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UN Resident Coordinator Office

SAMOA

COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (CIP) 2023-2024

Review

Acknowledgement

Table of Contents

OVERVIEW

The **Samoa Country Implementation Plan (CIP) 2023-2024 Review** provides a comprehensive assessment of the United Nations (UN) financial, programmatic, and developmental activities undertaken in Samoa through its Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the Pacific (UNSDCF) 2023 – 2027 (henceforth the CF). The review covers critical areas such as environmental sustainability, social protection, economic development, and governance. The central goal is to analyze how the resources of the UN were allocated, how effectively they were used, and what progress was made in helping Samoa realize the CF outcomes and its contribution towards Samoa's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UN Contributions Overview: As shown in Figure 1.1, 22 UN organisations contributed to the implementation of the Samoa CIP, through a total of 140 interventions across 4 key CF outcome areas: Planet, People, Prosperity and Peace, under which are 42 related sub-outcomes. These interventions supported Samoa in the pursuit of its development priorities, which include promoting environmental conservation (Planet), enhancing health and education services (People), fostering economic resilience and sustainable development (Prosperity), and strengthening governance and institutional capacity (Peace).

In financial terms, the estimated total resources required to deliver the UN's development interventions in the first two-years of the CIP (2023-24), was USD 25.8 million, of which USD 21.2 million was, in principle[1], available to support implementation. However, at the end of the midterm review period, the expenditure on these interventions was reported at USD 11.4 million, which is just over half of the available resources, and less than half of the planned required expenditure. The expenditure shortfall indicates that in addition to the CF's global funding issues, the UN system's effective utilization of the existing budget is also a fundamental issue. The spending disparity highlights operational challenges and opportunities for the UN to build mechanisms for more efficient program implementation and future resource utilization.

UN system results: In 2023-2024, the UN in Samoa achieved substantial progress across the core pillars of Planet, People, Prosperity, and Peace, contributing to the country's priorities and sustainable development goals.

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[1] The available resources relate to the total amount raised by agencies to deliver on the CIPs over the entire period 2023-2027. This is meant to clarify, however, that in principle there were enough resources available to deliver on the planned interventions up to the period 2024.

Under the Planet pillar, efforts focused on biodiversity conservation, waste management, climate adaptation, and renewable energy. Key initiatives included the groundwork for conservation targets, expanded botanical gardens, and renewable energy projects aimed at bolstering resilience and environmental sustainability in Samoa.

Under the People pillar, the UN enabled advancements in public health, education, social protection, and community safety through the People pillar. Immunisation, mental health, and emergency response capacities were strengthened, while food security, climate-resilient WASH services, and gender-based violence prevention remained priorities for community well-being.

Under the Prosperity pillar, the UN promoted economic resilience by supporting sustainable agriculture, digital connectivity, and youth skills in emerging sectors like the blue economy. Women entrepreneurs gained financial and digital skills, and expanded ICT access enhanced opportunities for rural communities.

Finally, under the **Peace pillar**, the UN emphasized justice, human rights, and governance reforms. Highlights in the period included improved legal identity registration, anti-corruption policies, and gender-responsive budgeting, enhancing Samoa's capacity for inclusive, rights-based governance and fostering a more secure society.

Going forward, more needs to be done to ensure timely disbursements, address bottlenecks in program implementation, and close financial gaps, particularly in underfunded areas. A results framework with specific performance indicators should be developed immediately and, where available, aligned with the country's monitoring and evaluation framework attached to its national development strategy.

BUDGET ANALYSIS

Figures 2.1 provide a detailed breakdown of resource allocations by CF pillars and corresponding expenditures for the Samoa CIP 2023 – 2024.

The graphs reveal significant differences between required (funding) and actual expenditures in the period under review, particularly for the Planet pillar. At the beginning of the cycle, implementation of the **Planet** pillar had the highest estimated financial requirement at USD 17 million, against an available budget of USD 14 million. However, by the end of the mid-term review, there was an actual expenditure of USD 6.8 million under this Pillar, 40 per cent of planned expenditure and 48.6 per cent of the available budget for this pillar.

The UN activities planned under the **People** pillar required USD 4.3 million, with funds of USD 3.1 million made available at inception. Though these resources were not enough to achieve the full extent of planned activities related to agreed objectives under the People pillar at the mid-term, the UN was successful in their utilization of available funds, spending approximately USD 3 million or 96.8 percent of the available resources for implementation.

Similarly, implementing agreed activities under the **Prosperity** pillar was not very financially resource intensive. Required funding to deliver outputs for this pillar was an estimated USD 2.4 million, about half of the required budget for People and six times less than that for Planet. At the start of the period, most of the required resources were available (USD 2 million), providing a significant opportunity to achieve desired results and to crowd in future resources. Nonetheless, estimates at the end of the mid-term show that actual expenditure on Prosperity was much lower than expected at USD 0.8 million. The expenditure shortfall represents an underutilization rate of 33.3 per cent per year against the required spend and 30 per cent per year relative to the available budget for the period.

Spent under the **Peace** pillar is USD 1 million, USD 0.2 million more than recorded for activities delivered under Prosperity. The UN estimated a required budget envelope of USD 2.1 million to support the strengthening of Samoa's institutional capacity and governance. There was USD 2 million available at the start of the period to deliver on this mandate, and approximately half of the planned expenditure was executed successfully.

UN SUPPORT & SDG PROGRESS

PLANET

PEOPLE

PROSPERITY

PEACE

Figure 3.1 conveys the breadth and relative scale of UN investments made in Samoa during 2023 - 2024 categorized by SDG goals. According to the estimates of the UN's collective expenditure, the bulk of funding was concentrated on SDG's, Gender Equality, Climate Action, and Good Health and Well-Being, in that order. The lowest investments during this period were in securing Clean and Affordable Energy, Responsible Consumption and Production, and infrastructure.

Organized by CF pillar (Planet – SDGs 7, 13, 14, 15 | People – SDGs 2, 3, 4, 6 | Prosperity – SDGs 1, 8, 9, 11, 12 | Peace – SDGs 5, 10, 16, 17), the UN system investment reflects the budget analysis, with SDGs related to environmental protection and resilience-building receiving the largest attention.

The UN's advancement of Gender Equality as a key area of investment during the first semester of the CIP marries well with the UN's SDGs acceleration methodology, which proposes investment in gender, particularly in reducing violence against women and girls, due to the SDGs' positive and cross-correlation with the SDGs six transition mechanisms, including food security, biodiversity and climate action, education reform, energy, social protection and jobs, and public infrastructure. Research has found that investment in these six transitions both independently and collectively will catalyze broad SDGs' progress.

Consequently, though funds were underutilized in the first period of the Samoa CIP, the extensive investment in Climate Action and related SDGs under the Planet pillar is expected to create positive synergies and accelerate SDGs. Additionally, the larger investment aligns with the UN's commitment to Climate Action and supporting resilience and sustainability in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Samoa.

Figure 3.2 maps Samoa's most recent SDGs' progress, which has been achieved through the efforts of the Samoan government, donors and the government's multilateral partners, including the UN. The progress update is based on the UN's SDGs database and indicates that Samoa has made the most progress in improving access to Clean and Affordable Energy, (SDG 7), on providing Quality Education (SDG 4), protecting Life on Land (SDG 15), and in advancing Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17). This does not necessarily mean that the UN's contribution to these SDGs is limited. The UN's interventions in the People, Prosperity and People pillars where these SDGs fall, have not been resource intensive. Rather, the UN's interventions are focused on capacity building and technical assistance related to improving policy, legislation and on building the general enabling environment for progress.

Progress was made on the SDGs of Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3), Climate Action (SDG 13), and Gender Equality (SDG 5), but it was relatively smaller than for Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7). It is important to note that data remains a significant challenge to monitoring SDG progress, so the SDGs progress report may only be partially accurate.

UN MODE OF INTERVENTION

Figures 4.1 - 4.3 depict UN interventions by delivery mode and cross-cutting themes such as human rights, gender, peace, and Leave No One Behind (LNOB). As intimated in the previous section, the most popular mode for UN intervention in Samoa during 2023-2024 was capacity building and technical assistance was recorded as the prime delivery mechanism in more than 100 activities.   The next most popular form for delivering support through the CIP is convening, partnerships and knowledge sharing, followed by policy advice and thought leadership, direct support, data collection and analysis, and normative support.

Looking at the perspective of cross-cutting themes, 18 per cent of agencies' interventions were regarded as a principal objective of the intervention, whereas 34 per cent were tagged as a significant objective. On the other hand, the UN reported that 48 per cent of projects were deemed to have limited or no impact on Gender Equality. In sustaining Peace, the focus on human rights was more positive. The specific UN organizations with mandates on human rights indicated that 30 per cent of the activities carried out during the first two years of the CIP addressed human rights issues as their principal objective and 29 per cent as a significant objective. However, 12 per cent of UN organizations noted that their interventions had no human rights focus, compared to 5 per cent and 6 per cent of organizations, which stated the same when surveyed on gender and peace markers.

LNOB is the central, transformative commitment of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. LNOB focuses on ensuring that all individuals, especially marginalized, disadvantaged, or vulnerable, are included in development efforts and benefit from them. This commitment priorities reducing inequalities and reaching those furthest behind first to create an inclusive and equitable world. There are several overlaps with UN human rights, gender and peace objectives.

Of the UN's projects delivered in the review period, 39 per cent tagged as contributing to advancing LNOB reported that there were no specifically identified beneficiaries. On the contrary, of the next 61 per cent of projects tagged as supporting LNOB, 25 per cent of the interventions noted that women were the main beneficiaries, followed by youth and children. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, human rights defenders, indigenous people, minorities, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) individuals were also beneficiaries of the UN's LNOB interventions.

UN RESULTS BY CF PILLAR

The results reported for each output area under the CF pillars were based on results' inputs provided by the 22 UN organizations. Percentage contributions to each output area are assessed and presented via a Heatmap in Appendix 2.

The **Heatmap** highlights adequate and significant contributions across UN organization's planned outputs. Assessed against the number of organizations initially planning to intervene in output areas, 16 of the 32 (50 per cent) output areas were deemed adequately serviced. Half of the organizations with planned outputs did not deliver them. This contribution level was most prominent in the People pillar, where 6 of 15 contributions were rated, as adequate.

On the contrary, in 14 output areas, the UN's contributions were rated as significant, with an estimated 100 per cent contribution across the output areas. In other words, of the lot rated as significant, all the organizations that had planned to intervene, intervened during the review period. There were only two output areas where UN contributions were rated inadequate, and these were outputs 1.3.2 enhanced capacities of national mechanisms for effective and inclusive disaster management.

Planet

Output 1.1.1: **Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms, policies, knowledge, and skills to promote community-led biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and improve ecosystems, in line with UN climate and environment-related conventions.**

The UN significantly enhanced Samoa's commitment to biodiversity conservation by collaborating with the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MNRE). One of these collaborations was through national consultations and technical assistance to update Samoa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework. In addition, Samoa was also represented in a regional capacity-building workshop for the Pacific to navigate the World Heritage process, enhancing understanding and representation in global conservation efforts. Preparatory actions, including stakeholder partnerships and calls for Expressions of Interest, have been initiated for further implementation.

The Gender and Environment Survey Samoa (GES) 2023, among the first in the Pacific, provided critical insights into how women and men in Samoa experience and impact environmental changes, natural disasters, and climate change. It also assessed the environmental effects of their economic activities, offering valuable data for informed decision-making.

The UN provided support for the development of Samoa's Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Climate Change Policy (SAFCCP) and its 2023/24 - 2027/28 Plan of Action. This policy emphasizes a collective response to combat climate change and address its adverse impacts on ecosystems, agriculture, fisheries, food security, productivity, and human health. It builds on past efforts and progress, drawing lessons from previous experiences to inform initiatives and actions that will transform food systems for a more sustainable future.

In September 2024, Samoa launched its National Environment Sector Plan (NESP) 2023-2027, reinforcing its commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development. The plan was developed through collaboration among the MNRE, UN, SPREP, and diverse stakeholders.

Contributing agencies:

Output 1.1.2:

Strengthened multi-stakeholder capacities for nature-based solutions and increased access of vulnerable populations to innovative approaches tools and solution for managing ecosystem restoration and management.

In 2024, the UN enhanced access to climate financing to strengthen the technical capacity of stakeholders, ensuring the establishment of robust data systems, policies, and institutional frameworks. This will enable the co-design of truly transformative climate solutions with local communities, empowering Samoa's people, especially its most vulnerable populations, to effectively address the escalating challenges posed by climate change.

Contributing agencies:

Output 1.1.3:

Strengthened policies for integrated waste management, including hazardous waste and marine pollution.

The UN's support to progress Samoa's efforts in improving waste management policy has been delayed by protracted legal agreements and exacerbated by staff turnover. However, recruitment of a new Project Manager is in progress, and activities are expected to commence quickly once the new staff is in place and the legal agreements are finalized. The UN is also supporting the update of the National Integrated Waste Management Strategy addressing emerging problems such as plastic pollution and disposal of end-of-life batteries.

Contributing agencies:

Output 1.2.2:

Increased use of evidence-based approaches and nature-based solutions in building resilience and adaptive capacity among community and institutional actors.

The UN has advanced the development of Samoa's Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policy that aims to embed science, technology, and innovation within the national development strategies, to address key challenges such as climate change, food security, biodiversity, rand clean energy. In terms of nature-based solutions, Samoa was supported under the Man and Biosphere, and Geoparks programmes, promotion of sustainable tourism and biodiversity conservation. Moreover, the UN undertook a feasibility study for potential Geoparks, and efforts towards expanding botanical gardens for medicinal plant conservation were advanced, enhancing biodiversity and resilience outcomes. Furthermore, a National Forest Monitoring System and Forest Reference Level (FRL) was successfully established, along with comprehensive capacity development for MNRE forestry staff in forest monitoring and remote sensing technologies.

