



Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

SDG Financing Portfolio - Component 1

Cover page

UNCT/MCO: Samoa MCO

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Sustainable Financing for the 2030 Agenda Through Viable INFF in Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa

Stakeholder partner: National Government; Civil Society Organizations; Private sector;

Thematic SDG Areas: SDG localization;

PUNOs: UNDP, UNESCAP, UN-Women

Top- up received as part of DEM: No

Total estimated expenditures: US\$ \$ 498,354.1

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): US\$ \$ 635,532.6

Gender Marker: Gender-responsive (for example, the JP aimed to respond to specific gender needs, such as linking social assistance with GBV response services or maternal health support)

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Executive Summary

In 2022 UNDP has completed the development of the Development Financing Assessment (DFA) Reports for both Cook Islands and Samoa, by examining and analyzing the current development financing landscapes; analyzing the current and future financial resources available to meet financial demands for the national development plans in the countries and achieving the SDGs. This also included the evaluation of policy and institutional frameworks governing financial resources, existing financing strategy(s), monitoring and review frameworks, and governance and coordination mechanisms. Recommendations on improving financing frameworks and proposed a roadmap for the implementation of Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) in both Cook Islands and Samoa were provided.

UN Women's strong commitment to supporting GEWE work undertaken by the government has seen the office facilitate GRB Strategic Planning and training to 30 public servants (Finance focal points). UN Women also supported four government agencies to conduct GRB Ministerial Budget analysis, these were the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSO), the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour (MCIL). 4 GRB Analysis reports were produced and presented to Government. UN Women provided a 4-week course in December 2022 on Gender

Responsive Budgeting with the ILO ITC via Online training for the Government and 20 Ministerial staff (90% Female) from MWCS, MCIL, MoF, MNRE, and MAF. To adopt a common approach to project planning, programming, financing, and implementation, ESCAP with the Government of Samoa Ministry of Finance (MoF), has reviewed the current user manual and prepared a revised manual, including through stakeholder consultation workshops with MoF management and respective staff. Capacity-building support to MoF staff was also provided in Q3 and Q4 of 2022

Given the significant COVID-19 impacts and the profound need to support national recovery efforts, UNDP in partnership with the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour successfully developed the Private Sector Development Framework for Samoa. A framework that will guide all the policy efforts and strategic commitments of the Governments and support from development partners to the recovery and development of the Private Sector in Samoa. ESCAP completed feasibility and costing priority initiatives in the Samoa Tourism Sector Plan, this included the feasibility assessment and costing of the establishment of an innovative Resilience and Asset Protection Fund to support tourism operators in times of COVID-19 pandemic and post-natural disasters. In addition, the first national Cruise Tourism Strategy with a costed implementation plan was launched in November 2022.

Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

Satisfactory (majority of expected annual results achieved; 1 to 3 months delay in implementation)

Overall progress and key developments to date (3 key JP milestones)

Output 1.1

Development Financing Assessment (DFA) Reports for both Cook Islands and Samoa were completed and as a result key recommendations on improving financing frameworks and proposed roadmaps for the implementation of Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) in both countries were provided. Additionally increased awareness and capacity-building opportunities on the DFA and INFF for Government, Private Sector, Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations representatives were provided throughout the consultations and financing dialogues.

Output 1.2

Due to the GRB training and GRB budget analysis, the Government of Samoa has financial focal points in 4 key ministries (MOF, MWCS, MCIL, MAF) with GRB knowledge and expertise. Ministries have all committed to gathering more SADD (Sex and Age Disaggregated Data) to strengthen analysis and reporting mechanisms. MCIL have committed to changing all registration process to include SADD requirements. All ministries have committed to design and plan of GRB strategic implementation plans for ministerial budgets.

ESCAP completed feasibility and costing priority initiatives in the Samoa Tourism Sector Plan, given the significant COVID-19 impacts and need to support national recovery efforts. This included the feasibility assessment and costing the establishment of an innovative Resilience and Asset Protection Fund to support tourism operators in times of COVID-19 pandemic and post-natural disasters. In addition, a first national Cruise Tourism Strategy with a costed implementation plan, was launched in November 2022.

To adopt a common approach to project planning, programming, financing, and implementation, ESCAP with the Government of Samoa Ministry of Finance (MoF), has reviewed the current user manual and prepared a revised manual, including through stakeholder consultation workshops with MoF management and respective staff. Capacity-building support to MoF staff was also provided in Q3 and Q4 of 2022. Simultaneously, support was rendered by UNDP to the Samoa Ministry of Finance to review and update its Sector Planning Manual which is currently in progress, with subsequent support planned for the identified sectors with the development of new Sector Plans while utilizing the newly updated Sector Planning Manual.

Output 1.3

In collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), ESCAP completed a feasibility study for a debt for

climate swap financing instrument for Pacific Island Countries (PICs), which was discussed at the Pacific Regional Debt Conference held in April 2022. The Conference was co-organized by ESCAP and PIFS and co-convened by Government of Fiji and Tuvalu and discussed debt stress and relief issues. The Debt Conference was attended by member states, major creditors, and development partners, with Ministerial level interventions on financing issues, including by the Prime Minister of Cook Islands. ESCAP inputs included staff time, and also specific support from the JP to prepare background papers, presentations, and post-Conference documentation. Please note, for this activity, PIFS and a UN Development Account fund resources were mobilized to deliver the feasibility study and the Debt Conference related activities.

