



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FAO'S WORK WITH **SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

Transforming food systems,
sustaining small islands

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Cover photo: Saint Kitts and Nevis – Members of the Liamuiga Seamoss Group, which is a community group in the business of farming sea moss and processing it into beverages and gel for sale
©FAO/Austin Stankus



COMOROS

Sustainable fishing can contribute to decent incomes, environmental protection and nutritious diets
©IWRM AIO SIDS



INTRODUCTION

The world's Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of developing countries facing specific social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. Recognized by the United Nations as a special case for both their environmental and development challenges, SIDS are custodians of unique and rich biodiversity. As isolated nation states, they have fostered their own cultural traditions and indigenous knowledge to conserve their natural systems. With limited arable land, many of these island systems are dependent on small-scale agriculture and ocean resources.

Today, SIDS face complex and intertwined threats which they are not equipped to combat alone. Simply put, they lack the human capacity and infrastructure commonly found in larger countries and are therefore particularly sensitive to economic, environmental and social shocks. They are generally import-dependent, with food systems weakened by distance from global markets. Furthermore, they have restricted resources and fragile ecosystems that are especially at risk from the impacts of climate change, including high

exposure to extreme weather events, thus ranking among the most vulnerable countries in the world.

Given their high level of dependence on food imports, SIDS' populations are particularly vulnerable to external shocks such as food price and supply volatility. Geographic isolation, transportation challenges and development conditions often curb opportunities for private sector development to stimulate domestic food production.

Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to a host of threats including climate change, resource degradation, and all forms of malnutrition.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

High youth unemployment is one of the major social challenges facing the country
©ILO



COMMON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Although significant diversity exists across SIDS, they share common characteristics and challenges. Despite producing just one percent of global carbon dioxide emissions, SIDS are most affected by the impacts of climate change, facing impending existential threats and imminent environmental catastrophe from rising sea levels and an increase in natural disasters such as storms, floods and droughts. As stated by UN Secretary-General António

Guterres in May 2019 during a visit to the Pacific: “Climate change cannot be stopped by the small island countries alone, it has to be stopped by the rest of the world and this requires the political will for transformational policies in energy, mobility, industry and agriculture.” Furthermore, activities such as overfishing and reef destruction threaten coastal marine systems, and rapid urban development with a lack of proper waste management is worsening pressures from waste on land and at sea.

SIDS ARE ON THE FRONT LINE OF MANY GLOBAL CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

INTRODUCTION



TIMOR-LESTE

Disposing of rice spoilt
by torrential rains
©UN PHOTO/
Martine Perret

THE SPECIAL CASE OF SIDS

Spanning three geographic regions – the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) – SIDS were first formally recognized within the context of sustainable development in 1992, at the landmark United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. There it was acknowledged that SIDS' "...small size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets, place them at a disadvantage economically and prevent economies of scale". This led to groundbreaking SIDS development blueprints: the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action, the 2005 Mauritius Strategy of Implementation and the 2014 Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway. The urgency to take action and build durable partnerships to finally overcome those challenges is also reaffirmed as a key commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As a central element of the SAMOA Pathway, FAO has helped develop a Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition (GAP), and is supporting SIDS through policy advice, analysis and technical assistance to enable the development of more sustainable and resilient food systems and associated agriculture, climate change, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and natural resource management practices.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

While food security varies among islands, many concerns are shared. The pressures on SIDS are compounded by high costs for energy, infrastructure, transportation and communication. These have contributed to the current complex food security and nutrition situation,

with SIDS facing a looming health crisis from the triple burden of malnutrition (where undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity coexist in the population, sometimes in the same household). Today, obesity – which has reached epidemic proportions worldwide – is especially high in SIDS. Overly processed foods

high in sugar, salt and fats are increasingly identified as major causes of chronic diseases.

Farming is mostly small-scale and dependent upon family labour. There has been limited investment in commercial agriculture and improved technology. Consequently, the sector is relatively uncompetitive



compared with imports and has difficulties in export markets.

There is much opportunity for agriculture to refocus on domestic markets in order to improve food security and nutrition, and advance rural development. Increasing urbanization favours this process. Identifying and realizing real growth market potential in

domestic markets – including in tourism markets and in developing production, processing and marketing skills – is required to meet expectations of quality and consistency in standards. Intra-regional markets also represent an opportunity, as they enable a faster transition towards new production patterns that could increase equity.

SIDS FACE COMPLEX FOOD AND NUTRITION SITUATIONS

KEY MESSAGES

Reshaping food systems, boosting nutrition

Shifting to sustainable, nutrition-sensitive food systems and agriculture holds the key to addressing food security and nutrition challenges in SIDS. Reflecting the goals of the *Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS*, food systems need to support local family-based production, while supplying sufficient quantities of food that is high-quality, affordable, diverse and nutritious. Food systems should also promote the sustainable management and use of natural resources. This transformation can help curb SIDS' reliance on imports, promote healthy diets and reverse trends in obesity.

Strengthening the resilience of SIDS creates global benefits

As SIDS are on the front line of many global changes and challenges, addressing specific issues affecting small islands will benefit not only some of the world's most vulnerable communities, but ultimately all of us. Promoting climate change

adaptation and the sustainable management of natural resources will help build resilience, preserve biodiversity, and improve response to climate change impacts and natural disasters to develop more efficient local food value chains.

Stepping up commitment, scaling up empowerment

Supporting and investing in SIDS can help avoid the poverty trap, empower people and communities (especially women and youth), generate jobs and income, and boost national economic growth across all sectors. This calls for coordinated and cross-sectoral policies and an enabling environment allowing equitable access to resources, services and financial support; stronger knowledge and evidence base for decision-making; and greater capacity to incentivize private sector engagement in sustainable market development.

EQUITABLE INVESTMENT IN SIDS CAN BENEFIT ALL COMMUNITIES



HAITI

Rice being sold at the
Pontsonde market on
the banks of the
Artibonite River
©FAO/W. Astrada

TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS

FAO works closely with SIDS to create sustainable and local food value chains.

Persistently high levels of hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation testify to a declining trend in the sustainability of food systems in many places around the world. SIDS, with their unique characteristics and challenges in this regard, are especially vulnerable. They rely heavily on imported foods, are mostly distant from global markets, have limited capacity to raise domestic resources, and depend on a small number of economic sectors. This renders them highly sensitive to external economic shocks and fluctuating market prices, which are further exacerbated by high energy and transportation costs, and inconsistent access to information and communication technology.

Levels of hunger across SIDS have fallen by about a fifth in the past decade to 17 percent thanks, in part, to greater food availability through imports. However, this has coincided with a shift from

traditional staple crops towards imported cereal-based products lower in essential micronutrients, and to processed, energy-dense foods high in salt, sugar and fat. This dietary change has been the driving force behind the rapid rise in overweight, obesity and associated non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

At the same time, undernutrition and its consequences, including stunting, wasting, low birthweight, and micronutrient deficiencies, remain a serious concern in many SIDS, particularly among vulnerable population groups, women of reproductive age and children less than five years of age. This triple burden of malnutrition damages SIDS' health and wealth. The costs of managing and treating obesity and associated NCDs are already increasing health system expenses, adding pressure to national budgets, leading to a loss of economic productivity, burdening families and communities, and contributing to a shortage of foreign exchange for development.