In September 2024, Samoa launched its State of Environment (SoE) 2023, providing a comprehensive assessment of natural resources, ecosystems, and biodiversity, highlighting progress and challenges across four key areas: natural environment, built environment, climate and disaster, and environmental governance. The SoE's recommendations informed the National Environment Sector Plan 2023-2027 and were developed with broad stakeholder collaboration, led by the MNRE with support from UN and SPREP.

The UN has also empowered communities to implement nature-based solutions to improve natural resource management and local livelihoods.

Contributing agencies:

Output 1.2.3:

Strengthened policies for integrated waste management, including hazardous waste and marine pollution.

The UN supported launching a new strategy enhancing children's resilience to climate-related shocks and focused on promoting healthy and sustainable environments. In addition, a Climate Specialist Consultant was recruited to enhance technical expertise and strategic engagement with regional partners, reinforcing efforts to strengthen waste management and environmental sustainability policies. Additionally, Healthcare Facilities (HCFs) in Samoa were assessed for improvements in WASH and infection prevention, and waste management supplies were procured to enhance healthcare waste handling. WASH upgrades were completed in 83% of health facilities (10 out of 12), and 100% of facilities received healthcare waste management supplies, enhancing overall health service quality and safety.

Contributing agencies:

Output 1.3.1:

Strengthened institutional and community capacities, mechanisms, and policies to enhance climate change adaptation, resilience, and disaster risk reduction.

The UN made significant progress in advancing other key initiatives, including the completion of a feasibility study for the Apia Integrated Sewage System, the review of the National Stormwater Masterplan the establishment and the initiation of an early warning mechanism (health-climate) for climate-induced health effects. A Payment for Ecosystem Services program gained momentum, with formal agreements signed to support ecosystem conservation in Samoa. Additionally, the Samoa Meteorological Service's capacity for tsunami preparedness was strengthened through participation in the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme organised through the support of the UN. To enhance climate-resilient health infrastructure, solarization efforts for health facilities in Savaii progressed with the completion of power load assessments.

Samoa enhanced its meteorological and disaster management capacities through participation in key regional workshops and meetings, including training on inclusive early warning systems, climate services, hydrology, and communication. The Samoa Water Resources Division operationalized the Meteorology Climatology Hydrology (MCH) Database Management System and initiated phase one of the Groundwater Strategy by assessing groundwater sources. Additionally, Samoa piloted the WMO HydroHub User-Provider Workshop and advanced efforts to develop a National Strategic Plan for weather, climate, and ocean services.

Contributing agencies:

Output 1.3.2: **Enhanced capacities of national mechanisms for effective and inclusive disaster management.**

In 2023, through UN intervention, Samoa's national disaster management systems saw notable advancements in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency response capabilities. A midterm review of the Sendai Framework by the UN, supported the identification of priority areas and facilitated technical reviews of national DRR policies. Ongoing technical assistance delivered through the UN system strengthened Samoa's readiness to manage natural disasters. At the same time, a dedicated two-week workshop on Emergency Response and Preparedness (ERP) bolstered institutional resilience for safeguarding cultural heritage during emergencies.

Response mechanisms were further enhanced through swift UN humanitarian action, including the provision of dignity kits to vulnerable populations affected by recent floods. Additionally, training in Accountability to Affected Populations has embedded accountability in Samoa's response framework, enabling more inclusive and responsive interventions. Samoa's logistics and supply chain capacities were strengthened through an updated Logistics Capacity Assessment and a Capacity Needs Mapping, providing critical insights into humanitarian logistics readiness. The Samoa Disaster Management Office received logistical equipment to enhance operations, and an ICT Capacity Assessment identified areas for improving emergency telecommunications infrastructure and coordination. Food security preparedness improved with updates from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and enhanced coordination within the Pacific Food Security Cluster and cash working groups, bolstering Samoa's ability to anticipate and respond to regional shocks.

From 2021 to 2024, Samoa strengthened emergency response capacities to address GBV and SRH needs. Key results include training 60 health professionals and first responders on the Minimum Initial Service Package for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crisis and 80 Samoa Red Cross volunteers on GBV concepts and the GBV Pocket Guide. Community consultations improved Dignity Kit distribution and content, addressing barriers faced by women and girls in accessing humanitarian assistance. Health and protection systems now deliver life-saving SRH and GBV services during emergencies.

Contributing agencies:

Output 1.3.3:	**National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and National Disaster Recovery framework are gender-responsive and inclusive.**

The UN extended its humanitarian support to the big island of Savai'i, particularly in villages that were affected by flooding in 2023. This support included the distribution of dignity kits to women and girls, reinforcing the importance of gender-responsive disaster interventions. Efforts to integrate Accountability to Affected Populations into disaster preparedness and response programs are underway, with a roundtable planned a t the end of 2024 to enhance stakeholder coordination on these initiatives.

Contributing agencies:

Output 1.4.1:	**Output 1.4.1: Increased availability and use of disaggregated data (based on gender, location, disability, etc.) and analytics in planning Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) and resilience building.**

The UN's support in expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives also includes the completion of household-based biogas demonstration schemes and comprehensive reports on financing models for sustainable energy projects. The UN has contributed to the decarbonization of the transport sector by delivering integrated results. This includes the development of a Decarbonization Strategy for the Transport Sector, the successful introduction of 56 electric vehicles and 20 hybrid vehicles into government institutions to demonstrate sustainable mobility, enhance public service delivery, and facilitate commercial adoption. Additionally, public awareness has been increased on the benefits of transitioning to low-emissions vehicles, fostering inclusive and safe mobility solutions.

Samoa has initiated efforts to strengthen institutional, technical, and human capacities to comply with the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. Key progress includes advancements in greenhouse gas inventory systems and the Measurement-Reporting-Verification framework, supported by UN and regional partners.

Contributing agencies:

PEOPLE

Output 2.1.1: **Strengthened capacities of service providers to deliver high-quality, resilient, people-centered public health services for children, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and vulnerable groups.**

The UN efforts to strengthen public health services have significantly improved immunization coverage, particularly through targeted campaigns that reached 3,810 children in Samoa. Samoa was covered in regional assessments to ensure the sustainability of vaccine supply, leading to enhanced cold chain and immunization supply systems. In addition, adolescent and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services were expanded, with training programs reaching over 100 young people. Healthcare providers in 11 out of 16 service points were equipped to deliver SRH services, increasing access for youth to critical health information and services.

Key results in strengthening Samoa's health systems include improved SRH/FP service quality through training 16 health facility managers on a supportive supervision toolkit; the launch of a globally aligned midwifery curriculum in 2023 addressing family planning, adolescent SRH, disability inclusion, and violence against women; and enhanced planning capacity through the Health Facility Readiness and Service Availability assessment of 14 facilities. Ten personnel were trained in reproductive health commodity management, contraceptive deliveries in 2024 protected 3,872 couples, and the family planning readiness score improved from 3.50 in 2023 to 3.59 in 2024. Additionally, RMNCAH staff gained stronger data utilization skills through a 3-day workshop.

Capacity-building efforts expanded NCD interventions, including school-based health screenings for childhood obesity. Mental health services improved through enhanced use of data sources like HFRSA and Supply, enabling informed recommendations and strengthening first aid tools for non-health professionals to address mental health issues.A national cancer registry was established, improving the country's ability to track and manage cancer cases. Additionally, public health committees focused on food security and mental health were revitalized, fostering multi-sectoral collaboration on these critical issues.

Training for midwives and other specialized healthcare roles enhanced the skills of health professionals, leading to improved maternal and child health outcomes , as well as clinical response to GBV. The national immunization program was further strengthened with additional resources for cold chain management and vaccine logistics, ensuring efficient vaccine distribution and monitoring. Health Information

Risk Assessment was completed. The detailed design for the Ministry of Health's public health laboratory is progressing, laying the groundwork for enhanced health diagnostic and research capabilities. Overall, these efforts contributed to a more skilled and resilient health workforce capable of delivering high-quality, people-centered public health services. Capacity building for newly recruited health workers improved skills in routine immunization, supportive supervision, and on-site mentoring. Intensified outreach, integrated campaigns, and defaulter follow-ups contributed to achieving 84% cumulative coverage of the HPV vaccine among 10–13-year-old girls in Samoa.

Notable results were achieved in prevention of communicable diseases of HIV, STIs, and TB through community outreach and awareness, testing and distribution of preventive packages, and adopting a mainstreamed approach in synergy with existing Government programmes. In Samoa, the capacity of the main national hospital was strengthened through the installation of a portable x-ray equipment for Tuberculosis diagnosis and follow ups.

Contributing agencies:

| Output 2.1.2: | **National public health governance capacity strengthened to improve governance functions for better health outcomes.** |

The UN supported the review of national policies related to immunization and cold chain management to align with international standards, including the introduction of new vaccines and the integration of sex-disaggregated data into immunization reporting. These policy improvements have strengthened the governance framework for immunization programs.

In addition, work began to review and update legislation related to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV), with the goal of closing policy gaps and enhancing the protection of vulnerable populations. Developing family planning guidelines and GBV response protocols further integrated SRH and GBV services into national health policies.

Samoa developed its first Cervical Cancer Elimination Policies and Strategies, providing a national framework for coordinated actions toward cervical cancer elimination. A review of postpartum family planning guidelines identified strategies to improve contraceptive uptake, promoting healthy birth spacing with positive impacts on maternal and neonatal health, gender equity, and sustainable development. Additionally, a regional midwifery strategy workshop established a framework for strengthening midwifery in Samoa, focusing on education, regulation, practice development, career pathways, care models, and leadership.

Efforts to address tobacco control were advanced by developing a national tobacco communication strategy and risk assessments for digital health initiatives. These activities aim to strengthen public health governance by addressing critical risk factors and ensuring the safe use of digital health technologies. The review of

professional standards for nursing and midwifery was completed. Technicians were trained in cold chain equipment repair and maintenance, enhancing their capacity to ensure reliable vaccine storage and distribution.

Contributing agencies:

Output 2.1.3:

Enhanced stakeholder capacities for emergency response actions to public health emergencies and ensuring the continuity of services.

The UN supported Samoa in strengthening its national health security by completing the country's first Joint External Evaluation (JEE) under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005). The evaluation identified over 80 recommendations to improve the country's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies. An action plan for risk communication and community engagement was also developed, aligning with global health communication frameworks. The Samoa Emergency Medical Team received training on logistics and other refresher training to enhance their capacity to respond. The EU-funded Oxygen Plant ensures timely availability of life-saving oxygen to patients in need and during emergencies.

Health workers were trained in risk communication to improve their responses to health emergencies, including managing outbreaks of infectious diseases such as measles. Additionally, public health workers received support in refining their communication strategies for mass immunization campaigns, ensuring better engagement with communities during public health emergencies.

Contributing agencies:

Output 2.2.1:

Expanded access to more inclusive and evidence-based social protection systems for vulnerable groups.

Social protection systems were strengthened to become more inclusive, particularly for children. The delivery of the first child-sensitive social protection training increased the capacity of national stakeholders to implement child-focused policies. Additionally, a multidimensional child deprivation analysis was conducted to enhance the accuracy of child poverty estimates and inform the development of child-centred policies and programs.

Four waves of MICS Plus, a longitudinal and representative household survey, provided near real-time data on childcare practices, mobile internet use, and violence against children. The results were published and disseminated, delivering critical insights to inform policies and response efforts for children and women.

The new Samoa National Social Protection Policy Framework approved in 2023, which is derived from the Draft Social Protection Policy developed with UN support in 2021-22.

Contributing agencies:

Output 2.2.2: **Strengthened institutional capacities, legislation, mechanisms, and policies on social protection with holistic approaches to address vulnerabilities, including domestic violence, gender, and vulnerable households.**

Significant progress was made in assessing the needs of vulnerable populations by introducing a new vulnerability assessment tool. This tool allowed for a more equitable distribution of cash-based interventions (CBIs) to those most in need, ensuring that social protection resources were directed toward closing gaps in service delivery for vulnerable groups.

Samoa launched the Pola Puipui National Prevention Framework to End Gender-Based Violence and its Action Plan, strengthening national coordination of GBV interventions across ministries, civil society, village-based institutions, and stakeholders. This framework, one of only three globally, enhances Samoa's capacity to prevent GBV effectively.

Samoa has also joined Alliance 8.7 on Target 8.7 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which calls for work to end unacceptable violations of human rights. Alliance 8.7 provides a platform for partners to share information, promising practices, lessons learned and progress. A Strategy and National Action Plan to Eliminate All Forms of Child Labour was launched in August 2024.

Contributing agencies:

Output 2.3.1: **Improved policy and regulatory environment to promote access and consumption of adequate, affordable, safe, diverse, and nutritious food.**

With the UN's support, Samoa stands to benefit from a comprehensive review of existing policies and barriers related to malnutrition, which led to the development of advocacy packages that reinforce high-level commitments to address all forms of malnutrition. A Cost of the Diet analysis was conducted, identifying nutrient gaps and providing data to inform policies and programs across agriculture, health, education, and social protection. This analysis supports efforts to address undernutrition and overnutrition, improving access to healthy diets for the most vulnerable populations in Samoa. These efforts have set the foundation for more coordinated action on food security and nutrition at both national and regional levels.

Technical assistance was provided to boost agricultural crop production and enhance commercial opportunities for Samoan farmers and exporters. This support focused on building the capacities of relevant government staff in tissue culture production, conservation and management, as well as in tissue culture protocols and laboratory management practices. As a result, the production and marketing of selected value chains were improved in both Upolu and Savaii, contributing to enhanced food and nutrition security in Samoa. Additionally, the capacity of government institutions, farmers, and processors to access high-quality planting materials was strengthened, yielding long-term benefits for the production and preparation of safe, nutritious food across the country.

Contributing agencies:

Output 2.3.2:

Enhanced capacity for evidence-based decision-making to produce and analyse timely data on food insecurity and malnutrition.

The mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) tool provided real-time data on household food consumption, dietary diversity, and coping strategies, enhancing evidence-based decision-making on food security and nutrition. Published results informed government-led initiatives, development partners, and food security clusters, strengthening early warning, early action, and response capabilities. These efforts minimized the impacts of shocks on vulnerable populations and improved government-led responses to food insecurity and malnutrition.

