulnerability and resilience for each of the three issues identified in step 1. For vulnerability, the criteria would reflect exposure to exogenous and endogenous risks in terms of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. For resilience, the criteria would reflect the country’s coping capacity in terms of actions at the national, regional and global levels that address the potential social, economic and environmental impacts.

Step 3: Selection of indicators

Select indicators for the criteria for each of the three major issues in terms of the social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities and the corresponding resilience measures that would address these social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities through actions at the national, regional and international levels.

Step 4: Assessment and rating

Assess vulnerabilities and rate coping measures to strengthen resilience for each issue, using the criteria and indicators from steps 2 and 3 to arrive at vulnerability and resilience scores for each of the three major issues for each priority theme.

Step 5: Justification and mapping

Summarize the vulnerability and resilience scores for each of the priority themes of the MSI, using a narrative to justify the scores and to formulate a VRP based on these overall scores.

Example of a VRP for a hypothetical small island developing state

Vulnerability - Resilience Profile