UNDP in partnership with the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour, successfully developed the Private Sector Development Framework for Samoa. A framework that will guide all the policy efforts and strategic commitments of the Governments and support from development partners to the recovery and development of the Private Sector in Samoa

Main Challenges, adjustments and lessons:

For all three countries, the COVID 19 pandemic which commenced in early 2020, impacted delivery from the beginning with nationwide State of Emergency (SOE), specifically for Samoa. The SOE has been in place since March 2020 and was lifted in August 2022. These not only diverted the focus and priority of the Governments in terms of maintaining the SOE but also in terms of COVID preparedness and prevention plans. Furthermore, the political situation in Samoa has also impacted the programme delivery, especially with regard to fulfilling the earlier made commitments made by the Government. Some stabilization of the political situation in 2021 was then followed by a large-scale restructuring of the Government. Critical ministries had no CEOs. With new ministers and Chief Executive Officers in Samoa now on board, the focus of the Government, particularly of the Ministry of Finance, has shifted towards with competing priorities, including post-COVID-19 implications and recovery efforts and budget financing. (This, in fact, makes INFF even more relevant). In addition, capacities within the small island developing nations are also limited with government focal points wearing three or four other official titles. Capacity constraints have been acknowledged and highlighted by all government representatives during the Technical and Steering Committees.

SDG Acceleration

With reference to SDG 17, having the DFA Reports for the Cook Islands and Samoa, both countries will ensure the two countries are equipped with capacities and tools to manage, design, and prioritize financing through the governments’ core national priorities and sectoral plans to meet localized SDG targets. Furthermore, it has highlighted that national planning and financing systems need to be aligned and must have an integrated approach to ensure implementation plans are realized. Support provided to central financing and planning stakeholders, at the Ministry of Finance, for example, enhanced capacity on better project planning and programming system with more efficiencies across the processes involved, including decision-making.

Updates on SDG financing framework

	Assessment Diagnostics	Monitoring	Governance
Inception phase	Financing Strategy	Review	Coordination

Descriptions on progress by INFF building blocks

Inception Phase:

Assessment & Diagnostics:

Financing Strategy:

Monitoring & Review:

Governance & Coordination:

Annual Reporting on Results

JP contributions to the Joint SDG Fund's global cost of living crisis

Next steps, scaling and sustainability [400 words]

For the remaining 6 months of the JP, the following activities are planned:

1. Complete the development of the Development Financing Assessment (DFA) Report for Niue
2. Complete the development and launch of the Sector Planning Manual for Samoa
3. Institutionalize and complete capacity-building support to MoF on the revised project planning and programming manual use, including to selected line ministries and departments.
4. UN Women, in partnership with the Government of Samoa, have drafted GRB Strategic Implementation plans for the relevant Ministries (MoF, MWCSO, MCIL, and MAF) and will be supporting ongoing GRB training and capacity building.
5. Prepare a regional guidance note on project planning and programming for Pacific Island Countries.
6. Tentatively plan together with IMF-PFTAC and a member state, to deliver a regional training event on project planning and programming, in the process scaling-up resources and raising the sustainability support for this area of work through other regional development partners.

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

With the progress of the JP so far, UN thematic issues are well observed in the implementation as reflected in the inclusive approach taken in the facilitation of the inception workshops that ensured the participation of all stakeholders from various spheres of development (public, private, civil) gender, and PWDs, to guarantee equal representation. More specifically the Gender Responsive Budgeting analysis and support by UNWOMEN guarantees gender responsiveness of budget both at the national and sector level. Overall, these thematic areas are also closely observed in the produced results of the JP such as reports to ensure that methodology adopted, the scope of works, results produced aligns with thematic issues of human rights, leaving no one behind, and that information available is well disaggregated in terms of gender and PWDs.

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-responsive (for example, the JP aimed to respond to specific gender needs, such as linking social assistance with GBV response services or maternal health support). Evidence, data collection and analysis (e.g. gender assessments of programmes; policy briefs, costing for scale-up of social services);

Focus on LNOB cross cutting principles

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

How did the JP facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders in the SDG financing space

The JP maintained partnerships with the 3 Governments mainly with the Ministries of Finance as key focal points, and relevant stakeholders in Private Sector and CSOs, for the implementation of the Programme. No strategic partnerships for co-financing established, and no additional financing were secured in 2022.

Donor and Strategic events attended by JP in 2022

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event	Closing meeting/ event
Yes	No	No

JP contribution to SDG Financing

Drafted a bill, strategy, and/or approved a law or increasing the fiscal space for the policy focus	Produced financing, costing, diagnostic and feasibility analyses as a basis to invest or increase spending on the SDGs	Improved efficiency (cost savings) in management programmes/schemes	Improved effectiveness of (value for money; social impact of \$1 spent) sector investment on the SDGs	Drafted policies/regulatory frameworks or developed tools to leverage private additional funding	Structured financial instruments (public, private or blended) to leverage additional funding	new instruments or private additional funding
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	

Main capacity building activities supported by the JP that allowed people to expand their knowledge on SDG Financing and INFFs

For 2022, the JP executed several interventions that serves to building the capacity and understanding of people of the 3 Governments, of the SDG Financing JP and the INFF Concept. For instance, the DFA Inception Workshop for Niue provided the opportunity to introduce the DFA Tool to the Niue Government, but also briefed the Private Sector, NGO and CSO in Niue on the INFF Concept. Furthermore, ESCAP coordinated and facilitated a Workshop on Project Planning and Programming, for the Ministry of Finance building the capacity of Ministry on Planning and Programming. There was also an opportunity through the Pacific Regional Debt Conference to build capacity of National government (MoF), civil society partners, private sector, multilateral banks, bilateral donors. UN Women also provided a 4-week course in December 2022 on Gender Responsive Budgeting with the ILO ITC via Online training for the Government and 20 Ministerial staff (90% Female) from MWCSD, MCIL, MoF, MNRE, and MAF