Contributing agencies:

WFP World Food Programme

Output 2.4.1:

Enhanced capacity among service providers to deliver safe and sustainable climate-resilient WASH services in schools and healthcare facilities.

The UN offered technical support working with the national institutions to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in schools and healthcare facilities. Assessments of healthcare facilities highlighted critical areas for improvement, and piloting a climate-resilient water supply system is underway to enhance access to safe water. Improvements in infection prevention and control (IPC) were supported by procuring waste management supplies for healthcare facilities, ensuring better segregation and storage of healthcare waste.

Contributing agencies:

unicef

Output 2.4.2:

Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms and policies on water, sanitation, and hygiene to increase access to safe, affordable and equitable WASH services, including in educational settings.

In Samoa, the UN has significantly advanced WASH standards in healthcare facilities (HCFs) over the past two years. In 2023, UNICEF successfully assessed WASH conditions across 10 HCFs, identifying specific areas for improvement. Building on this assessment, UNICEF enhanced infection prevention and control (IPC) protocols by providing essential waste management supplies. This resulted in improved waste segregation and secure storage of healthcare waste in all assessed facilities, thereby ensuring safer and more hygienic healthcare environments.

Contributing agencies:

unicef

Output 2.5.1:

Improved national government capacity to deliver relevant, inclusive, quality learning and skill development.

Samoa's education system delivered significant results in inclusive, quality learning and skill development. Analysis from MICS-EAGLE provided insights for sector-wide planning, and lessons from COVID-19 responses across 15 Pacific countries informed future resilience strategies. Progress on a regional Pacific All-Life Skills Framework emphasized life skills, with high-level support for equipping learners across the region.

Community outreach reached over 600 people, enhancing skills in health and respectful relationships. Training for over 110 teachers integrated Family Life Education into core subjects, expanding national expertise. Samoa's success has positioned it as a regional model in family life and skills education.

The Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development (PRC4ECD) gained global recognition as a model for ECD advocacy and action. In 2024, it advanced plans for a 2025 forum in Samoa, focusing on ECD's role in nurturing identity and preserving Pacific cultures, further strengthening regional collaboration and capacity-building.

Samoa completed and launched the Family Life Education/Comprehensive Sexuality Education (FLE/CSE) curriculum and teacher guides for grades 1 to 12. The curriculum was delivered in 66 schools, reaching approximately 14,000 students. FLE/CSE for grades 10 to 12 was integrated into term-two exams, ensuring consistent delivery of the full curriculum by teachers and enabling the assessment of students' knowledge.

Contributing agencies:

Output 2.5.2:

School environments in Samoa are more safe, protective, healthy and hygienic, free from violence and discrimination.

Pacific countries advanced Early Childhood Development (ECD) strategies by testing locally developed parenting support as a core element of ECD policies. In Samoa, a positive parenting program was piloted in Upolu and Savai'i, engaging 83 participants and strengthening family engagement in early development. At the 2023 ECD Forum, 15 Pacific Island Countries reaffirmed their commitment to early years investment. A key outcome was the endorsement of Action Point 10 of the Pasifika Call to Action on ECD, which integrates ECD with climate resilience efforts. This commitment prioritizes ECD to boost community resilience to climate impacts, fosters collaboration between ECD and environmental sectors, and supports advocacy for ECD in global climate discussions, focusing on advancing green financing for ECD programs.

Contributing agencies:

Output 2.5.3: **The education system in [country] is better equipped to provide equitable and innovative learning pathways, starting from early childhood to the lifecycle.**

Notable advancements were made toward enhancing the inclusivity and adaptability of the education system to support equitable learning across the lifecycle. Regional discussions on Inclusive Education informed Samoa's approach, with a framework that aligns with the anticipated 2024 integration of Thematic Inclusive Education into the National Education Sector Plan, ensuring a strategic focus on inclusive practices.

In Adult Education and Learning (ALE), a new ALE framework for Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was structured, underscored by insights from the CONFINTEA consultation. This was furthered through collaborative follow-up sessions on the Marrakech Framework for Action, where robust monitoring and support mechanisms were fortified, fostering a cohesive approach to adult education. Efforts in Higher Education included substantive contributions to the quality education discourse, sharing best practices from global dialogues with regional educational leaders. These efforts are complemented by ongoing technical support to expedite Samoa's ratification of the Asia-Pacific Regional and Global Conventions on Higher Education, advancing regional educational quality standards.

Contributing agencies:

Output 2.5.4: **National Ministry has enhanced evidence-based and risk-informed education plans, policies and coordination mechanisms for transformed and resilient education systems.**

Completing a comprehensive analysis yielded disaggregated data to refine education sector assessments and guide targeted interventions. Lessons learned from a multi-country COVID-19 Education Response study also provided valuable insights into effective regional responses and innovations, contributing to resilient education planning.

Regional collaboration was further reinforced through knowledge-sharing and tool development initiatives under a coordinated framework, enabling education stakeholders to leverage shared tools and practices. Facilitating regional dialogues, including a major consultation with representatives from 13 countries, elevated discussions on education financing, quality, and policy progress, bolstering collective commitment to educational resilience.

Contributing agencies:

Output 2.7.2: **Strengthened institutional capacity and mechanisms to enable inclusive, human-rights-focused policies and systems to prevent, mitigate, and respond to discrimination, harassment, gender-based violence, violence against children, and persons with disabilities.**

Dissemination of the Inter-agency Essential Services Guide (IESG) empowered 1,300 individuals in Samoa with skills to effectively refer and support survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), significantly improving community access to support services. Village-based training programs further raised awareness of GBV and child protection issues, fostering stronger, community-centred response mechanisms.

In legal advancements, a review of the Childcare and Protection Bill and strengthened multi-sectoral coordination contributed to a more robust child protection framework across Samoa. Proposed amendments to the 2013 Family Safety Act enhanced the legal provisions against Gender-Based and Domestic Violence, improving access to justice for vulnerable groups. Additionally, the introduction of the 2023-2028 Crime Prevention Policy and Strategy provided a comprehensive approach to creating safer communities by enhancing the responsiveness of public administration to diverse community needs.

Support for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) included grants awarded to eight CSOs focused on ending violence against women and girls, advancing gender equality, and promoting rights related to sexual health, economic justice, disability inclusion, LGBTQIA+ rights, and environmental advocacy. These initiatives concluded in 2023, contributing to a broad-based community effort for inclusive and equitable support systems.

Contributing agencies:

Output 2.7.3: **Increased individual and community awareness of harmful norms and drivers of violence.**

Community-level efforts to change harmful social norms and reduce gender-based violence gained momentum through targeted awareness-raising activities, including sports programs that promote gender equality. These initiatives led to measurable improvements in community attitudes towards gender equality, with a significant increase in positive behaviors that challenge stereotypes and promote non-violence.

Awareness-raising campaigns also improved community understanding of support mechanisms for violence survivors, with more individuals identifying available services and referral pathways.

Contributing agencies:

PROSPERITY ≫≫≫≫≫≫≫≫≫≫≫≫≫

Output 3.2.1:

Strengthened institutional capacity to design and implement holistic policies to foster blue, green, and creative economy at national and regional levels.

The sub-regional study on cultural policies of SIDS within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was completed, mapping key trends, priorities, and policy recommendations. Peer-reviewed by SPC, it guided interventions at the MONDIACULT 2022 and served as a reference for seven Pacific delegations. The study, covering the Caribbean, Pacific, and Atlantic and Indian Ocean sub-regions, will be presented at the SIDS4 Conference in May 2024.

A Training of Trainers (ToT) program enhanced expertise in implementing the 2003 Convention in the Pacific, with a team of international and regional experts delivering a 5-month training, including webinars, mentoring, and practical fieldwork support. This strengthened the capacity of government entities and civil society organizations, ensuring skills were effectively cascaded.

Samoa has operationalized its National Food Systems Transformation Pathway, achieving progress in enhancing resilience and addressing priorities outlined in the 2030 Pathways. Key results include: (1) Strengthened food policy and regulatory frameworks that facilitate shifts toward sustainable consumption patterns; (2) Increased promotion and availability of local traditional foods; and (3) Improved nutrition education, fostering healthier consumption behaviors within the broader food system. These outcomes are informed by actionable insights from the 2021 Samoa Food Systems Summit Dialogue (SFSSD).

Contributing agencies:

Output 3.3.1:

Strengthened sustainable, climate-smart, gender and youth-sensitive agriculture and fishery sectors through holistic policies and boosted sustainable food production systems, improved agri-processing.

The UN enhanced agri-food systems statistics that leveraged cross-sectoral policy-making and decision-making, contributing to the sustainable transformation of food production systems in Samoa. These statistics included data on key SDG indicators such as hunger, food insecurity, small-scale food production, and women's ownership of agricultural land, which were compiled and disseminated, providing critical insights for ensuring sustainable agricultural practices. In addition, capacity-building efforts focused on improving the regular production of high-quality agriculture data, allowing better agricultural productivity and sustainability monitoring.

Contributing agencies:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Output 3.4.2:

Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms, and policies to enhance equal opportunities for decent jobs and livelihoods.

Significant progress was made in strengthening the capacity of worker and employer organizations through regional meetings and training sessions aimed at improving labour mobility and governance. Coordination meetings led to agreements on enhancing regional labour migration outcomes and addressing critical labour challenges in the Pacific.

National stakeholders participated in a validation workshop to refine the priorities and implementation arrangements of the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) 2024-2028, ensuring that labour policies align with the needs of workers and employers. Samoa has achieved a significant milestone by ratifying ILO's Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187). This demonstrates the country's commitment to progressively establishing a safe and healthy working environment through the implementation of robust occupational safety and health measures.

Additionally, the Labour Force Survey was completed with technical and financial assistance, providing valuable insights into employment trends and challenges. Youth from rural areas also gained new skills through online courses focused on decent jobs and opportunities in the blue economy, further expanding employment prospects.

In the informal sector, market vendors, particularly women, formed three interim Market Vendors Associations (MVAs), marking a transformative step toward organized representation and advocacy. These associations provided women with greater opportunities to participate in decision-making and improved transparency and accountability in marketplace governance.

Capacity-building initiatives empowered vendors with knowledge and skills in financial management, disaster risk preparedness, and workplace safety, significantly enhancing their resilience and economic empowerment.

Eight community-based projects addressing gender-based violence prevention, gender equality, and human rights advocacy were implemented, further strengthening social cohesion and promoting inclusive development.

Contributing agencies:

Output 3.5.2: **Strengthened capacity of institutions and entrepreneurs on financial and fiscal issues, including the new tax reform and debt management.**

In the informal economy, women entrepreneurs were equipped with enhanced business skills, enabling 61 women to formalize their market vending businesses, transitioning them from informal to formal entities. Additionally, 102 women vendors gained essential skills in record-keeping, costing, marketing, and access to finance, leading to improved financial decision-making and management. Increased digital literacy allowed these vendors to track savings and expenditures, boosting their financial resilience.

Health interventions in marketplaces provided mobile health services to 300 market vendors, resulting in the early detection of high-risk health conditions for 60 individuals. Critical medical referrals were made, highlighting the importance of linking economic activities with healthcare access for market vendors.

Contributing agencies:

Output 3.6.2: **Strengthened institutional policies and capacities on digital infrastructure and connectivity, including ICT-related services.**

A Smart Islands program was implemented, involving a comprehensive needs assessment and building digital skills among community members. These efforts improved digital infrastructure and expanded access to ICT services, enhancing connectivity in rural areas.

Further capacity-building initiatives included hands-on training for customs and revenue officials, enhancing their ability to manage trade facilitation and customs operations. Samoa also benefitted from regional workshops provided additional training on Harmonized System (HS) and Rules of Origin (ROO), strengthening national capacity in these critical trade areas.

The UN supported the introduction and successful testing of a prototype digital Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system, registering 375 new births during the pilot phase. This is key to ensure that every person has a legal identity.

Contributing agencies:

PEACE >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

| 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS |

Output 4.1.1: **Strengthened institutional capacities for increasing access to justice, the rule of law, and human rights, especially for those at risk of being left behind, in compliance with international human rights standards.**

Institutional capacities to ensure access to justice were significantly strengthened by establishing and enhancing electronic birth registration systems, increasing access to legal identity for children. A regional multi-sectoral approach to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) was advanced with developing a country-specific work plan for 2024, addressing critical mental health needs across several Pacific countries. Additionally, national asylum management capabilities were enhanced through capacity building initiatives, including hands-on training and remote engagement, which improved asylum claim processing. The foundation for further in-person capacity development was laid, ensuring continued progress in protecting the rights of asylum seekers and refugees.

Contributing agencies:

unicef 🙢   🗝 UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Output 4.1.4: **Increased compliance of domestic laws with international human rights standards.**

Efforts to align national laws with international labour standards were advanced through capacity-building initiatives to prepare labour inspectors and government officials to enforce new legislation. National officials benefitted from a regional workshop, which enhanced understanding of labour law reform, enabling them to apply new knowledge to improve dispute resolution mechanisms.

Samoa conducted a gap analysis on domestic legislation against ILO Fundamental Conventions on Occupational Safety and Health, amended the Labour and Employment Relations Act in 2024, and ratified ILO's Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), reinforcing its commitment to a safe, harassment-free workplace.

Gender-responsive planning and programming within the national context also saw improvements, with increased awareness and integration of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) principles into institutional work plans and joint UN initiatives. This has led to a more coordinated and strategic approach to gender mainstreaming.

Technical support enhanced Samoa's capacity to address Trafficking in Persons across legislation, policy, coordination, prevention, protection, and prosecution,

identifying strengths and areas for improvement. Training improved skills in identifying and referring victims of trafficking and labor exploitation in the fishing industry, promoting safe and decent employment on regional fishing vessels.