In addition to climate change impacts, globalization, population growth and urbanization have also contributed to damaging effects on the ecosystems and natural resources that are so vital

VANUATU

Gardens within forests preserve ecosystems while meeting communities' food and nutritional needs
©FAO/Rudolf Hahn



to small islands. While agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, and forestry can generate export earnings, increase GDP, provide employment and act as a safety net, unsustainable management practices are compromising SIDS' natural wealth and consequently endangering food security. Indigenous forests have been cleared, oceans overfished, reef ecosystems polluted, and biodiversity lost while high-input agriculture techniques, including the use of chemicals and fertilizers, has led to the degradation of limited land resources, soil erosion, water shortages, a decrease in soil quality and loss of habitat for endangered species.

DRIVING POSITIVE CHANGE

FAO believes that supporting ongoing transformation to more sustainable food systems and



THE RATIO OF IMPORTS TO DOMESTIC PRODUCTION NEEDS TO BE REBALANCED IN FAVOUR OF LOCAL, SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

agriculture approaches, and addressing issues in an integrated manner, has great potential to drive positive change across SIDS.

Food systems need to be fundamentally reshaped to support local family-based production in providing diversified, healthy and affordable diets. This will require commitment and coordinated action by a wide range of stakeholders – including family farmers and fishers, producer organizations, consumer associations, industry associations and the private sector. Mainstreaming principles and recommendations for nutrition-sensitive approaches into strategies, policies and actions across all components of food systems will be key. Likewise, associated sustainable investment and infrastructure

policies can increase financing and employment opportunities by leveraging locally produced foods and crafts, promoting sustainable tourism – including ecotourism – and creating more attractive agri-food-related jobs, especially for youth.

FAO, in promoting the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS, works with island governments to improve productivity and efficiency at each stage of the food value chain, exploring the potential impact of public-private business models and engaging the broad range of stakeholders involved in getting products from farm to fork. Enabling a cross-sectoral policy environment, developing the capacity of supporting institutions and providing infrastructure

improvements are central to this transformation.

Rebalancing the ratio of imports to domestic production of traditional products to help improve the supply and competitiveness of local, nutritious foods will be essential. SIDS possess a wealth of biocultural heritage which can provide significant opportunities to better promote and support traditional knowledge relating to local food and cuisine. Agricultural research and development of local staples – including underutilized traditional crops, a diverse range of fruits and vegetables best adapted to the effects of climate change, and appropriate production of animal-source products – would allow for a positive shift in eating choices while boosting national economies.

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAO plays a lead role in the GAP framework that supports SIDS in improving food security, nutrition and sustainable development.

The Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS (GAP) supports a more integrated, multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the unique challenges faced by SIDS in achieving food security and improved nutrition. It is an important framework to empower communities to shift towards healthier lifestyles, build resilience to climate shocks and strengthen political commitment.

Led by FAO, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), the GAP provides a framework to strengthen the coordination of global and regional support for food security, nutrition and sustainable

GAP – KEY OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1:
Strengthen the enabling environment for food security and nutrition

SDGs:



FOCUS

- Promote strong political commitment, effective governance and institutions, including opportunities to engage civil society.
- Coordinate policies, processes and investments across government and sectors.
- Develop and mobilize capacity and resources.
- Strengthen knowledge and evidence base, and their dissemination and use.

OBJECTIVE 2:
Improve the sustainability, resilience and nutrition-sensitivity of food systems

SDGs:



FOCUS

- Sustainably manage land, oceans, seas, freshwaters and their resources for food security and nutrition.
- Develop inclusive and efficient nutrition-sensitive value chains.
- Promote climate adaptation and resilience.

OBJECTIVE 3:
Empower people and communities for food security and nutrition

SDGs:



FOCUS

- Support social and economic empowerment to reduce inequality of access.
- Invest in nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes.
- Promote targeted interventions in communities aimed at preventing and treating malnutrition.



CABO VERDE

Cabo Verde's waters are rich in fish, but the islands are drought-prone and most food is imported
© SIDS AIO IWRM

development in SIDS, as well as to support governments in their national approaches.

Launched at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference in 2017, the GAP recommends a series of actions at local, national, regional and global levels to achieve these three interconnected objectives (see box on p.12). Delivered through an Interregional Initiative of FAO, it places particular emphasis on developing partnerships with other agencies, regional organizations, governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector.

The GAP builds on existing global, regional and national strategies and commitments to improve food security, nutrition and sustainable development by consolidating them into an integrated framework that addresses the specific vulnerabilities, needs and priorities of SIDS and facilitates the translation of these strategies at the national level. At the global level, these strategies include the *Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action* as the two main outcome documents of the Second International Conference on Nutrition. At the regional level, the GAP reflects key regional food

THE SAMOA PATHWAY

The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on SIDS in 2014, outlines agreed priorities of SIDS for the 2030 Agenda. Recognizing the need for a more integrated approach to sustainable development, the SAMOA Pathway calls for strengthened international cooperation and partnerships to address the persistent development challenges of SIDS and to achieve the SDGs.

BRIDGING THE GAP

THE GAP PLACES PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

ITALY

Launch of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States at FAO headquarters
©FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto

security, nutrition, and sustainable development strategies and action plans.

Activities initiated by FAO to kick-start GAP implementation include:

The Caribbean

- Strengthening school food and nutrition programmes as drivers of nutrition education and market access, including study tours to Brazil and pilots in Grenada.
- Sharing best practices in climate-smart agriculture and urban agriculture between Dominican Republic and Haiti.
- Supporting parliamentarians to implement the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway.

The Pacific

- Researching the impact of food pricing policies with a focus on nutrition taxes.
- Evaluating prospects for upscaling the supply of tuna to domestic markets.
- Building nutritious school food and nutrition education programmes.



- Developing appropriate models of contract farming as a mechanism, linking producers to markets.
- Regional Framework for Accelerating Actions on Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific.

The Atlantic and Indian Ocean

- Strengthening national coordination platforms for addressing food security and nutrition challenges.
- Improving the generation and use of evidence to support policy interventions.
- Updating food-based dietary guidelines and hosting workshops on trade and nutrition.



THE GAP IS COMPRISED OF THREE MUTUALLY REINFORCING OBJECTIVES:



STRENGTHEN

the enabling environments for food security and nutrition



IMPROVE

sustainability, resilience and nutrition-sensitivity of food systems



EMPOWER

people and communities for food security and nutrition

FROM THE FRONT LINE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change and extreme weather events have profound – even existential – consequences for small islands and their populations.

