FINANCING the RESILIENCE of SIDS

in collaboration with UNDP initiative
Lessons Learned in the context of Agenda 2030 / Samoa Pathway

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Context / Background

• Barbados Program of Action
  • a 14-point program that identifies priority areas and specific actions necessary for addressing the special challenges faced by SIDS such as:
    • capacity building;
    • institutional development at the national, regional and international levels; cooperation in the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies;
    • trade and economic diversification; and
    • finance.
Context/Background

• Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA
  • Responds directly to the need for a more focused approach to implementation of the BPOA.
  • Highlights issues which must be taken addressed if more effective implementation of the BPOA is to be achieved, such as:
    • HIV/AIDS and other health-related issues
    • Security
    • The impact of the erosion of trade preferences on SIDS
    • The need for improved market access and an international trading system that promotes economic growth, employment and development for all;
    • Support for ICT development;
    • Protecting cultural diversity and promoting cultural industries as a vital component of sustainable development strategy in SIDS
Context/Background

• Samoa Pathway:
  • recognizes that international cooperation and partnerships that are based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of SIDS.

• Identifies actions for attainment of sustained and Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth with Decent Work for All.
Lessons Learned

• Social and economic transformation in a context of environmental sustainability requires holistic and integrated policies. In successful small countries, instead of targeting poverty or growth, social policies are developmental, and transformative and aim at nation-building and social cohesion.

• While it is good to have the right policy measures in place, creating the right environment for these policies to take root and flourish is critical
Lessons Learned

• Transforming the economy and society of a small state depends on the quality of policies and strategies that are implemented and institutions that are charged with their execution.

• Countries that implement deliberate, well conceived and integrated social and economic resilience policies to move away from their chronic vulnerability managed to succeed, for example social security reform in Malta, universal pension in Mauritius, Singapore, Cyprus).
Lessons Learned

• Ideology is important!

• Small states that have succeeded draw inspiration from ideas on social justice, rights and privileges, a “moral good,” nation-building, self-sufficiency and solidarity and mutual responsibility.

• Requires determined leadership to stay true to these ideologies in the face of internal and external shocks.
Lessons Learned

• Investments in education and health have increased human capital thereby increasing labour market efficiencies (Mauritius, Barbados, Malta)

• Given size constraints and diseconomies of scale, low enrolment rates in tertiary education is an impediment to creating the stock of skills that will propel social and economic transformation in SIDS
• Poverty is not necessarily directly reduced by tackling immediate causes but through a vast range of integrated policies

• Countries that have explicitly targeted poverty alleviation have seen their poverty levels increase (e.g. affirmative action in Fiji) while those that pursued development goals in a holistic way tended to be more successful in reducing poverty
Lessons Learned

• Strong state capacity matters ---successful small states have demonstrated their strength in organizing social protection and other services in addition to their ability to regulate and stimulate non-state actors

• Social cohesion is essential and democracy supports its creation as it. provides a space for the articulation of interests and consensus-building
Possible Solutions / Identified ‘Best’ Practices

- Disaster risk reduction is an investment in sustainable development
- Disaster risk reduction is most effective when:
  - it is approached in an integrated development planning context;
  - it involves at the earliest possible stage, a multi-stakeholder approach based on mutual respect and responsibility; and
  - it is sustained by public education and awareness programs.
Lessons Learned

• Investing in proactive measures to limit the impact of hazards can significantly reduce disaster losses and the future cost of recovery as well as speed up disaster recovery.

• Reducing the need for post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction enables sustainable development, economic resilience, financial security, environmental sustainability as well as recurring benefits to future generations.
Lessons Learned: Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience

• An integrated approach helps to minimize the use and cost of limited technical administrative and financial resources, reduce potential conflicts in policy development, and promote coordination among all stakeholders groups in hazard risk reduction.

• An enabling environment for the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices can help ensure that national, regional and international commitments with respect to the causes and impacts of disasters are fulfilled.
Lessons Learned

• Stakeholder involvement and participation must be effectively coordinated so as to minimize duplication of effort and conflict, ensure efficient use of resources and the creation of positive synergies

• Effective collaboration with other regional and international State actors and organizations must be an integral part of disaster risk management.
Lessons Learned

• Reducing the number and effects of disasters requires that the development challenges that lead to the accumulation of hazards and human vulnerability be addressed.

• The development choices made by individuals, communities and nations can promote unequal distribution of disaster risk sharing.
Lessons Learned

• The more food that is produced, with the same or less amount of water, means less need for infrastructure development, less competition for water, stronger food security, more water for other uses, and a less vulnerable and more resilient agriculture industry.

• The ecosystems that sustain agriculture and fisheries are linked to other ecosystems and functions that produce vital goods and services for human development and so must be managed in an integrated manner.
Lessons Learned

• Disaster risk management measures that minimize risks to the environment provide feasible long-term approaches to hazard risk reduction and have the potential to optimize future benefits to the nation.

• The conservation of biological diversity can best be ensured by reconciling the management of protected areas with the social and economic needs of local people.
Actionable Recommendations

• There is still need for clear understanding of what sustainable development entails and how its principles and processes can be integrated into the planning and implementation of policies and strategies. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs can assist in this regard. However, assistance is needed in nationalizing the SDGs in a SIDS context.
Actionable Recommendations

• Sustainable development should not be viewed as a separate policy agenda that requires a new set of resources and tools. Instead, principles that inform SD must be incorporated into all levels of planning to achieve multiple benefits that span social, economic and environmental dimensions

• The SDGs can help to generate some of the data on measureable targets that is needed to facilitate problem identification and policy analysis from household and community levels right through to national and regional levels. A system for information capture processing, archiving, retrieval and sharing is needed.
Actionable Recommendations

• More aggressive action is needed on the establishment of a global partnership for development, especially in areas such as market access, the provision of development assistance, and the distribution of benefits of technology.

• The demise of the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development (CGCED) has left a void in the region’s partnership mechanism with external actors. The creation of a Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Sustainable Development that is indigenously-driven warrants some consideration.
Actionable Recommendations

• Attention must be given to capacity building for effective regional planning and development, in support of initiatives such as the OECS Economic Union and the Single Market and Economy.

• A critical area of need in this regard in technological enhancement.
Actionable Recommendations

Urgent action is needed to strengthen the education system from early childhood through to primary and secondary levels with a greater focus on instilling the cognitive skills and building the competencies in mathematics, science, information and communications technology that the labor market requires.
Actionable Recommendations

• Statistical systems must be modernized to support evidence-based decision-making by all actors in the sustainable development process.

• Data on environmental parameters should be prioritized to support the effective use of tools such as Environmental Impact Assessment Vulnerability Assessments and climate modeling.
Actionable Recommendations

• The partnerships that matter most are those that are established at national and sub-national levels, between Government and development partners and the people.

• If the right partnership culture does not exist at the national level, interventions at the regional and global level will not have the desired impacts.

• The creation of sound, durable and inclusive partnerships for Sustainable Development is the imperative for SIDS.