Contributing agencies:

Output 4.1.5: **Increased capacities for state party reporting to human rights treaty bodies.**

Capacities for reporting to international human rights bodies were strengthened through technical support, which enabled national delegations to effectively engage in global and regional intergovernmental processes on gender equality and human rights. Samoa successfully submitted reports to key human rights treaty bodies, and the national mechanism for human rights implementation and reporting was reinforced, enhancing coordination and follow-up on international commitments. Peer learning exchanges provided additional opportunities to share best practices, particularly regarding the protection of children's rights and addressing issues such as corporal punishment and climate change impacts on children.

Contributing agencies:

Output 4.2.2: **Communities and rights holders are empowered to participate in political processes through expanded civic space and dialogue.**

Public awareness of human rights increased through a series of national and regional engagements marking the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These events, which included high-level pledges and commitments, promoted dialogue on human rights education, particularly focusing on children with disabilities. A documentary featuring a deaf educator further emphasized the intersection of cultural values and human rights, contributing to enhanced public understanding of inclusive education. Samoa made key international human rights commitments, including pledges to introduce climate change education into the school curriculum and to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers, demonstrating progress in promoting and protecting human rights.

Contributing Agency:

Output 4.2.4: **Enhanced capacities and systems to identify security threats, including climate security.**

Technical support to law enforcement and border agencies enhanced Samoa's capacity to effectively combat maritime crime in alignment with the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). This support improved cross-border coordination and enforcement, significantly advancing national efforts to secure and protect maritime borders.

Border security capacities to detect and counter terrorism and serious crimes were strengthened through a capacity assessment, a national consultation workshop, and the development of a draft roadmap for implementing a passenger data exchange system.

Contributing agencies:

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime   **IOM** UN MIGRATION

Output 4.3.1:

Enhanced institutional and other capacities among NHRIs and other oversight independent bodies to effectively uphold transparency and accountability.

Enhanced Gender Equality Marker coding across CIPs led to more accurate gender-responsive reporting, while awareness-raising efforts increased understanding of Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and available domestic violence resources among UN staff. Public engagement on gender equality was furthered through joint media campaigns marking International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism, fostering greater community awareness.

In partnership with Samoa's Ombudsman's Office, guidelines were developed on climate change and the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, strengthening the framework for human rights in climate action. A regional workshop enhanced knowledge on children's rights, launching a new General Comment on children's rights in climate contexts, where insights from Miss Samoa 2023 and contributions from over 60 children amplified youth perspectives on climate impacts. These efforts collectively advanced the responsiveness and accountability of oversight bodies in promoting gender equality and environmental rights.

Contributing agencies:

UN WOMEN   unicef   United Nations Human Rights OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Output 4.3.3:

Enhanced rights-based migration policy and its implementation, capacities, tools, mechanisms, and initiatives on transboundary migration governance and human mobility.

Efforts to enhance migration governance for Samoa were advanced through upgrading the national Border Management Information System and improving data management and processing capacities. Collaborative efforts between national stakeholders ensured that the system upgrade was aligned with government priorities, enhancing overall migration management. The development of regional labour mobility principles also strengthened the country's ability to manage labour migration effectively. These initiatives contributed to more efficient cross-border governance, ensuring a stronger legal and institutional framework for managing migration flows.

Contributing agencies:

International Labour Organization   **IOM** UN MIGRATION

Output 4.3.5:

Improved Government capacities to collect, analyze and utilize data and increased awareness of the right to privacy and data protection.

Technical and financial support enabled the successful completion of Samoa's 2022 Labour Force Survey, with a comprehensive report published in 2023, providing vital labor market data for informed policy-making. Additionally, the launch of Samoa's National Strategy and Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour, alongside updated Employee-Employer Guidelines on Labour and Employment Relations, marked significant strides toward establishing safe and fair labor standards. These advancements in 2023 further solidified Samoa's commitment to improved labor conditions and protections.

Contributing agencies:

Output 4.4.3:

The relevant institutions have adequate power, mandate, and capacity to share responsibility in fighting corruption.

The development of Samoa's first National Anti-Corruption Policy marked a foundational step toward a more robust framework for preventing, detecting, and prosecuting corruption. Capacity development initiatives equipped 128 public servants and journalists with essential knowledge on ethical conduct and investigative reporting, enhancing transparency and governance accountability.

Further technical support in anti-corruption and financial investigations enhanced national institutions' ability to detect and respond to corruption effectively. Enhanced capacities within law enforcement and border agencies also bolstered efforts to address maritime crime in alignment with the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), promoting improved cross-border security and coordinated enforcement.

Contributing agencies:

Output 4.5.2:

Institutional capacities, mechanisms, and policies are enhanced to design and implement PFM reforms to strengthen budgeting, increase accountability, and ensure gender-responsive budgeting.

Public financial management (PFM) reforms were strengthened by integrating gender-responsive budgeting practices across key government ministries. Enhanced capacities within these ministries ensured that gender considerations were effectively incorporated into national budgetary processes, linking policy objectives to resource allocations. Reviewing and updating the national sector planning manual also aligned planning and budgeting processes with the country's broader development frameworks, contributing to more strategic and accountable resource management. These reforms were instrumental in ensuring budgetary allocations reflected the country's commitment to gender equality and inclusivity.

Contributing agencies:

Output 4.6.2: **Improving knowledge and behaviors related to gender equality, women's economic empowerment, and young people's rights to political participation and leadership within local communities.**

Samoa has made notable progress in promoting gender equality and women's leadership through capacity development initiatives targeting women's participation in traditional leadership roles and public sector boards. Training programs equip women with the necessary skills in oratory and governance, resulting in increased female representation on public boards and greater confidence in public speaking. These efforts directly contributed to breaking down barriers for women in traditionally male-dominated spaces, fostering a more inclusive political and leadership environment. Gender-responsive budgeting practices continued to be institutionalized across government ministries, reinforcing the connection between gender equality and economic empowerment.

A training of trainers on "Start and Improve Your Business" (SIYB) enhanced the capacity of tripartite partners, including women, to support entrepreneurship and business development.

Contributing agencies:

CHALLENGES[2]

The Samoa CIP Review identifies key bottlenecks and systemic issues that have negatively impacted the delivery of UN programs and the achievement of Samoa's development goals. These challenges stem from operational, technical, and resource-related constraints that hinder effective program implementation and progress.

One significant challenge is the operational delays in **project execution**, which result in underutilization of resources and slower delivery of results. Factors contributing to this include lengthy administrative processes, limited absorptive capacity among implementing partners, and the lack of agile project management mechanisms to address unforeseen issues promptly. This has, at times, led to missed opportunities for timely and impactful interventions.

Another critical bottleneck is the **limited capacity to generate and utilize reliable data** to inform program design, implementation, and monitoring. While efforts are underway to strengthen data systems, challenges such as fragmented data sources, inconsistent reporting, and gaps in baseline data remain. This hinders evidence-based decision-making and the ability to measure progress effectively, particularly in sectors like social protection, climate resilience, and economic empowerment.

Coordination inefficiencies also pose a challenge, particularly in multi-sectoral interventions requiring collaboration across government ministries, UN agencies, and development partners. Limited alignment in planning and execution often results in duplication of efforts, gaps in program delivery, and delays in achieving shared outcomes. Strengthening coordination mechanisms will be critical to ensuring synergy and maximizing collective impact.

Furthermore, **the UN's technical expertise and unique comparative advantages** in Samoa are not always fully harnessed, partly because it is often perceived primarily as a funding partner.

Finally, data gaps and compliance issues within UNINFO remain a challenge for accurate progress tracking and reporting. Limited agency adherence to input requirements and delays in updating program results reduce the platform's utility as a performance monitoring tool. Addressing these issues, alongside the development of a streamlined, coherent monitoring and evaluation framework at the Cooperation Framework (CF) level, will enhance the UN's ability to demonstrate results effectively and tell a cohesive narrative of its contribution.

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[2] The theme we selected for challenges is derived from the narratives uploaded in UNInfo

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

To address the identified challenges, solving issues with UNINFO, improving budget disbursement processes, and enhancing coordination between UN agencies, government bodies, and other stakeholders will be necessary. Additionally, there is a clear need to scale up investments, particularly in areas like **People** and **Prosperity**, with a strong focus on achieving gender equality, to ensure that the broader social and economic challenges are adequately addressed, bearing in mind the specifics and needs of different societal groups. Without these changes, the current implementation and resource use gaps could undermine the UN's ability to deliver successfully on the Samoa CIP.

On the way forward, the UN system should:

Adopt the results indicators in the Pathway for Development of Samoa (PDS) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework where relevant. The Samoa government finalized the PDS M&E framework in 2024. The framework has identified baselines, targets and performance indicators for the entire development strategy, with significant overlaps with the outcomes being pursued in the UN CIP for Samoa.

Ensure that the scale of UN planned activities and the planned resource expenditure during the **implementation of the CIP aligns with the government's priorities**, technical and absorptive capacity given the government's competing priorities. Mismatches between the UN's planned implementation and the government's capacity to partner and deliver are often at the core of programmatic delays and poor project management, ultimately leading to under expenditure and underperformance.

Better illustrate the transformative role of its investment, which is relatively small in scale but essential due to its role in fostering the enabling environment for positive change. As revealed in the results report, much of the UN's investment is delivered through capacity building, technical assistance, convening and partnerships. While these investments do not directly move the needle on SDGs progress or on progress related to government's national priorities, they are critical elements in the theory of change without which harder and larger investments depend.

Ensure sufficient internal capacity to consistently update UNINFO and assign the issue of data gaps and lack of data accuracy the highest priority. UNINFO is the single results window for the UN system. It is the basis upon which countries assess the contribution of the UN system to their development, and the platform that will be used by donor countries to decide on their investments. It is therefore critical that UNINFO is outfitted with the most accurate and reliable data and that there are limited to no data gaps.

APPENDIX 1:

Figure 1.1: Samoa CIPS at a glance

UN CIP in Samoa at a Glance (2023-2024)

UN Contributions

22 UN Agencies	140 Interventions
4 UNSDCF Outcomes	42 Sub-Outcomes
Required– USD 25.8M / Available– USD 21.2M / Expenditure– USD 11.4M	17 SDGs

Strategic Priorities/Pillars

PLANET PEOPLE PROSPERITY PEACE

Alignment of Country Strategic Priorities

- **Planet:** Promote environmental conservation.
- **People:** Enhance health and social services and improve education.
- **Prosperity:** Foster economic resilience through tourism and sustainable development.
- **Peace:** Strengthen institutional capacity and governance
- **Partnerships:** Engage in international cooperation.