Tropical cyclones and hurricanes like Pam, Maria, Irma and Dorian have devastating effects on small islands across the globe. Cyclone Pam affected some 200 000 people in Vanuatu in 2015, with an estimated cost to the economy of USD 600 million, about 65 percent of GDP. In 2017, Hurricane Maria caused about USD 1.3 billion in damages and losses in Dominica – 226 percent of the country's GDP – and, together with Hurricane Irma, hit Anguilla, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten/Saint Martin, and Turks and Caicos Islands for an estimated cost of USD 5.4 billion.

The frequency and intensity of these extreme weather events, compounded by slow-onset events such as temperature increase, sea level rise, and ocean acidification, is affecting the livelihoods and food security of islanders who greatly depend on climate-sensitive sectors such as fisheries and aquaculture, tourism and agriculture. In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a

special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C and confirmed the disproportionate impact climate change is already having on SIDS. Unless countries and the international community take immediate, commensurate and concerted action, the report predicted an existential threat for some islands, and negative growth and development trends for most others. Indeed, "1.5 to Stay Alive" has long become a rallying cry among SIDS.

But the effect of extreme weather events on SIDS goes far beyond destruction, damage and the cost of clean-up. Climate change threatens the viability of whole sectors and the reversal of development gains. It reinforces the already ongoing dietary transition away from a healthy traditional diet to a greater dependency on imported foods and drinks, often high in fat, sugar and salt, leading to an increase in diet-related non-communicable diseases. Climate shocks undermine governance and the enabling environment that underpins development in SIDS, limiting government capacity,

**FAO SUPPORTS
SIDS IN SCALING
UP BOTH
ADAPTATION
AND MITIGATION
MEASURES IN THE
AGRICULTURAL
SECTORS**



CUBA

Caribbean island nations are intensely vulnerable to recurring hurricanes
© Miguel Rincón Calahorra

FROM THE FRONT LINE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SIDS LEADING CLIMATE ACTION

Since 1990, SIDS, through the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), have played an active role in significantly influencing multilateral climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). SIDS' particular vulnerability strengthened their leadership and urgent call to tackle climate change. The Republic of Fiji was the first SIDS representative to hold the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC at its 23rd Session (COP23) in 2017, calling on the international community to step up efforts to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The legacy of SIDS' leadership at COP23 includes the Talanoa Dialogue to showcase best practices on climate action, a call to transform energy systems from predominantly fossil fuel-based to renewable-based, the launch of the Ocean Pathway Partnership to address climate and ocean issues as well as the landmark Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA).

Koronivia marked a turning point in recognizing the importance of agriculture as a potential solution to climate impacts. With 90 percent of countries referring to the agricultural sectors (crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry) as a priority in their Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, KJWA re-emphasizes the importance of agriculture and food security in the climate change agenda. Countries agreed to work together to identify solutions related to soil, livestock, and nutrient and water management, as well as on the food security and socio-economic impacts of climate change across the agriculture sectors.

TUVALU

The main square of Nui Island in the wake of Cyclone Pam
©UNDP/Silke von Brockhausen



impairing long-term vision and directing focus and resources to immediate needs rather than sustained solutions.

FAO supports SIDS through policy advice, analysis and technical assistance in all agricultural sectors in its efforts to implement the Paris Agreement, the Sendai International Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals. Scaling up climate adaptation and mitigation is vital, both to address the vulnerability of SIDS by making the agricultural sectors, biodiversity and infrastructure



more resilient to climate impacts, and more conducive to food security and nutrition; and to shift energy mixes away from fossil fuels to more sustainable, renewable, clean and less costly energy sources.

Promoting the transformation of food systems and the creation of enabling environments to improve climate resilience, livelihoods and health, FAO's work with SIDS on climate change includes:

- ➔ Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into agriculture, forestry and fisheries

and aquaculture policies while developing institutional and technical capacities.

- ➔ Assessing the impacts of weather and climate extremes and disasters by developing new methodologies for damage and loss, and early and medium-term warning systems.

- ➔ Supporting countries to integrate agriculture and food security concerns into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

- ➔ Accessing climate finance from various sources including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

CLIMATE SHOCKS UNDERMINE GOVERNANCE AND THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT THAT UNDERPINS DEVELOPMENT IN SIDS

FACTS AND FIGURES

SIDS have a total population of **63.2 million** people.

SIDS have a combined GDP of around **USD 600 billion**.

Food imports cost SIDS more than USD 5 billion a year and could reach USD 8–10 billion by 2020.

The top five food imports to SIDS are processed foods, wheat, corn, meat and dairy, with an overall value of over USD 1 billion.

Caribbean and Pacific SIDS import over **60 percent of their food**; indeed half of them import **over 80 percent**.

Levels of undernutrition in SIDS have fallen by 26 percent in recent years, but this is much less than the 44 percent drop seen across developing countries.

Tourism represents more than **30 percent** of SIDS' total exports and more than **70 percent** of total GDP.

SIDS are biodiversity "hotspots", but of the **724 recorded animal extinctions in the last 400 years**, about half were island species.

SIDS are home to **36 UNESCO World Heritage sites**.

Undernourishment averages 17 percent across SIDS and stunting exceeds 20 percent among children in five of the poorest SIDS.

Pacific

➔ In Pacific SIDS, **29 percent** of women of reproductive age and **41 percent** of children are anaemic.

➔ Pacific SIDS make up the world's seven most obese countries and seven of the ten countries with the highest prevalence of diabetes.

➔ In Pacific SIDS, **70 percent** of adults are overweight and **77 percent** of deaths are attributable to NCDs.

➔ Five Pacific SIDS are in the world's top 15 countries with the highest risk of disaster, with Vanuatu ranked first.

➔ Pacific SIDS have the **largest Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) in the world**, and with it the biggest stocks of tuna.

➔ In many Pacific SIDS, people consume **3 to 4 times** the global average of fish per capita.

Caribbean

➔ Five Caribbean SIDS have adult female obesity rates exceeding **50 percent**.

➔ Poverty rates exceed **30 percent** in six Caribbean SIDS.

➔ Caribbean countries average **33 percent obesity rates** in their populations, with at least twice as many obese women as men.

➔ Tourism is the biggest contributor to GDP, with more than **21 million** people visiting the Caribbean region each year. If the region were a single country, it would rank as the 14th most visited worldwide.

➔ Food production ranges from 28 percent to 71 percent of domestic requirements in the Caribbean.

Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS)

➔ A quarter of AIMS countries have rates of female obesity of around **40 percent**.

➔ Atlantic Ocean SIDS register the highest poverty rates, reaching **66.2 percent** in Sao Tome e Principe and **69.3 percent** in Guinea-Bissau.

➔ A **1-metre rise** in the sea level would inundate the Maldives.