Figure 2.1: Resource Allocation per pillar

USD Million

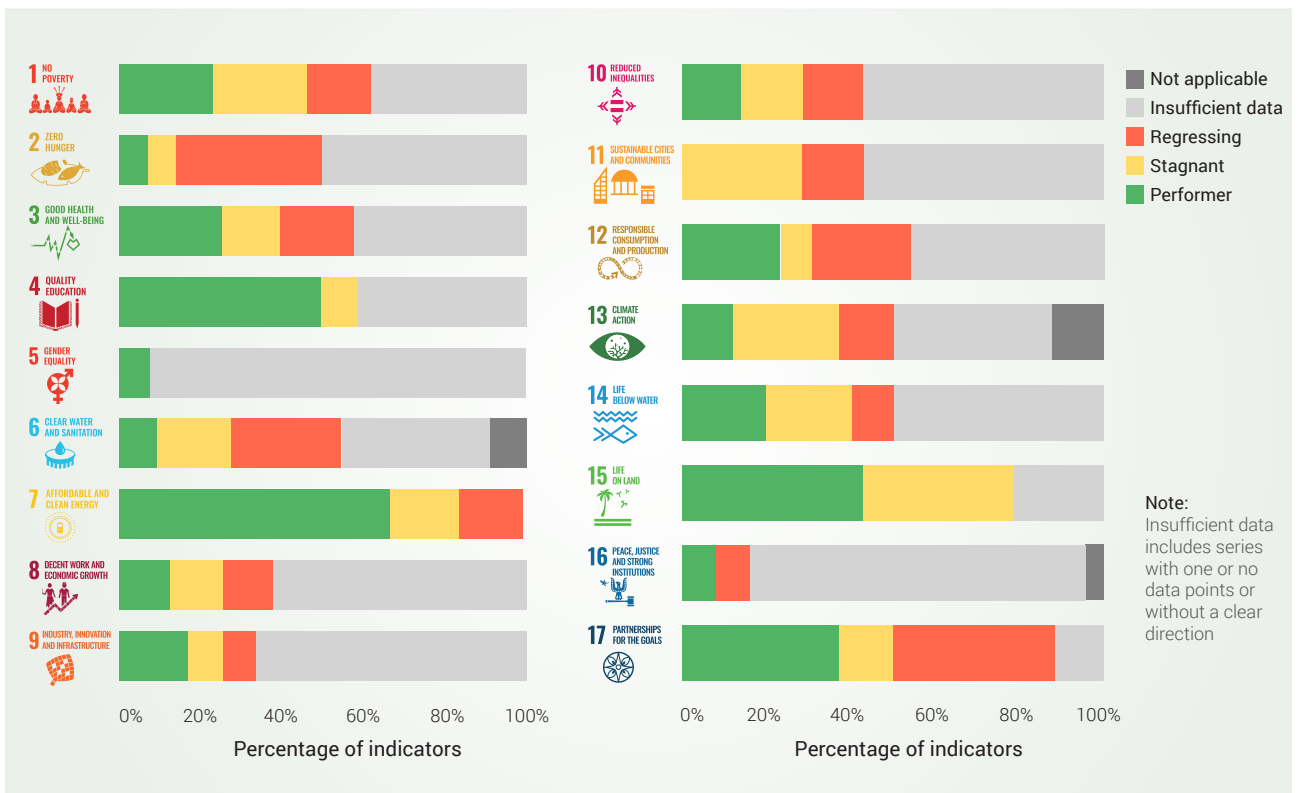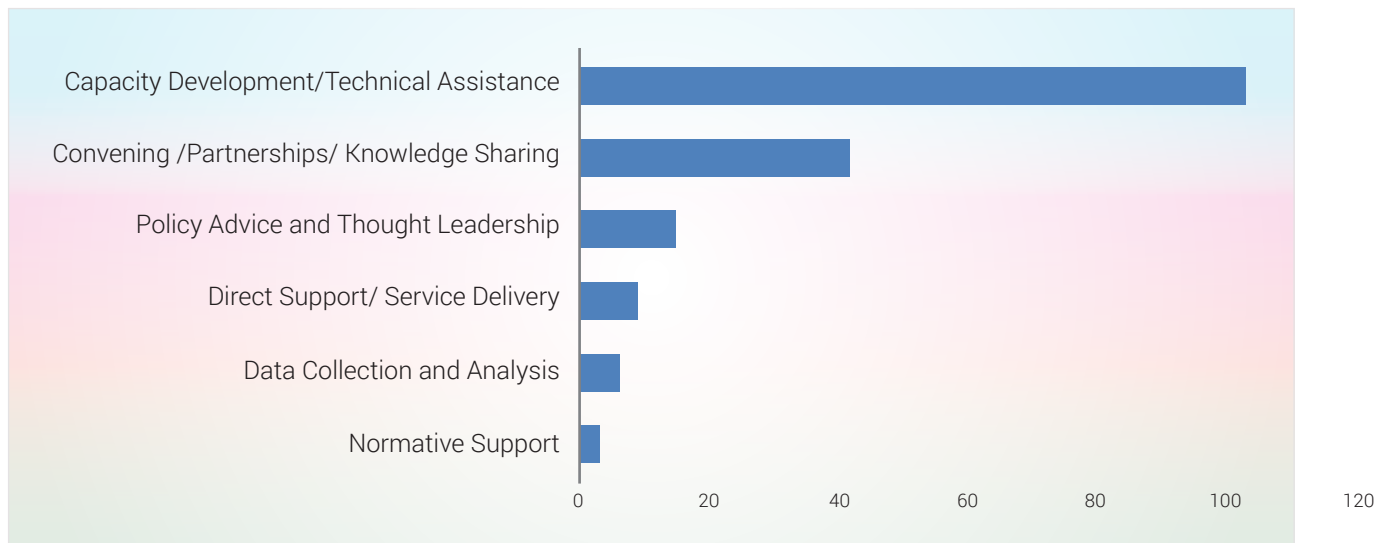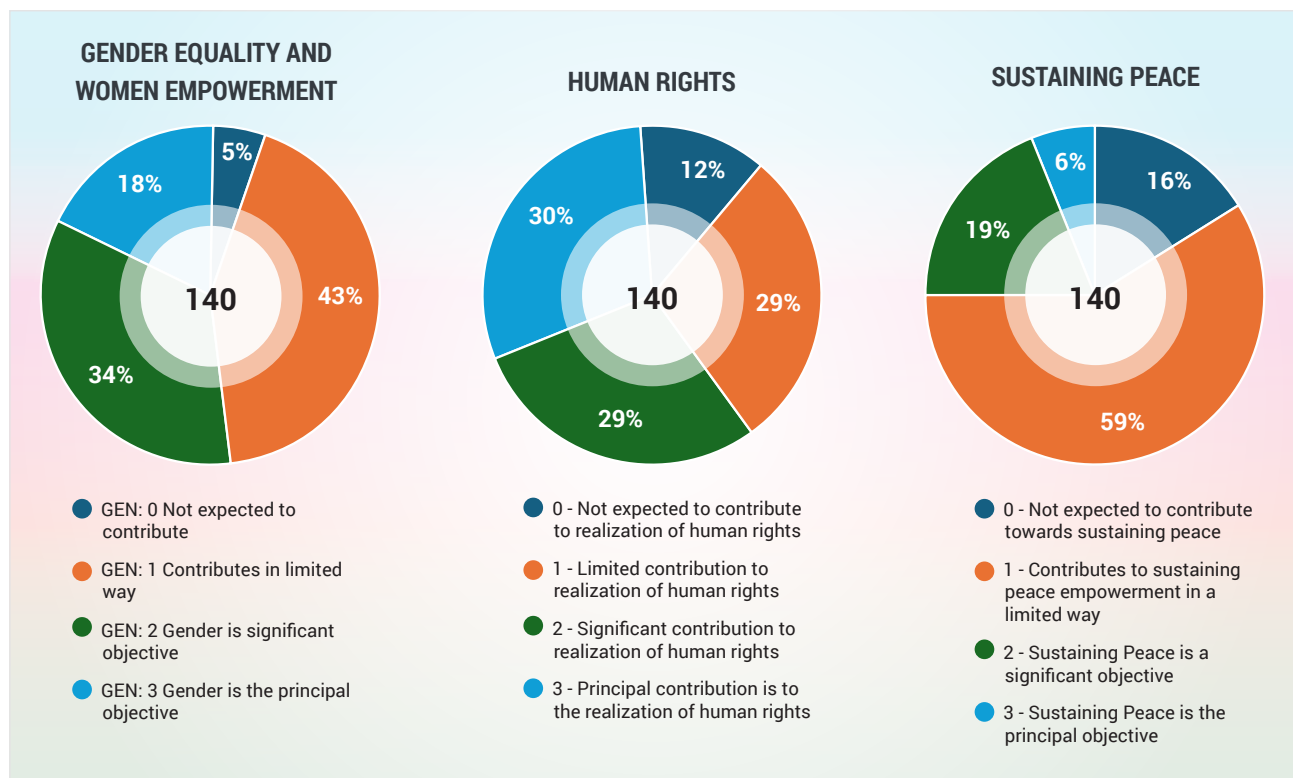|	Required	Available	Expenditure
PLANET	17.0	14.0	6.8
PEOPLE	4.3	3.1	3.0
PROSPERITY	2.4	2.0	0.8
PEACE	2.1	2.0	1.0

Figure 3.1: 2023-2024 Investment by SDG's - Samoa

Figure 3.2: SDG Progress in Samoa

Figure 4.1 UN Specific Interventions

Figure 4.2 Cross Cutting Interventions

APPENDIX 2:

HEATMAP ON UN'S REPORTING FOR SAMOA

Outputs	LIST OF OUTPUT AREAS	UN Contributions (agencies)			
		Full (81-100%)	Adequate (41-80%)	Inadequate (1-40%)	No contribution 0%
PLANET					
1.1.1:	Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms, policies, knowledge, and skills to promote community-led biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and improve ecosystems, in line with UN climate and environment-related conventions		50%		
1.1.3	Strengthened policies for integrated waste management, including hazardous waste and marine pollution	100%			
1.2.2	Increased used of evidence-based approaches and nature-based solutions in building resilience and adaptive capacity among community and institutional actors		50%		
1.2.3	Strengthened policies for integrated waste management, including hazardous waste and marine pollution	100%			
1.3.1	Strengthened institutions and communities capacities, mechanisms and policies to enhance climate change adaptation, resilience, and disaster risk reduction.		50%		
1.3.2	Enhanced capacities of national mechanisms for effective and inclusive disaster management.	100%			
1.3.3	National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and National Disaster Recovery framework are gender responsive and inclusive	100%			
1.4.1	Increased availability and use of disaggregated data (based on gender, location, disability, etc.) and analytics in planning Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) and resilience building	100%			

35

PEOPLE

2.1.1	Strengthened [service provider] capacities to deliver high-quality, resilient people-oriented [public health services] at [service level] for children, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and people of vulnerable groups enabled through	100%			
2.1.2	National public health governance capacity strengthened to [governance functions] for improved	100%			
2.1.3	[Stakeholder] capacities enhanced for the [Emergency response actions] to public health emergencies and ensure the continuity of services		50%		
2.2.1	Expanded access to more inclusive and evidence-based social protection systems for vulnerable groups		50%		
2.2.2	Strengthened institutional capacities, legislation, mechanisms and policies on social protection with holistic approaches to address vulnerabilities, including on domestic violence, gender and vulnerable households.	100%			
2.3.1	Improved [policy and regulatory] environment to promote [access and consumption] of [adequate, affordable, safe, diverse and nutritious food], [in line with traditional knowledge and farming practices] and [healthy lifestyles].	100%			
2.3.2	Enhanced [service level] capacity for evidence-based decision-making to produce and analyze timely data on food insecurity and malnutrition			33%	
2.4.1	Enhanced capacity among service providers to deliver safe and sustainable climate-resilient WASH services in Schools and Healthcare facilities	100%			
2.4.2	Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms and policies on water, sanitation, and hygiene, to increase access to save, affordable and equitable WASH services, including in educational settings.	100%			
2.5.1	Improved National government capacity to deliver relevant, inclusive, quality learning and skill development		75%		
2.5.2	School environments in [Country] are more safe, protective, healthy and hygienic, free from violence and discrimination	100%			

2.5.3	The education system in [country] is better equipped to provide equitable and innovative learning pathways, starting from early childhood and throughout the lifecycle	100%			
2.5.4	[National Ministry] has enhanced evidence-based and risk-informed education plans, policies and coordination mechanisms for transformed and resilient education systems	100%			
2.7.2	Strengthened institutional capacity and mechanisms to enable more conducive and inclusive human-rights-focused policies, legislation, and mechanisms to design and implement effective systems to prevent, mitigate and respond to discrimination, harassment, gender-based violence, violence against children, and persons with disabilities		75%		
2.7.3	Increased individual and community awareness of harmful norms and drivers and effects of violence		66%		

PROSPERITY

3.1.2	Increased uptake of Low-carbon technologies/ solutions through building institutions and communities' capacity.				(red)
3.2.1	Strengthened institutional capacity to design and implement holistic policies to foster blue, green and creative economy at national and regional level		50%		
3.2.3	Improved connectivity and reduced costs of transportation				(red)
3.3.1	Strengthened sustainable, climate-smart, gender and youth sensitive agriculture and fishery sectors through holistic policies and boosted sustainable food production systems, improved Agri-processing.	100%			
3.4.2	Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms and policies to enhance equal opportunities for decent jobs and livelihood.		50%		
3.5.1	Enhanced institutional capacities to implement debt management/debt swap solutions and design and implement equity-based budgeting.				(red)
3.5.2	Strengthened capacity of institutions and entrepreneurs on financial and fiscal issues, including the new tax reform and debt management.		66%		
3.6.2	Strengthened institutional policies and capacities on digital infrastructure and connectivity, including ICT-related services.		50%		

	PEACE				
4.1.1	Strengthened institutional capacities for increasing access to justice, the rule of law and human rights especially those at risk of being left behind, in compliance with international human rights standards.	100%			
4.1.4	Increased compliance of domestic laws with international human rights standards	100%			
4.1.5	Increased capacities for state party reporting to human rights treaty bodies		66%		
4.2.2	Communities and right holders are empowered to participate in political processes through expanded civic space and dialogue	100%			
4.2.4	Enhanced capacities and systems to identify security threats, including climate security		50%		
4.3.1	Enhanced institutional and other capacities among NHRIs and other oversight independent bodies to effectively uphold transparency and accountability.	100%			
4.3.3	Enhanced rights-based migration policy and its implementation, capacities, tools, mechanisms and initiatives on trans-boundary and migration governance and human mobility.		66%		
4.3.5	Improved Government capacities to collect, analyze and utilize data and increased awareness of the right to privacy and data protection.		50%		
4.4.3	The relevant institutions have the adequate power, mandate and capacity, and are sharing the responsibility to fight corruption (prevent, raise awareness of, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption)	100%			
4.5.2	Institutional capacities, mechanisms and policies are enhanced to design and implement PFM reforms to strengthen budgeting, increase accountability and ensure gender-responsive budgeting.	100%			
4.6.2	Improving knowledge and behaviors related to gender equality, women economic empowerment, and young people's rights to political participation and leadership within local communities	100%			
4.6.3	Strengthened policies, mechanisms, and capacities to enhance opportunities for youth, women's and people with disabilities to participate in decision-making.				(red)

APPENDIX 3:

MATRIX

Pillars/ Outcome areas		List of Outputs	Reported	Not Reported
		SAMOA		
Planet	1.1.1	Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms, policies, knowledge, and skills to promote community-led biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and improve ecosystems, in line with UN climate and environment-related conventions	UNDP UNESCO FAO	IAEA
	1.1.3	Strengthened policies for integrated waste management, including hazardous waste and marine pollution	UNEP UNDP	
	1.2.2	Increased used of evidence-based approaches and nature-based solutions in building resilience and adaptive capacity among community and institutional actors	UNESCO FAO UNDP	
	1.2.3	Strengthened policies for integrated waste management, including hazardous waste and marine pollution	UNICEF	
	1.3.1	Strengthened institutions and communities capacities, mechanisms and policies to enhance climate change adaptation, resilience, and disaster risk reduction.	UNICEF UNDP UNESCO	IAEA UNFPA
	1.3.2	Enhanced capacities of national mechanisms for effective and inclusive disaster management.	UNDRR WMO	UNESCO UNFPA UNICEF WFP, WHO
	1.3.3	National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and National Disaster Recovery framework are gender responsive and inclusive	UNFPA	
	1.4.1	Increased availability and use of disaggregated data (based on gender, location, disability, etc.) and analytics in planning Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) and resilience building	UNDP	
People	2.1.1	Strengthened [service provider] capacities to deliver high-quality, resilient people-oriented [public health services] at [service level] for children, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and people of vulnerable groups enabled through	UNICEF UNFPA WHO UNDP	
	2.1.2	National public health governance capacity strengthened to [governance functions] for improved	UNICEF UNFPA WHO	
	2.1.3	[Stakeholder] capacities enhanced for the [Emergency response actions] to public health emergencies and ensure the continuity of services	WHO	UNFPA
	2.2.1	Expanded access to more inclusive and evidence-based social protection systems for vulnerable groups	UNICEF	UNESCAP

People	**2.2.2**	Strengthened institutional capacities, legislation, mechanisms and policies on social protection with holistic approaches to address vulnerabilities, including on domestic violence, gender and vulnerable households.	UNHCR	
	2.3.1	Improved [policy and regulatory] environment to promote [access and consumption] of [adequate, affordable, safe, diverse and nutritious food], [in line with traditional knowledge and farming practices] and [healthy lifestyles].	UNICEF FAO	
	2.3.2	Enhanced [service level] capacity for evidence-based decision-making to produce and analyze timely data on food insecurity and malnutrition	WFP	IAEA UNESCAP
	2.4.1	Enhanced capacity among service providers to deliver safe and sustainable climate-resilient WASH services in Schools and Healthcare facilities	UNICEF	
	2.4.2	Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms and policies on water, sanitation, and hygiene, to increase access to save, affordable and equitable WASH services, including in educational settings.		UNICEF
	2.5.1	Improved National government capacity to deliver relevant, inclusive, quality learning and skill development	UNICEF UNESCO	UNESCAP UNFPA
	2.5.2	School environments in [Country] are more safe, protective, healthy and hygienic, free from violence and discrimination		UNICEF
	2.5.3	The education system in [country] is better equipped to provide equitable and innovative learning pathways, starting from early childhood and throughout the lifecycle		UNESCO UNICEF
	2.5.4	[National Ministry] has enhanced evidence-based and risk-informed education plans, policies and coordination mechanisms for transformed and resilient education systems		UNESCO UNICEF
	2.7.2	Strengthened institutional capacity and mechanisms to enable more conducive and inclusive human-rights-focused policies, legislation, and mechanisms to design and implement effective systems to prevent, mitigate and respond to discrimination, harassment, gender-based violence, violence against children, and persons with disabilities	UN-Women UNICEF UNDP	UNFPA UNICEF
	2.7.3	Increased individual and community awareness of harmful norms and drivers and effects of violence		
Prosperity	**3.1.2**	Increased uptake of Low-carbon technologies/ solutions through building institutions and communities' capacity.		UNIDO
	3.2.1	Strengthened institutional capacity to design and implement holistic policies to foster blue, green and creative economy at national and regional level	UNESCO	UNESCAP
	3.2.3	Improved connectivity and reduced costs of transportation		UNESCAP
	3.3.1	Strengthened sustainable, climate-smart, gender and youth sensitive agriculture and fishery sectors through holistic policies and boosted sustainable food production systems, improved Agri-processing.	FAO	
	3.4.2	Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms and policies to enhance equal opportunities for decent jobs and livelihood.	ILO UN-Women UNDP	IAEA UNFPA UNIDO

Prosperity	**3.5.1**	Enhanced institutional capacities to implement debt management/debt swap solutions and design and implement equity-based budgeting.		UNESCAP
	3.5.2	Strengthened capacity of institutions and entrepreneurs on financial and fiscal issues, including the new tax reform and debt management.	UN-Women UNICEF UNDP	UNESCAP
	3.6.2	Strengthened institutional policies and capacities on digital infrastructure and connectivity, including ICT-related services.	ITU UNCTAD FAO, UNDP	UNESCAP
Peace	**4.1.1**	Strengthened institutional capacities for increasing access to justice, the rule of law and human rights especially those at risk of being left behind, in compliance with international human rights standards.	UNICEF UNHCR	
	4.1.4	Increased compliance of domestic laws with international human rights standards	ILO UN-Women IOM	
	4.1.5	Increased capacities for state party reporting to human rights treaty bodies	UN-Women OHCHR	UNFPA
	4.2.2	Communities and right holders are empowered to participate in political processes through expanded civic space and dialogue	OHCHR	
	4.2.4	Enhanced capacities and systems to identify security threats, including climate security	IOM	UNIDO UNODC
	4.3.1	Enhanced institutional and other capacities among NHRIs and other oversight independent bodies to effectively uphold transparency and accountability.		OHCHR UNICEF UN Women
	4.3.3	4.3.3 Enhanced rights-based migration policy and its implementation, capacities, tools, mechanisms and initiatives on trans-boundary and migration governance and human mobility.	ILO IOM	UNIDO
	4.3.5	4.3.5 Improved Government capacities to collect, analyse and utilize data and increased awareness of the right to privacy and data protection.		ILO UNFPA
	4.4.3	The relevant institutions have the adequate power, mandate and capacity, and are sharing the responsibility to fight corruption (prevent, raise awareness of, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption)	UNDP	UNODC
	4.5.2	Institutional capacities, mechanisms and policies are enhanced to design and implement PFM reforms to strengthen budgeting, increase accountability and ensure gender-responsive budgeting.	UN-Women UNDP	
	4.6.2	Improving knowledge and behaviors related to gender equality, women economic empowerment, and young people's rights to political participation and leadership within local communities	UN-Women UNDP	
	4.6.3	Strengthened policies, mechanisms, and capacities to enhance opportunities for youth, women's and people with disabilities to participate in decision-making.		UNESCAP

APPENDIX 4:

Output Result Narratives

PLANET - SAMOA

Output 1.1.1:

Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms, policies, knowledge, and skills to promote community-led biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and improve ecosystems, in line with UN climate and environment-related conventions.

UNDP:
UNDP supported the alignment of Samoa's national biodiversity targets to the Global Biodiversity Framework as part of the ongoing review of its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The updated national targets were presented at COP16 in Cali.

UNESCO:
UNESCO, supported by Australia, organized a regional workshop in Fiji (November 2023), enhancing the capacity of Pacific Island countries to navigate the World Heritage process. The workshop focused on building participants' understanding of Tentative Lists and World Heritage nominations, contributing to increased representation from the region. Preparatory actions, including calls for Expressions of Interest (EoI) and partnerships with regional stakeholders, are underway for further implementation.

UN-Women:
The Gender and Environment Survey Samoa (GES) 2023, among the first in the Pacific, provided critical insights into how women and men in Samoa experience and impact environmental changes, natural disasters, and climate change. It also assessed the environmental effects of their economic activities, offering valuable data for informed decision-making.

UNEP:
In September 2024, Samoa launched its National Environment Sector Plan (NESP) 2023-2027, reinforcing its commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development. The plan was developed through collaboration among the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, UN, SPREP, and diverse stakeholders.

Output 1.1.3:

Strengthened policies for integrated waste management, including hazardous waste and marine pollution

UNEP:

Project implementation was significantly delayed due to prolonged legal processes between the Executive Agency and participating countries, compounded by staff turnover. Despite these challenges, recruitment efforts for a new Project Manager are ongoing, with program activities expected to regain momentum following the finalization of legal agreements.

UNDP:

UNDP provided technical assistance to update the National Integrated Waste Management Strategy (ongoing), addressing problems such as plastic pollution and the safe disposal of end-of-life batteries from electric mobility and renewable energy systems. Additionally, UNDP strengthened governance and operations for two main CSOs in the waste sector in Samoa, STAR and SWARMA. STAR conducted educational campaign in 12 schools, recovering 6.6 tons of plastic waste

Output 1.2.2:

Increased use of evidence-based approaches and nature-based solutions in building resilience and adaptive capacity among community and institutional actors

UNESCO:

Progress was made on the development of Samoa's Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) draft policy, in collaboration with national partners. The policy is expected to be validated and finalized in early 2024. UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and International Geosciences and Geoparks (IGGP) programs promoted sustainable tourism and biodiversity conservation. Feasibility studies for potential Geoparks in five countries were completed, and efforts to expand botanical gardens for medicinal plant conservation advanced, contributing to Samoa's biodiversity and resilience goals.

UNEP:

In September 2024, Samoa launched its State of Environment (SoE) 2023, providing a comprehensive assessment of natural resources, ecosystems, and biodiversity, highlighting progress and challenges across four key areas: natural environment, built environment, climate and disaster, and environmental governance. The SoE's recommendations informed the National Environment Sector Plan 2023-2027 and were developed with broad stakeholder collaboration, led by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment with support from UN and SPREP.

UNDP:

UNDP's support to native reforestation programme in Samoa contributed to native reforestation covering a forest area of 12.278 hectares, and forest enrichment for existing forests of 19.059 hectares through the Cash for Work programme. 1,178 people in the Vaisigano Catchment area benefitted from the Ecosystem Based Adaptation Enterprise Developments (EBAEDP) such as mixed crop farming, florist/ornamental, waste and recycling sewing businesses and vegetable farming. UNDP also empowered communities to implement nature based solutions to improve natural resource management and local livelihoods.

43

Output 1.2.3:

Strengthened policies for integrated waste management, including hazardous waste and marine pollution.

UNICEF:

UNICEF launched its first Climate, Energy, Environment, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CEED) strategy in 2023, focusing on promoting children's resilience to climate-related shocks. A climate specialist was recruited to strengthen UNICEF's technical capacity and engagement with regional climate partners. WASH upgrades were completed in 83% of health facilities (10 out of 12), and 100% of facilities received healthcare waste management supplies, enhancing overall health service quality and safety.

Output 1.3.1:

Strengthened institutional and community capacities, mechanisms, and policies to enhance climate change adaptation, resilience, and disaster risk reduction

UNICEF:

UNICEF assessed 10 Health Care Facilities (HCFs) in Samoa, identifying improvements needed in WASH and infection prevention. Support was provided for waste management supplies to improve health care waste segregation and storage in these facilities.

UNDP:

UNDP provided technical assistance for the development of the Apia Integrated Sewage System (AISS) feasibility study, the update of the National Stormwater Masterplan, and the establishment of the Health-Climate Early Warning System (H-CLEWS). The Payment for Ecosystem Services (PESP) program gained traction with formal agreements signed with landowners, supporting ecosystem conservation efforts.

UNESCO:

UNESCO supported Samoa Meteorological Service's participation in the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme. This involvement strengthened Samoa's capacity for tsunami preparedness and regional cooperation on disaster risk management.

WMO:

WMO is supporting the Samoa Meteorological with the development of its Strategic plan and framework for weather, climate and ocean services. In addition, its is supporting the Water Resource Division (WRD)with its groundwater strategy, this work is ongoing. For the WRD, WMO through the CREWS Project installed the MCH database to assist with the management of their data and use. A number of regional workshops allowed the participation from SIMS and WRD such as the Women Leadership workshop for meteorology and hydrology, Media Mana Class on communications and WIS 2.0 and CAP trainings.

Output 1.3.2:

Enhanced capacities of national mechanisms for effective and inclusive disaster management.

UNDRR:

UNDRR supported Samoa's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) through the Sendai Midterm Review, which assessed progress toward disaster risk reduction (DRR) targets and identified priority areas for future efforts. UNDRR facilitated technical reviews of national DRR policies, with a focus on mainstreaming climate adaptation and inclusivity in disaster management systems.

UNICEF

Provided ongoing technical support to enhance national readiness and response capabilities for natural disasters, ensuring systems and personnel are prepared for immediate action.

UNESCO

Delivered a two-week Emergency Response and Preparedness (ERP) workshop for heritage institutions across the Pacific Region, strengthening institutional capacities for disaster response and preservation of cultural assets in emergencies.

UNFPA

Responded swiftly to recent heavy flooding in Samoa by procuring 100 dignity kits for women, girls, and those with disabilities through the Samoa Red Cross Society. In 2023, UNFPA supported the Secretary General of Samoa Red Cross Society and a National Disaster Management Office delegate in training on Accountability to Affected Populations in Bangkok, advancing Samoa's capacity to incorporate accountability measures in future responses.

WFP

Led the Pacific Logistics Cluster, holding regular coordination meetings and producing logistics maps to enhance emergency preparedness in PICTs. Strengthened supply chain capacities through Fiji's National Emergency Response Team training and established a humanitarian logistics micro-qualification program in collaboration with SPC and USP. Led the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, supporting emergency telecommunication system improvements, and provided technical support through the regional Pacific Food Security Cluster (rPFSC) and the Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (PRCWG), thereby reinforcing national preparedness for shocks and hazards.

WHO

Provided technical assistance for Samoa's Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) National Action Plan, finalized in 2023, and developed the Samoa Medicines Policy, launched at the 2023 Health Forum, to standardize medication management and prevent irrational medicine use. Additionally, WHO supported the finalization of the National Health Laboratory Policy (NHLP) 2024 and the Samoa National Health Laboratory Strategic Plan 2024/25 – 2029/30, offering a comprehensive framework to strengthen laboratory services aligned with Samoa's health goals. In 2023, WHO further bolstered Samoa's emergency medical response by training and conducting simulation exercises for the Samoa Emergency Medical Assistance Team (SEMAT) personnel on Savai'i, establishing SOPs, and appointing a SEMAT focal point to advance national emergency preparedness and policy alignment. WHO supported a complete round for Lymphatic Filariasis mass drug administration (MDA).

Output 1.3.3:

National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and National Disaster Recovery framework are gender-responsive and inclusive.

UNFPA:

In response to flooding in Savai'i, UNFPA provided humanitarian support through the Samoa Red Cross Society, distributing dignity kits to women and girls in affected areas. Training on Accountability to Affected Populations was delivered to relevant government ministries and organizations, with a follow-up roundtable planned for 2024 to integrate these principles into disaster preparedness and response.

Output 1.4.1:

Increased availability and use of disaggregated data (based on gender, location, disability, etc.) and analytics in planning Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) and resilience building.

UNDP:

UNDP expanded its household-based biogas systems demonstration scheme and completed reports on feasible financing models for renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) in Samoa. UNDP is also supporting the decarbonization of the transport sector. Key results include, first, strengthening the enabling environment with the ongoing development of the Transport Sector Decarbonization Strategy; a review of Samoa's legislative and policy framework for land and maritime transport was also completed. Second, 56 electric vehicles (EVs) and 20 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) have been imported and allocated to government ministries and state-owned enterprises for public services, replacing aging petrol and diesel fleets; charging stations were installed at strategic sites, including centralized government locations with monitoring systems and SOE-operated facilities. Third, nationwide awareness campaigns launched during CHOGM are raising public understanding of green energy, low-emission vehicles, and inclusive mobility for women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and other vulnerable groups

UNEP:

Samoa has initiated efforts to strengthen institutional, technical, and human capacities to comply with the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. Key progress includes advancements in greenhouse gas inventory systems and the Measurement-Reporting-Verification framework, supported by UN and regional partners.