UNDERNOURISHMENT

Levels of undernutrition in SIDS have fallen in recent years, but not as rapidly as in developing countries as a whole



STUNTING exceeds 20%

of children in 5 of the poorest SIDS



OBESITY

Caribbean countries average



33% obesity in their populations

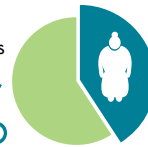
At least twice as many obese women as men



77% of all adult deaths in the Pacific are due to non-communicable diseases

25% of AIMS countries have rates of female obesity of around

40%



IMPORTS

FOOD IMPORTS TODAY

> 5 billion \$/year ↑ +50% SINCE 2000

Will increase to \$8–10 billion by 2020 if nothing changes

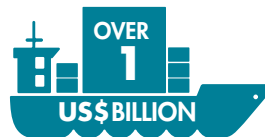
All Caribbean and Pacific SIDS import over



50% of islands import over 80%

Top 5 food imports

- processed foods
- wheat
- corn
- meat
- dairy



DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

52% of the agricultural workforce in SIDS are women who do not have the same access to land, resources or credit as men

FISH PROVIDES 50–90% of animal protein in diets



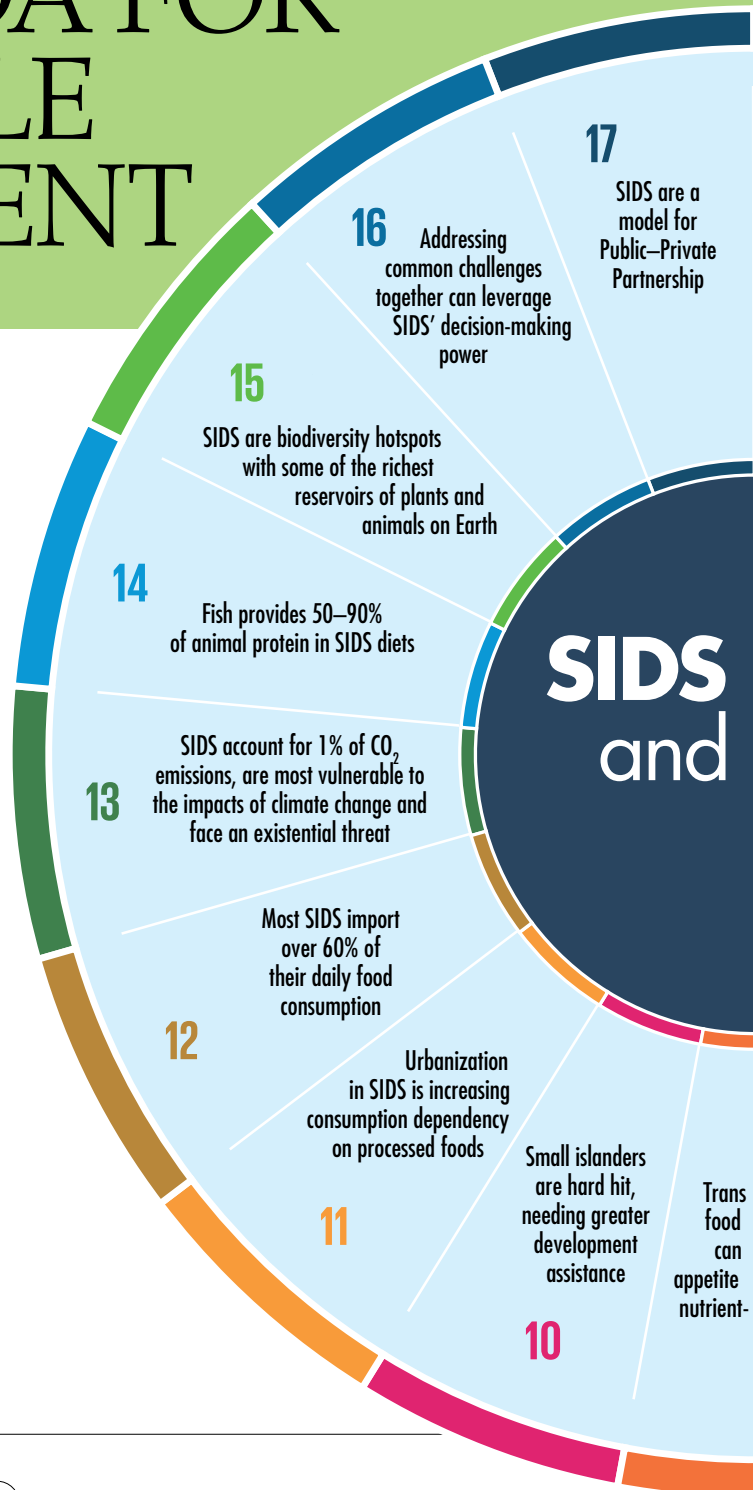
In many Pacific SIDS, people consume 3 to 4 times the global average of fish per capita

Food production ranges from 28% to 71% of domestic requirements in the Caribbean



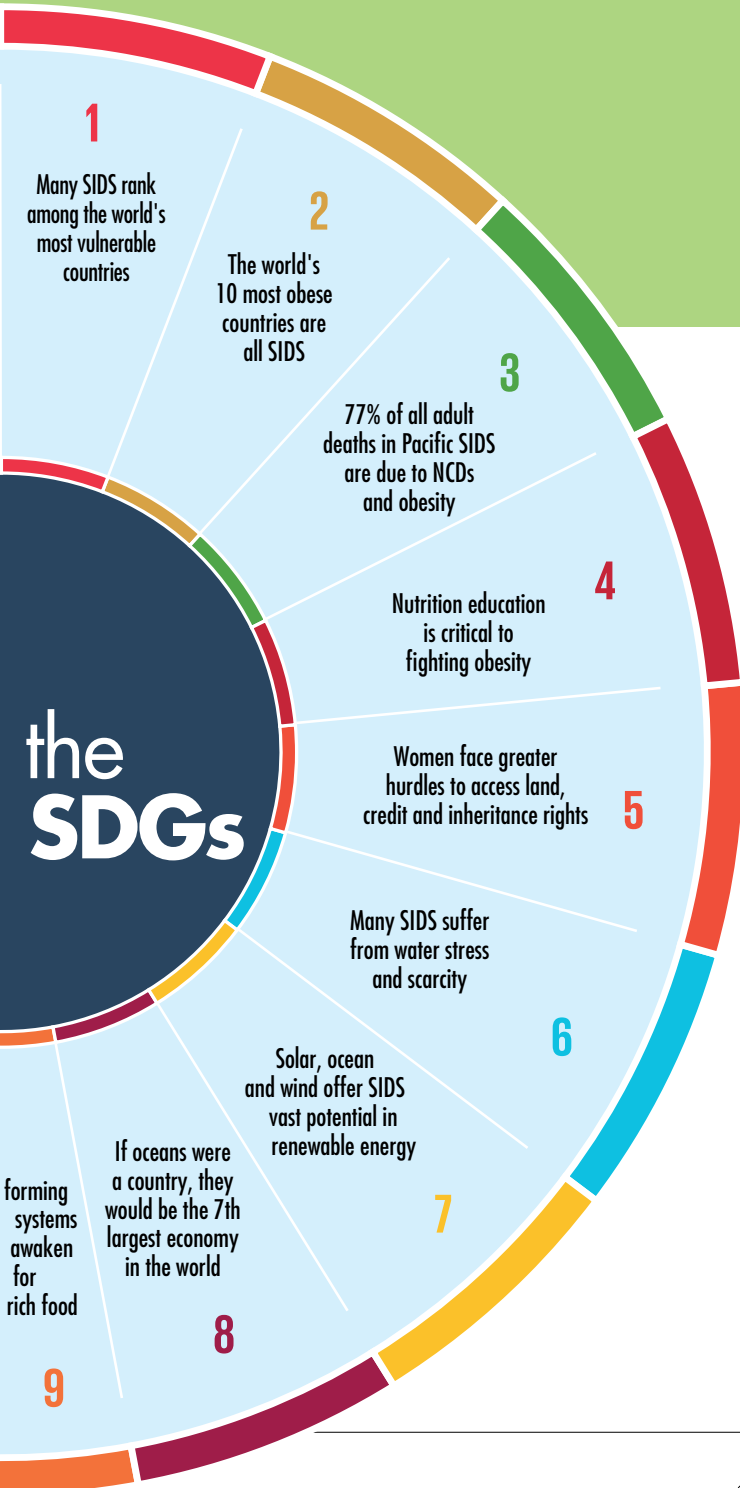
WOMEN MAKE UP 52 PERCENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE IN SIDS BUT HAVE LESS ACCESS THAN MEN TO LAND, RESOURCES AND CREDIT

SIDS AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Each one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals has particular relevance for SIDS, given their unique vulnerabilities.

THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



GOAL 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

GOAL 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

GOAL 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

GOAL 4 Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

GOAL 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

GOAL 6 Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

GOAL 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

GOAL 8 Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

GOAL 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

GOAL 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

GOAL 11 Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

GOAL 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

GOAL 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

GOAL 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

GOAL 15 Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

GOAL 16 Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

GOAL 17 Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

TEN WAYS FAO SUPPORTS SIDS

1 Empowering the smallholder

Diversifying agricultural systems to build self-reliance is essential for SIDS' economic development and long-term food and nutrition security. FAO supports increased focus on family farming and investment in agribusiness, while offering expertise to enhance traditional production systems, develop integrated approaches to pest, land and water management, and revive interest in nutrient-rich traditional food crops such as root and tuber crops, plantains and breadfruits.

BUSTLING LOCAL MARKETS IN SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

SDGs:

1 2 8

The Government recently embarked on a project to enhance income-earning opportunities for women and young people, while at the same time promoting domestic food and nutrition security and renewal of the agriculture sector, in part to reduce its food import bill. The project focused on increasing production and marketing of onions and cole crops.

FAO helped train a team of technical officers from the Department of Agriculture to

implement Farmer Field Schools on each island where more than 100 participants learned new techniques in growing, drying and storage.

Improvements in pre- and post-harvest handling and marketing of crops is providing farmers with greater and more regular income. At the same time, the Department of Agriculture has strengthened its extension, technical and marketing capacity with strong foundations laid for scaling up in other areas.

2 Boosting nutrition

Globalization and trade have led to increased imports of inexpensive and unhealthy food into SIDS. So great is the threat of malnutrition to human development in most islands that urgent action on all fronts is now needed to halt the spread and manifestation of non-communicable diseases.

SIDS boast rich biodiversity and possess a wealth of food tradition. Incentivizing the production and promoting local consumption of traditional food, especially fruit, vegetables,

animal and fish products, rich in micro- and macronutrients, is essential to change behaviour in favour of healthier choices. At the same time, increased demand for traditional nutritious food creates additional market opportunities for local producers.

FAO advocates a food-systems approach to promoting nutrition, encompassing the whole food environment and including food labelling, nutrition education, and home or school gardens.

COOKING UP HEALTHY LIVING IN SCHOOLS ACROSS THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

SDGs:

2 3

As part of FAO's Interregional Initiative to implement the GAP, the School Nutrition Education Programmes got underway in January 2018 with the aim of promoting nutritional understanding and supporting healthy behaviour, both inside and outside the classroom.

A subregional workshop with researchers from the University of the Sunshine Coast generated the following recommendations: improved resources to support teaching; better school kitchens for



**DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC**

Healthy eating habits
begin at school
©FAO

teaching home economics; and adapting nutrition-related curriculums to suit the local culture and food system.

3 Managing ocean riches

SIDS govern large tracts of ocean and profit from the wealth of resources which guarantees jobs and income. However, warming and rising levels of waters, coupled with fluctuating global market prices, have contributed to overfishing. Large operators fishing fewer species are barging

in on the territory of local fisherfolk and exporting at the expense of the nutritional needs of islanders. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) activity has culminated in the loss of returns to SIDS, while destruction of coral reefs due to climate change, pollution, siltation, dynamiting and poisoning fish degrades the productivity and resilience of these coastal systems.

FAO has developed a number of instruments designed to manage the fisheries and aquaculture sector sustainably. The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale

Fisheries, the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), Catch Documentation Schemes, and the Blue Growth Initiative all have great relevance for sustainable management of healthy productive oceans for SIDS. FAO is working with small islands on new coastal fisheries supply chain projects aimed at increasing the sustainable and safe supply of fish for domestic consumption and livelihood improvement, while reducing illegal fishing and food loss and waste. FAO has been increasing support to empower coastal communities, through management of coastal resources,

TEN WAYS FAO SUPPORTS SIDS

sea safety, and creation of networks of small-scale fishers. As an effort to address marine pollution, FAO focuses on marine litter originating from the fishing industry, in particular abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear.

BLUE GROWTH FOR ALL IN CABO VERDE

SDGs:



Working with FAO, the Government of Cabo Verde is harnessing the potential of the seas surrounding it by designing and implementing a Blue Growth Charter. Adopted in 2015, Blue Growth focuses on developing marine protected areas, strengthening fisheries and fish farming communities, improving sanitation and quality of fish products through better practices and storage, shark conservation and research into the impact of climate change.

Blue Growth activities include favouring local fish products in tourism, empowering women's groups to market their fish directly to restaurants and hotels, developing ecotourism, improving marine transport networks to facilitate tourism and exploration of other islands, and creating jobs

for young people who too often are forced to seek work abroad.

FAO supports the Governments of the Bahamas, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago and Vanuatu to assess gaps and needs. The Organization is working with the governments to develop strategies to improve policy, legal, institutional and operational frameworks to implement international instruments including the PSMA, to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

4 Greening the blue

As well as being a source of income, forests protect critical natural resources. They provide soil and water conservation, improve soil quality and protect coasts, acting as buffers against cyclones, strong winds and storm surges. They safeguard island biodiversity, both directly in the forest and indirectly by protecting ecosystems such as coral reefs.



Mangrove forests serve as feeding, breeding and nursery grounds for commercial fish and shellfish.