PEOPLE -SAMOA
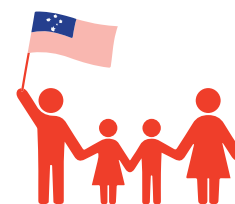
Output 2.1.1:

Strengthened service provider capacities to deliver high-quality, resilient, people-centered public health services at the service level for children, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and vulnerable groups.

UNICEF:

UNICEF's interventions significantly enhanced immunization coverage in the Pacific. In Samoa, the MCV catch-up campaign reached 3,810 children, directly contributing to improved childhood immunization rates. Moreover, the completion of Effective Vaccine Management Assessments (EVMAs) across 10 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), including Samoa, improved cold chain and immunization supply chain systems, ensuring sustainable access to vaccines.

UNFPA:

UNFPA launched the Adolescent and Youth Friendly (AYF) SRH Service Guideline, with training programs reaching over 100 youths, empowering them with critical SRHR information. This initiative equipped 11 out of 16 service delivery points with trained staff on AYF services. In addition, master trainers from the Ministry of Health (MOH) conducted further AYF service training, benefiting 46 young people. In partnership with Samoa's MOH, UNFPA supported two medical doctors in receiving GBV-related training, which in turn led to national GBV health response TOT for 13 healthcare workers in Samoa, strengthening GBV response services at the national level.

Key results in strengthening Samoa's health systems include improved SRH/FP service quality through training 16 health facility managers on a supportive supervision toolkit; the launch of a globally aligned midwifery curriculum in 2023 addressing family planning, adolescent SRH, disability inclusion, and violence against women; and enhanced planning capacity through the Health Facility Readiness and Service Availability assessment of 14 facilities. Ten personnel were trained in reproductive health commodity management, contraceptive deliveries in 2024 protected 3,872 couples, and the family planning readiness score improved from 3.50 in 2023 to 3.59 in 2024. Additionally, RMNCAH staff gained stronger data utilization skills through a 3-day workshop.

Capacity-building efforts expanded NCD interventions, including school-based health screenings for childhood obesity. Mental health services improved through enhanced use of data sources like HFRSA and Supply, enabling informed recommendations and strengthening first aid tools for non-health professionals to address mental health issues.

WHO:

WHO's support for the implementation of the Package of Essential Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Interventions (PEN) expanded to school health screening and referrals, addressing childhood obesity. WHO facilitated capacity-building workshops on updated NCD screening guidelines and developed Health Promotion Standard

Operating Procedures for community usage. WHO also supported mental health services by contextualizing and translating psychological first aid tools into Samoan, ensuring non-health professionals are equipped with mental health management skills. National Mental Health Working Committee has already been established and active. Additionally, the establishment of a national cancer registry enhanced the country's capacity to track and manage cancer cases.

WHO further strengthened Samoa's health workforce through specialized training for midwives and fellowships for radiology, environmental health, and nutrition roles. The EPI program benefited from additional human resources to manage cold chain logistics and vaccine delivery. Nursing and midwifery standards were reviewed and updated, leading to improved healthcare practices and enhanced patient safety at primary care levels.

UNDP

The capacity of the main national hospital was strengthened through the installation of a portable x-ray equipment for Tuberculosis diagnosis and follow ups. Through an integrated approach with the Package of the Essential NCDs Programme, SD Testing were administered for 3 villages, while the frontline workers 6 district hospitals, 4 healthcare centres, and 1 main hospital now have stronger capacities on CD management and disease surveillance

Output 2.1.2:

National public health governance capacity strengthened to improve governance functions for better health outcomes.

UNICEF:

UNICEF provided technical assistance for reviewing and updating Samoa's national immunization and cold chain policies, ensuring alignment with international standards. These policy improvements included introducing new vaccines and standardizing immunization reporting with sex-disaggregated data, enhancing immunization service delivery and cold chain maintenance.

UNFPA:

UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health in finalizing the National Cervical Cancer Policy for Cabinet approval. In collaboration with Samoa's government, discussions began for the review of SRH and GBV prevention legislation, aiming for more robust policy frameworks in 2024. These legislative reviews and the development of Family Planning guidelines and GBV SOPs have strengthened the integration of SRH and GBV into national programs and plans.

Samoa developed its first Cervical Cancer Elimination Policies and Strategies, providing a national framework for coordinated actions toward cervical cancer elimination. A review of postpartum family planning guidelines identified strategies to improve contraceptive uptake, promoting healthy birth spacing with positive impacts on maternal and neonatal health, gender equity, and sustainable development. Additionally, a regional midwifery strategy workshop established a framework for strengthening midwifery in Samoa, focusing on education, regulation, practice development, career pathways, care models, and leadership.

WHO:

WHO conducted a risk assessment of digital health, identifying opportunities and risks associated with digital health initiatives, ensuring data security and system reliability. WHO also provided technical advice to the MOH Tobacco Control Unit and assisted in developing a national tobacco communication strategy, advancing Samoa's tobacco control governance. In 2024, further training will be conducted to enforce tobacco-related laws and policies.

Output 2.1.3:

Enhanced stakeholder capacities for emergency response actions to public health emergencies and ensuring the continuity of services.

WHO:

WHO supported Samoa's completion of its first Joint External Evaluation (JEE) under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), which identified over 80 recommendations to improve health security. WHO's support strengthened Samoa's health system's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies. Additionally, a risk communication and community engagement action plan was developed with WHO's support, aligning with the newly endorsed WHO Communications for Health Framework. Training in RCCE was provided to health workers, contributing to Samoa's readiness in handling health emergencies, such as measles outbreaks and adverse events following immunization.

Output 2.2.1:

Expanded access to more inclusive and evidence-based social protection systems for vulnerable groups.

UNICEF:

UNICEF's support led to the first-ever child-sensitive social protection training in Samoa, strengthening the country's capacity to implement inclusive social protection systems for children. UNICEF also supported Samoa in undertaking a multidimensional child deprivation analysis, enhancing the country's ability to generate accurate child poverty estimates to inform evidence-based policymaking and planning.

Output 2.2.2:

Strengthened institutional capacities, legislation, mechanisms, and policies on social protection with holistic approaches to address vulnerabilities, including domestic violence, gender, and vulnerable households.

UNHCR:

UNHCR introduced a new vulnerability assessment tool in the Pacific, including Samoa, to better target cash-based interventions (CBI) for those most in need. This tool facilitated equitable resource distribution and identified key gaps in social protection services. UNHCR's mapping exercise in Samoa was postponed to 2024, and the focus for 2023 remained on enhancing assessment mechanisms to better serve vulnerable populations.

Output 2.3.1:

Improved policy and regulatory environment to promote access and consumption of adequate, affordable, safe, diverse, and nutritious food, in line with traditional knowledge and farming practices.

UNICEF:

UNICEF conducted a comprehensive review of malnutrition-related policies and barriers across 14 PICTs. The publication and launch of an advocacy package at the Pacific Early Childhood Development Forum provided a strategic platform to promote urgent action on addressing malnutrition, particularly in Samoa, by influencing high-level decision-makers.

Output 2.3.2:

Enhanced service level capacity for evidence-based decision-making to produce and analyze timely data on food insecurity and malnutrition.

WFP:

WFP collaborated with national counterparts in Samoa and four other countries to collect cross-sectional data through its mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) tool. The mVAM platform improved government capacity to monitor food security trends and incorporate data-driven decision-making into national food security and nutrition monitoring systems.

Output 2.4.1:

Enhanced capacity among service providers to deliver safe and sustainable climate-resilient WASH services in schools and healthcare facilities.

UNICEF:

UNICEF provided technical support to improve WASH services, including piloting a climate-resilient water supply system in Samoa. The assessment of 10 healthcare facilities (HCFs) in Samoa highlighted areas for improvement in WASH services, including waste management and infection prevention.

Output 2.4.2:

Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms and policies on water, sanitation, and hygiene, to increase access to save, affordable and equitable WASH services, including in educational settings.

UNICEF:

In Samoa, UNICEF has significantly advanced WASH standards in healthcare facilities (HCFs) over the past two years. In 2023, UNICEF successfully assessed WASH conditions across 10 HCFs, identifying specific areas for improvement. Building on this assessment, UNICEF enhanced infection prevention and control (IPC) protocols by providing essential waste management supplies, resulting in improved waste segregation and secure storage of healthcare waste in all assessed facilities, thereby ensuring safer and more hygienic healthcare environments.

Output 2.5.1:

Improved National Government capacity to deliver relevant, inclusive, quality learning and skill development.

UNICEF:

UNICEF's collaboration led to the development of the MICS Education Analysis for Global Learning and Equity (MICS-EAGLE) in Samoa, with disaggregated data used to strengthen sector-wide education analysis. COVID-19 education responses were documented across 15 Pacific countries, highlighting lessons learned to guide future education planning.

UNESCO:

UNESCO advanced discussions on resilience in education systems through joint resource papers and workshops. Progress toward a regional Pacific All-Life Skills Framework was made in 2023, with high-level agreement on investing in life skills development for Pacific education systems, including Samoa.

UNFPA:

Through collaboration with the Samoa Family Health Association, UNFPA's Out-of-School Family Life Education (OOS FLE) Community training reached 609 participants, including youth, parents, and community leaders, enhancing skills for health and well-being. Partnering with the Samoa Red Cross, UNFPA also delivered OOS FLE training to 80 youth, empowering them with skills for respectful relationships and informed decision-making.

In partnership with Samoa's Ministry of Education, Sports, and Culture, UNFPA trained over 110 teachers across Upolu and Savaii in integrating Family Life Education (FLE) into key school subjects, expanding FLE expertise nationally. Samoa's success as a model country in FLE/CSE rollout was highlighted by a study visit from Nauru's delegation in 2023.

Samoa completed and launched the Family Life Education/Comprehensive Sexuality Education (FLE/CSE) curriculum and teacher guides for grades 1 to 12. The curriculum was delivered in 66 schools, reaching approximately 14,000 students. FLE/CSE for grades 10 to 12 was integrated into term-two exams, ensuring consistent delivery of the full curriculum by teachers and enabling the assessment of students' knowledge.

Output 2.5.2:

School environments in [Country] are more safe, protective, healthy and hygienic, free from violence and discrimination.

UNICEF:

Pacific countries advanced Early Childhood Development (ECD) strategies by testing locally-developed parenting support as a core element of ECD policies. In Samoa, a positive parenting program was piloted in Upolu and Savai'i, engaging 83 participants and strengthening family engagement in early development. At the 2023 ECD Forum, 15 Pacific Island Countries reaffirmed their commitment to early years investment. A key outcome was the endorsement of Action Point 10 of the Pasifika Call to Action on ECD, which integrates ECD with climate resilience efforts. This commitment prioritizes ECD as a means to boost community resilience to climate impacts, fosters collaboration between ECD and environmental sectors, and supports advocacy for ECD in global climate discussions, with a focus on advancing green financing for ECD programs.

Output 2.5.3:

The education system in [country] is better equipped to provide equitable and innovative learning pathways, starting from early childhood and throughout the lifecycle.

UNICEF:

Samoa engaged in regional discussions on Inclusive Education, contributing to the 2020 and 2021 Regional Review. Detailed planning on integrating Thematic Inclusive Education into Samoa's National Education Sector Plan is anticipated in 2024.

UNESCO:

In Adult Education and Learning (ALE), UNESCO supported Pacific SIDS in shaping the new ALE framework, launching the Pacific CONFINTEA consultation report. In November 2023, UNESCO, in partnership with UIL, IMPAECT (CSO), and the University of Waikato, facilitated a Pacific follow-up on the Marrakech Framework for Action to strengthen monitoring and support mechanisms. For Higher Education, UNESCO advanced regional dialogue on quality education, sharing insights from the World Conference on Higher Education at the Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES) 25th meeting, and continues to provide technical support for ratifying the Asia-Pacific Regional and Global Conventions on Higher Education.

Output 2.5.4:

[National Ministry] has enhanced evidence-based and risk-informed education plans, policies and coordination mechanisms for transformed and resilient education systems.

UNICEF:

Samoa completed the MICS-EAGLE analysis, yielding disaggregated data to enhance education sector analysis and inform targeted actions. UNICEF also contributed to a 15-country COVID-19 Education Response study, documenting regional innovations and lessons. Under PacREF, regional knowledge-sharing and tool development advanced, guided by stakeholders.

UNESCO:

As Secretariat for the Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES), UNESCO facilitated regional education dialogue and co-hosted the 25th PHES Consultation, where 13 countries discussed education financing, quality, and PacREF progress.

In Samoa, UNESCO supported the Ministry of Education in developing the Samoa Education Management Information System (SEMIS), with the Education Sector Advisory Implementation Plan now approved. UNESCO also supported MESC's efforts to finalize the EMIS policy and strengthen data skills within the education administration

Output 2.7.2:

Strengthened institutional capacity and mechanisms to enable inclusive, human-rights-focused policies and systems to prevent, mitigate, and respond to discrimination, harassment, gender-based violence, violence against children, and persons with disabilities.

UN-Women:

UN-Women's dissemination of the Inter-agency Essential Services Guide (IESG) empowered 1,300 individuals in Samoa to refer and support survivors of violence, significantly improving access to GBV support services. Village-based training programs raised awareness of GBV and child protection issues, creating stronger community-based response mechanisms.

UNICEF:

UNICEF supported the legal review of the Childcare and Protection Bill and continued to strengthen multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for child protection across Samoa, contributing to a stronger legal framework for safeguarding children.

UNDP:

UNDP strengthened Samoa's legal framework for Gender-Based and Domestic Violence through proposed amendments to the 2013 Family Safety Act, enhancing access to justice for vulnerable groups. The 2023-28 Crime Prevention Policy and Strategy further supports safer communities by improving public administration's responsiveness to diverse needs.

UNDP awarded grants to eight Civil Society Organizations for projects aimed at ending violence against women and girls, promoting gender equality, and advancing rights related to sexual health, economic justice, disability, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, and environmental issues. The project concluded in 2023.