Overexploitation of commercial timber resources due to the demands of urbanization, inappropriate harvesting practices and poorly executed land-use plans are just some of the unsustainable forest management practices that are endangering SIDS' ecosystems.

FAO supports countries to maintain their environmental and socio-economic functions such as rehabilitation of forest lands,



SAMOA

Making every drop count
in Matautu Village
©FAO/Kevin Hadfield

management techniques, including agroforestry, compost preparation, green manure and crop rotation, organic pest management, contour planting and other measures to avoid soil erosion. Early results reveal increased income for farmers who are managing to sell crops while consuming nutritious fruit and vegetables themselves and preserving the highland forests that are so vital for the island's ecological balance.

5 Keeping trade healthy

Non-tariff barriers, the high cost of transport services, inadequate port and storage facilities and very high logistics costs are just some of the difficulties that SIDS face in increasing presence and sale of products in agri-food markets. Apart from in traditional export commodities such as coffee, cocoa, round logs and copra, vertical integration into global value chains is proving a difficult barrier to overcome. At the same time, food self-sufficiency is unrealistic in most SIDS, given their limited and often fragile natural resource base.

Managed trade, with a rebalancing of the ratio of imports to domestic production

coastal protection and ecotourism, while sustaining livelihoods by promoting a wide range of wood and non-wood forest products, particularly where a niche market exists or can be developed.

BOOSTING INCOME WHILE SAFEGUARDING BIODIVERSITY IN THE CLOUD FORESTS OF SAMOA

SDGs:



Working with the Government of Samoa, FAO is supporting three Community Conservation Areas to preserve biodiversity and maintain the ecosystem services of intact

forest-protected areas, mainly in the highlands.

In 2016, under the slogan “*Healthy ecosystems, Healthy food, Healthy people*”, in collaboration with the Samoa Farmers Association and Women in Business Development Incorporated, FAO set up demonstration farms to share knowledge on how to increase productivity, promote sustainable agriculture in lowland forest ecosystems, and improve people's diets, health and incomes.

Since then, many farmers have been trained in sustainable land

TEN WAYS FAO SUPPORTS SIDS

FAO HAS HELPED THE GOVERNMENT OF TONGA DEVELOP CODEX-BASED FOOD STANDARDS AND IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL FOOD REGULATORY SYSTEM

of traditional products, is perfectly viable. Well-designed trade policies, including by strengthening intra-regional markets, could expand market opportunities for local nutritious foods, improve affordability of healthy food options, improve diet quality, cut healthcare costs and curb rising trade deficits, while reducing vulnerability to supply and price volatility.

FAO supports SIDS to strengthen trade strategies, agreements and market infrastructure; improve food safety standards and certification schemes; prevent technical barriers to trade, property rights and food control systems; and reduce the risk of transboundary pests and diseases. Links between food production and trade exist where multilateral environmental agreements incorporate binding regulations for species considered vulnerable to extinction. FAO works with SIDS and Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to ensure information is provided for more informed decision-making on which species to protect, and to

facilitate legal and sustainable trade. FAO has just completed a series of three regional meetings for the Pacific, AIMS and Caribbean SIDS, which examined access of fisheries products to global markets, and the overcoming of trade barriers, especially for small producers.

SETTING STANDARDS AND DRIVING TRADE IN TONGA

SDGs:

2 3 17

Agricultural exports make up two-thirds of total exports for The Kingdom of Tonga, with the sector contributing around 30 percent to its GDP and providing a major source of income for rural smallholders.

With the support of FAO, the Government of Tonga passed a Food Act in late 2014, developing Codex-based food standards across the archipelago, and implementing a national food regulatory system. The system will strengthen food inspection and certification capacity, bolster the capacity of value chain operators to comply with food safety and quality requirements, set up food emergency management protocols and enhance inter-agency coordination.



MALDIVES

FAO and government employees deliver manure, seed, guava seedlings and tools to island communities
©FAO/Prakash Singh

6 Being prepared

SIDS are vulnerable to extreme weather events and their increased frequency and intensity today has plunged many small islands into a near perpetual state of recovery and rehabilitation. Wave after wave of climatic events is damaging coastal settlements, water systems, ecosystems and infrastructure, resulting in major losses for many islands, increasing food insecurity and leaving rural families unable to cope.

FAO supports SIDS' access to climate finance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF),

the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other sources, by working with SIDS to integrate climate change adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk reduction and resilience into plans and policies. FAO helps countries set up warning and information systems, advises on the use of hurricane-resistant crops and forestry methods, and helps reactivate agricultural systems and coastal fisheries in the wake of a storm. Interventions include prevention, preparedness planning, monitoring and early warning, assessment of impact and needs, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, sustainable recovery and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

NEW APPROACHES IN CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE HELP THE MALDIVES ADAPT TO THE WEATHER

SDGs:

1 2 8 13 15

Intensifying weather conditions over recent years have resulted in significant damage, with 98 percent of Maldivian farmland destroyed during the monsoon period in May 2016. To prevent the resulting spread of disease and avoid damage caused by pests, farmers are increasing their use of pesticides and fertilizer.

As part of the UN's Low Emission Carbon Resilient Development Project, FAO has helped train

TEN WAYS FAO SUPPORTS SIDS

more than 500 smallholder family farmers from seven islands in adapting climate-resilient agriculture practices such as rainwater harvesting, storage and drip irrigation; and in prevention approaches including crop calendars, innovative methods to minimize damage to crops during strong winds, and planting on protected raised beds to avoid flood damage.

7 Marketing niche goods

SIDS can no longer rely on the production and trade of commodity crops to both generate employment and income opportunities and provide food security.

They are well placed to focus on niche export goods such as origin branding, certified and premium quality products which attract higher prices from clients concerned with environmental (organic) friendly production and fair returns to primary producers, offsetting geographical disadvantages. Investing in, and scaling up, these cottage agribusinesses and improving producers' ability to access new niche markets could

have a profound impact on SIDS' economies and rural lives.

Tourism contributes an average of 70 percent to SIDS' GDP, provides valuable employment opportunities and opens new export markets, especially for women and the young.

FAO works with countries to develop capacity and build market-led approaches to tap into consumer demand in domestic, regional and international markets, while encouraging community-based initiatives for sustainable tourism.

FAIR TRADE WINDS BLOW THROUGH AFRICA'S SMALL ISLANDS

SDGs:



Supporting smallholders to identify opportunities to enter high-value niche markets through Fair Trade or organic labelling is part of a FAO project in six African island nations aimed at boosting economies and making agriculture more resilient to climate change. Since the inception of a dedicated project in 2016, hundreds of farmers in Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles have benefitted from training



and shared experiences on climate-smart food production, as well as ways to create viable market opportunities for nutritious food.

The USD 1.5 million project – funded through the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund – focuses on strengthening regulations and agreements between importers and exporters to promote regional agricultural trade initiatives. In parallel, it emphasizes working with local governments to identify policy opportunities, including ways to stimulate healthy nutrition through dietary guidelines and nutrition education.



GRENADA

A day of fishing comes to a close
©FAO/Giuseppe Bizzarri

Given its importance to smallholder farmers, FAO is now helping to establish public–private insurance programmes in three Caribbean countries: Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The projects focus on strengthening countries’ expertise and competence in agricultural insurance, helping identify commercial companies to act as counterparts in insurance coverage, and raising the awareness and developing the capacity of local smallholders on the benefits and implications of subscribing to such a policy.

8 Investing in social protection

Dedicated programmes can help island farmers insure against disaster, avoid distress sales, stimulate entrepreneurship and deter migration to poorly facilitated urban areas. FAO assists SIDS in strengthening social protection systems to help smallholders to accumulate assets, adopt new crops and technologies, and pursue climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive agriculture. For women, who register much higher obesity levels than men across practically all small

islands, programmes aimed at levelling access to land and resources can boost productivity and drive national growth while improving family health, nutrition and food security.

INSURING AGAINST DISASTER IN THE CARIBBEAN

SDGs:



Agriculture insurance represents one of the most challenging financial products to implement in rural contexts, especially in SIDS countries that are affected by natural hazards and other climate change-related factors.

9 Building the evidence base

Better data enhance knowledge and allow policymakers to design integrated interventions to tackle poverty and hunger, manage natural resources and combat climate change. Evidence helps measure out social safety nets, determines the level of support to agriculture, and gives donors the ability to report back more accurately on the value of their investments.

TEN WAYS FAO SUPPORTS SIDS

While countries are chiefly responsible for gathering data, international agencies can assist. As UN custodian agency for 21 indicators across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15, FAO has a fundamental role in strengthening national capacities and ensuring that data are comparable and aggregated at subregional, regional and global levels. The Organization assists countries to develop methods and standards for food and agriculture statistics, and provides technical support to meet the new monitoring challenges.

GETTING THE MARKET PRICE RIGHT IN GUYANA

SDGs:

2 8 17

In a bid to enhance Guyana's capacity to collect, manage and access agricultural market data, FAO is helping develop a comprehensive Agriculture Market Information System, while providing technical assistance to the government in preparing an agricultural census, which was last carried out in 1952. The objective is to stimulate domestic and regional trade in agricultural commodities and improve rural livelihoods.

Achievements thus far include enhanced capacity of extension officers, crop reporters, price collectors and staff within the Ministry of Agriculture to implement a crop production data collection system to support crop planning and production forecasting. Information provided by the dedicated website is crucial in responding to the needs of farmers and agricultural traders requiring easy access to timely market information.

10 Joining hands across the oceans

The challenges of climate change, malnutrition and depleting natural resources that SIDS face today are not new, but they have escalated to a critical point where the choice between action and inaction can determine island survival. While climate change initiatives such as the Paris Agreement that aims to keep the global mean temperature rise below two degrees Celsius this century are out of SIDS' hands, island governments still possess considerable power to improve livelihoods.



Well-designed fiscal measures, like 'health taxes' on sugar-sweetened beverages, can effectively encourage and support healthier food and beverage purchasing behaviours, and incentivize small-scale farmers to cultivate local varieties.

Ultimately, small island political will and ability to advocate as one will be crucial in accelerating action among governments around the world. Working with FAO will ensure



SOLOMON ISLANDS

Showing off the ark clam harvest in Malaita
©Meshach Sukulu

FAO SUPPORTS WOMEN FISHERS, FARMERS AND VENDORS IN ACCESSING THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS MEN

that the right policies are adopted, partnerships struck and commitments made to allow SIDS to grow and flourish well into the future.

BOOSTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN FIJI AND ALL SMALL ISLANDS

SDGs:

1 2 5 14

FAO is working with governments and partners to ensure women are given benefit from the same access and opportunities as men.

Targeting women fishers, farmers and vendors to ensure they gain access to technologies and inputs aimed at increasing the efficiency of local food systems is likely to have positive benefits for nutrition, given that food production and preparation are primarily managed by women. FAO is also focusing on improving business skills, business plans and models, and opportunities for women in aquaculture enterprises.

FAO recently supported fisherwomen in Fiji – one of

40 coastal communities to benefit – by providing marine kits to improve their safety at sea. Each bag contains a personal locator beacon, a strobe light, a signalling mirror and whistle, a rescue laser and sea rescue streamer, a VHF radio, a sea anchor, life jackets, a directional compass, a first aid kit and two thermal emergency blankets. Fishing is among the most dangerous of all occupations, with more than 20 000 fatalities recorded globally each year.

NEW HORIZONS

FAO plays a key role in driving an enhanced partnership model in and among SIDS.

The complexity and magnitude of the challenges facing SIDS are far too great for any one country, agency or organization to solve on their own. Closer international and regional cooperation, with committed partnerships and a more integrated approach are more vital than ever to scale up and connect the many existing initiatives aimed at ensuring SIDS achieve the SDGs.

FAO has a long history of collaborating with SIDS, playing a catalytic role in linking agriculture and health, strengthening inter-agency linkages and developing partnerships to foster a sustainable increase in production, trade and marketing of domestic agriculture products, healthy consumption of diverse, safe and nutritious food, while also improving the resilience of smallholder farmers and fishers in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

FAO AND GEF – PARTNERS FOR SIDS

With more than 20 years of partnership experience, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is one of FAO's key partners on country-driven investments in the critical nexus between agriculture and the environment. Since 2006, GEF has invested more than USD 60 million in SIDS through FAO, a sizeable chunk of its overall grant to the Organization. Common Oceans, a multi-partnered, multi-project flagship programme has been especially active in SIDS promoting innovative approaches to achieve efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Partnerships – with traditional and new partners – are key both to boosting the breadth of multisectoral commitments and actions needed and to spurring long-term transformational change.

In transforming food systems in SIDS, FAO is working to develop the enabling

HAITI
An aquaculture fisherman making his way out to the cages to feed the fish. The cages, fish and food were provided through the FAO project to ensure better livelihoods for 600 families
©FAO/Luca Tommasini

environment, increasing the capacities of institutions responsible for providing food and nutrition security information and consolidating harmonized information systems. Creating the conditions for increased public-private partnerships and targeted investments in the primary sector, especially agri-food





UNLOCKING THE BLUE

The European Development Fund has recently endorsed a EUR 40 million sustainable fisheries and aquaculture programme that will help African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries in meeting the SDGs. The **“Intra-ACP Blue Growth programme for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains”**, a partnership between the ACP countries, the European Union and FAO, aims to enhance sustainable and inclusive economic growth by increasing the productivity, competitiveness and resilience of fisheries and aquaculture value chains. The programme links the FAO Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines, the Agreement on Port State Measures and the GAP.

value chains, can lead to a transformation of traditional agriculture systems towards a dynamic, commercially oriented sector, and to economic growth.

For this, access to finance and investment is crucial, especially in rural areas where people do not have either capital or collateral to venture into

agri-business. SIDS generally remain poorly funded and require innovative mechanisms that will allow smallholder farmers to gain access to finance opportunities.

FAO is continuing its efforts on providing technical assistance and capacity-building support in the following key areas:

NEW HORIZONS

CATALYSING CHANGE

FAO supports SIDS to transform food systems, promote sustainable agriculture and diversify the rural sector. It does this through multi-stakeholder fora, providing advocacy and catalytic decisive action for strengthening national and regional efforts. Its established capacity to disseminate and share expertise as a global knowledge organization is also a major advantage in developing institutional and individual capacities at national, regional and global levels.

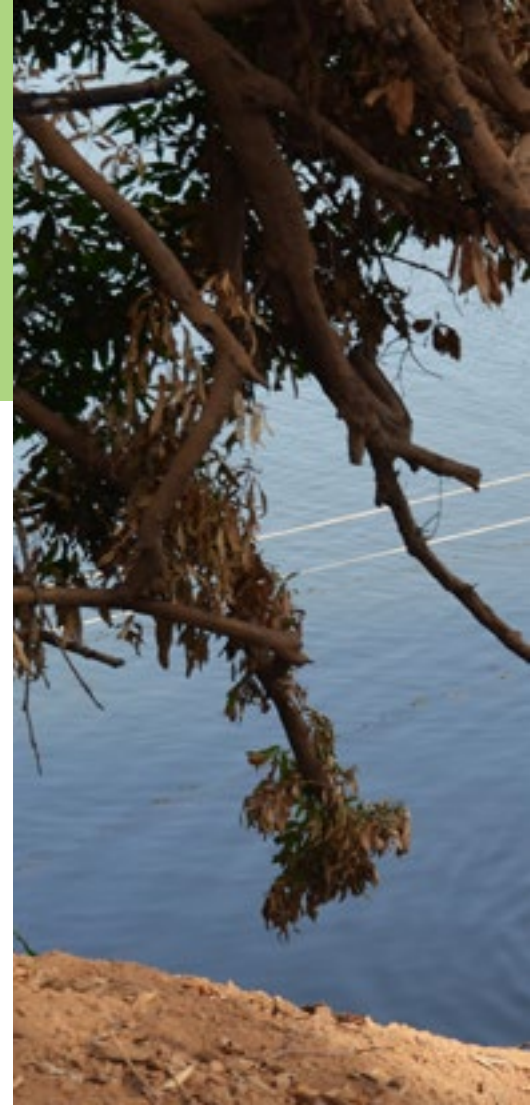
➔ Innovative data collection and reporting tools for food security and nutrition data collection, analysis and dissemination. The data are essential for sound decision-making, planning and monitoring (including of relevant SDG indicators).

➔ Strengthening food and nutrition policy frameworks to incentivize the domestic production and consumption of safe, healthy food from terrestrial and aquatic environments. Raising awareness and promoting healthy eating habits and intake of essential micronutrients through nutrition education and information are a priority.

➔ Helping countries to build capacity, and providing policy, legal, regulatory and institutional support and frameworks that offer the right incentives for environmentally sound and climate-resilient development.

➔ Supporting countries to access key finance opportunities such as GCF and GEF as well as developing capacity to mobilize vital investments across the value chain.

➔ Fish is a major contributor to island diets where an average of 175 kilos per year per person is



consumed, far above the global average of 20 kilos per person. FAO is supporting effective fisheries and aquaculture management; implementation of national and international legal instruments; capacity building; and institutional strengthening, statistical systems and good governance, which together are the key issues for fisheries and aquaculture development in SIDS.

➔ Climate-smart agriculture, including land and water management, and exploring crop



and livestock genetic resources and environment synergies to enhance farming system adaptation, through agroforestry practices, increased species diversity, and the introduction of climate-tolerant crops and varieties, particularly locally adapted nutritious varieties.

➔ Enhancing early warning systems and better forecasting – linked to a realistic set of adaptation options packaged for dissemination – aimed at improving small-scale fisheries and smallholder farm planning and preparedness.

➔ Support to coordinate supply chains of local nutritious and safe food, increase efficiencies, and ensure access to consumers at affordable prices. This includes producing, processing and marketing horticultural and fisheries and aquaculture products; food quality, food safety and post-harvest practices to improve quality and reduce wastage; logistical systems for delivering and storing food; development and implementation of appropriate food standards; and improved coordination between actors in the value chain.

**EFFECTIVE DATA
COLLECTION AND
REPORTING
TOOLS ARE
ESSENTIAL FOR
MEETING
RELEVANT SDG
INDICATORS**

MILESTONES



RESOURCES

LIST OF FAO SIDS COUNTRIES*



Global Action Programme
on Food Security and
Nutrition in Small Island
Developing States
www.fao.org/3/a-i7297e.pdf



Disaster risk management
and climate change
adaptation in the
CARICOM and wider
Caribbean region
www.fao.org/3/a-i4382e.pdf



Lessons from past and
current aquaculture
initiatives in selected
Pacific Island countries
www.fao.org/3/a-i4139e.pdf



Local Land Degradation
Assessment in Small
Island Developing States
(SIDS)
www.fao.org/3/a-i7744e.pdf



Impacts of climate
change on fisheries and
aquaculture
www.fao.org/3/19705EN/i9705en.pdf



Transforming Food and
Agriculture to Achieve the
SDGs
www.fao.org/3/19900EN/i9900en.pdf



FAO SIDS website
www.fao.org/sids/en/



List of FAO Projects in
SIDS
www.fao.org/sids/resources/projects



United Nations documents
related to SIDS
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sids/documents

Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Cabo Verde
Comoros
Cook Islands
Cuba
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Fiji
Grenada
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Jamaica
Kiribati
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Mauritius
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Nauru
Niue
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
Sao Tome and Principe
Seychelles
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Suriname
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Tokelau
Trinidad and Tobago
Tuvalu
Vanuatu

* 38 SIDS are UN Members
and 20 are non-UN Members/
Associate Members of Regional
Commissions.

FAO'S WORK WITH SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Transforming food
systems, sustaining
small islands



The world's Small Island Developing States (SIDS) share unique vulnerabilities, resulting in a complex set of food security and nutrition challenges. Because of their small size and isolation, SIDS are particularly threatened by natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. Many have limited arable agricultural land and depend on small-scale agriculture, ocean resources and high-priced imports. Further, the triple burden of malnutrition is often a reality in SIDS, with undernourishment, micronutrient deficiency and obesity coexisting within the same country, community and even household.

The sheer scope of the challenges facing SIDS means closer international cooperation and a more integrated approach will be required to support them in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. FAO has a proven record of supporting SIDS in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, transform food systems, and empower people and communities to lead healthy and productive lives.

This publication presents the special case of SIDS, highlighting current challenges and opportunities. It features examples of FAO in action to catalyse change, including activities to help implement the *Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS*.

Working for  #ZeroHunger