Output 2.7.3:

Increased individual and community awareness of harmful norms, drivers, and effects of violence.

UN-Women:

In 2023, Samoa completed the design, development, and validation of its first-ever National Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls Framework (NPF). This framework, led by the Ministry of Women, Community, and Social Development (MWCSD), is expected to be adopted in early 2024, reinforcing Samoa's commitment to eliminating gender-based violence (GBV). The NPF emphasizes prevention, survivor-centered services, perpetrator accountability, and strengthened prevention infrastructure, with a focus on transforming harmful social norms and gender stereotypes at all societal levels.

The "Get into Rugby (GIR) Plus" program played a key role in raising awareness and promoting gender equality among young people. In 2023, the program reached 695 students (330 girls, 365 boys), resulting in significant improvements in behaviors that challenge gender-based stereotypes.

Key outcomes included:

- A 47% increase in students standing up against gender stereotypes.
- A 70% increase in students consciously avoiding gender-normative statements.
- 100% of participants now recognizing the Child Helpline as a support resource.
- A 69% decrease in male students blaming girls for sexual harassment (from 69.5% to 0%).
- A complete shift in female students, with 100% no longer blaming girls for harassment.

After 10 sessions, 100% of boys disagreed with the use of violence to defend their reputation—an almost total reversal from pre-program attitudes. Additionally, students showed improved understanding of safe physical environments in sports, with a 76.3% increase in knowledge about necessary safety measures, such as first aid and field safety protocols.

UNICEF:

Technical support was provided to strengthen child protection through awareness campaigns, training programs, and community-based interventions aimed at preventing violence against children. These efforts have contributed to improved community understanding of violence prevention and stronger protective environments for children.
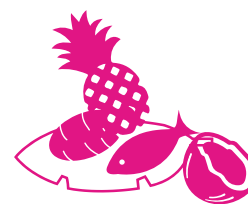
PROSPERITY -SAMOA

Output - 3.2.1:

Strengthened institutional capacity to design and implement holistic policies to foster blue, green, and creative economy at national and regional levels.

UNESCO:

The sub-regional study on cultural policies of SIDS within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was completed, mapping key trends, priorities, and policy recommendations. Peer-reviewed by SPC, it guided interventions at the MONDIACULT 2022 and served as a reference for seven Pacific delegations. The study, covering the Caribbean, Pacific, and Atlantic and Indian Ocean sub-regions, will be presented at the SIDS4 Conference in May 2024.

A Training of Trainers (ToT) program enhanced expertise in implementing the 2003 Convention in the Pacific, with a team of international and regional experts delivering a 5-month training, including webinars, mentoring, and practical fieldwork support. This strengthened the capacity of government entities and civil society organizations, ensuring skills were effectively cascaded.

Output 3.3.1:

Strengthened sustainable, climate-smart, gender and youth-sensitive agriculture and fishery sectors through holistic policies and boosted sustainable food production systems, improved agri-processing.

FAO:

Key results include significant progress in improving the availability and quality of agri-food systems statistics to support cross-sectoral policy and decision-making. Data compiled for SDG indicators, such as 2.1.1 (Hunger), 2.1.2 (Severity of food insecurity), 2.3.1 (Productivity of small-scale food producers), 2.3.2 (Income of small-scale food producers), and 5.a.1 (Women's ownership of agricultural land), has contributed to tracking agricultural sustainability and food security. This data is vital for ensuring the sustainability of food production systems and implementing resilient agricultural practices. Additionally, the capacity to produce regular, high-quality agricultural commodity data was strengthened, improving the monitoring of agriculture production and sustainability in Samoa and other Pacific Island countries.

Output 3.4.2:

Strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms, and policies to enhance equal opportunities for decent jobs and livelihoods.

ILO:

In 2023, significant progress was made in strengthening employer and worker organizations in Samoa through various capacity-building initiatives. This included participation in regional meetings such as the Pacific Workers' and Employers' Organizations Coordination Meeting on Labour Mobility, which resulted in improved coordination among stakeholders and an agreement to enhance regional labour migration outcomes. The Pacific High-Level Dialogue in Suva and the International Labour Conference in 2024 brought Samoa's employers and workers together with other Pacific Island countries to address critical labour challenges, contributing to stronger regional labour governance and compliance to International Labour Standards.

Additionally, a validation workshop was conducted on Samoa's Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) 2024-2028, involving key stakeholders in refining priorities, outcomes, and monitoring arrangements. The Samoa Labour Force Survey (LFS) was supported with technical and financial assistance, resulting in the preparation of a comprehensive LFS report. Furthermore, ITCILO online training provided rural youth with skills and knowledge related to decent jobs and opportunities within the blue economy, expanding employment prospects for young people.

UN-Women:

In 2023, three interim Market Vendors Associations (MVAs) were established in key marketplaces (Fugalei, Salelologa, and Savalalo Fish Market). These associations represent a transformative step towards advocating for the rights of women market vendors, with over 90% female representation in their executive committees. This progress has empowered women to participate actively in decision-making processes that affect their livelihoods. Additionally, capacity-building efforts enhanced the operational capabilities of these associations, enabling them to bridge communication gaps and foster transparency and accountability in marketplace governance.

In response to disaster risk, rural market vendors undertook disaster risk assessments at two major markets, supported by training programs that equipped 162 vendors (62 women, 100 men) with first aid and fire safety skills. The installation of CCTV cameras and enhanced security measures in key markets further strengthened community resilience. These initiatives not only improved safety and disaster preparedness but also empowered vendors economically by fostering safer working environments.

UNDP:

Eight Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) received grants to implement community-focused projects aimed at preventing violence against women and girls. These projects addressed a range of issues, including gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, promoting gender equality, advocating for disability justice, and advancing the rights of LGBTQIA+ communities. The completion of these projects has strengthened community resilience to GBV and raised awareness of human rights across various marginalized groups.

Output 3.5.2:

Strengthened capacity of institutions and entrepreneurs on financial and fiscal issues, including the new tax reform and debt management.

UN-Women:

A targeted initiative empowered 61 women entrepreneurs by providing them with the necessary skills to formalize their businesses, transitioning from informal market vendors to formally registered entities. Through financial literacy training, 102 women market vendors acquired critical knowledge in record-keeping, costing, pricing, marketing strategies, and access to finance. This training led to improved financial decision-making and management, with some women applying new digital literacy skills to monitor their savings and expenditures on provided tablets.

In addition, 300 market vendors (158 women) accessed mobile health services, with 60 individuals identified as having high-risk health conditions such as hypertension or diabetes. This intervention provided critical referrals for immediate medical attention and raised awareness among vendors of the importance of regular health check-ups, reinforcing the link between economic empowerment and health.

UNICEF:

Samoa launched the first-ever MICS Plus survey, collecting near real-time data on children, families, and households via phone interviews. The results of the first wave of the MICS Plus were disseminated, providing timely insights to inform policy decisions related to child well-being and family dynamics.

UNDP:

In partnership with UN Women, Samoa Business Hub and other NGOs, UNDP enhanced the social and economic security of 575 women market vendors from rural and urban areas in Samoa through financial, business management, digital training, along with establishing nurseries for resilient crops. 50 women vendors are now able to access and use digital banking and other platforms, and relevant business support services, to position their micro enterprises and generate increased revenue. 108 families (48% women farmers, vendors) have now higher capacities in organic farming training and resilient crop nurseries, and are better able to participate in monthly markets and digital trading promoting Samoan products on an international stage. Fifty vendors participated in the Samoa Business Hub CHOGM Trade Village Fair, gaining regional exposure and networking opportunities.

Output 3.6.2:

Strengthened institutional policies and capacities on digital infrastructure and connectivity, including ICT-related services.

ITU:

The implementation of the Smart Islands program in Manono-Tai, Samoa, saw the completion of a community needs assessment and the development of digital skills among community members. This initiative, supported by various international partners, is a key step toward improving digital infrastructure and connectivity in rural areas, enhancing access to ICT services, and fostering digital inclusion.

UNCTAD:

Samoa participated in the ASMP fellowship program, with two staff from the Samoa Revenue and Customs Services undergoing three months of hands-on training, enhancing their capacity in trade facilitation. Additionally, Samoa's participation in regional workshops on Harmonized System (HS) and Rules of Origin (ROO) further strengthened institutional knowledge on trade processes and facilitated improvements in customs operations.

UNDP:

Significant progress has been achieved in strengthening Samoa's Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system through digitalization. With UNDP technical assistance, the Samoa Bureau of Statistics succeeded in undertaking Community User Acceptance Testing of the digital CRVS prototype across four district hospitals resulting in the registration of 375 new births (202 men, 173 women). These numbers validate the digital system's effectiveness in capturing vital statistics at the community level. If adopted at nation al scale, this solution has the potential to capture 100% of the new births that occur in hospitals or at home and will constitute the foundation for the establishment of a digital National ID, which is a government priority for the coming years. In this regard, a comprehensive CRVS assessment report was developed through stakeholder consultations, establishing a foundation for multi-year programming for digitalization of the CRVS system covering all the vital statistics (currently being reviewed by the government). Efforts are also underway to manage historical paper records and enhance data management through the development of a Document Management System.

PEACE - SAMOA

Output 4.1.1:

Strengthened institutional capacities for increasing access to justice, the rule of law, and human rights, especially those at risk of being left behind, in compliance with international human rights standards.

UNICEF supported the Government of Samoa in strengthening electronic birth registration systems, contributing to increased access to legal identity for children. A Child Psychologist and MHPSS Expert led a regional workshop, resulting in a country-specific multi-sectoral MHPSS workplan for 2024, addressing mental health and psychosocial support needs across Samoa and six other Pacific countries.

UNHCR enhanced Samoa's capacity to manage asylum claims by involving Samoan Immigration Division (SID) officials in remote training and shadowing of Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews, resulting in improved competencies in asylum management. This engagement laid the groundwork for in-person capacity development planned for 2024. UNHCR also facilitated broader regional dissemination of referral guidance and advocated for interim protection measures for asylum seekers and refugees in Samoa, contributing to an improved protection environment.

Output 4.1.4:

Increased compliance of domestic laws with international human rights standards.

ILO's Promoting International Labour Standards (PILS) project built the capacity of Samoan labour inspectors through a five-day training in preparation for the enforcement of the Labour and Employment Relations Act (LERA) 2023, which strengthens dispute resolution mechanisms. A sub-regional workshop further enhanced participants' knowledge on labour law reform, and ILO provided ongoing technical assistance to align national laws with ILO conventions. Samoa also ratified the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (C187) and the Violence and Harassment in the Workplace Convention and ILO provided ongoing support towards Samoa's efforts to socialize and implement these.

UN-Women's support has led to improved gender-responsive planning within the UN system in Samoa, fostering a collective commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). UN staff have demonstrated increased awareness and engagement on issues like domestic violence and sexual exploitation, evidenced by the integration of these issues into agency workplans and the Samoa Country Implementation Plan (CIP) 2023-2025.

IOM contributed to addressing the issue of poor working conditions, labour rights violations and human trafficking on fishing vessels in Samoa through conducting the country assessment on Trafficking in Person and training on identifying and referring Victims of Trafficking and labour exploitation in the context of the fishing industry.

Output 4.1.5:

Increased capacities for state party reporting to human rights treaty bodies.

UN-Women Through technical support, Pacific Island delegations, including Samoa, participated in intergovernmental processes like the 67th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting (PIFWLM), fostering alignment with international gender equality commitments. UN Women provided guidance on reporting to international human rights bodies, ensuring Samoa's engagement in global policy discussions.

OHCHR facilitated Samoa's submission of its report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and supported the drafting of its periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Capacity building for the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up (NMIRF) enabled Samoa to strengthen human rights reporting and peer learning.

Output 4.2.2:

Communities and rights holders are empowered to participate in political processes through expanded civic space and dialogue.

OHCHR's support to Samoa's NHRI in organizing Human Rights Day events significantly raised public awareness of the right to education, particularly for children with disabilities. The launch of a documentary featuring a deaf educator further highlighted the intersection between Samoan values and human rights,

fostering dialogue on inclusive education. Samoa also committed to ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers by 2030 and to introduce climate change education in school curriculum, showcasing national progress on international human rights obligations.

Output 4.2.4:

Enhanced capacities and systems to identify security threats, including climate security

UNODC provided technical support to law enforcement and border agencies, enhancing their capacity to combat maritime crime effectively under the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). This support strengthened cross-border coordination and enforcement, advancing Samoa's efforts in securing its maritime borders.

IOM continued to support the government in building their operational and technical capacity to prevent and detect the movement of terrorists and criminals through the collection and analysis of passenger data in line with obligations established under United Nations Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019), as well as international standards and recommended practices, relevant privacy laws and human rights principles.

Output 4.3.1:

Enhanced institutional and other capacities among NHRIs and other oversight independent bodies to effectively uphold transparency and accountability.

UN-Women:

UN-Women's support has strengthened the UN system in Samoa, advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Key achievements include enhanced accuracy in Gender Equality Marker coding across Country Implementation Plans, increased awareness on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and improved understanding of domestic violence resources for UN staff. Public awareness on gender equality grew through joint media campaigns for International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism. UN-Women also guided agencies to ensure gender-responsive contributions to the Samoa CIP 2023-2025, signed by the Government of Samoa in November 2023.

UNICEF and OHCHR:

Together with Samoa's Ombudsman's Office, UNICEF and OHCHR contributed to drafting guidelines on climate change and the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. A regional workshop enhanced knowledge on children's rights, and the launch of the new General Comment on children's rights in climate contexts featured insights from Miss Samoa and over 60 children, amplifying youth voices on climate impacts.

Output 4.3.3:

Enhanced rights-based migration policy and its implementation, capacities, tools, mechanisms, and initiatives on trans-boundary migration governance and human mobility.

ILO contributed to the enhancement of labour mobility governance by strengthening participants' skills in labour law reform during a sub-regional workshop. This workshop improved Samoa's capacity to implement effective labour policies and supported the development of Pacific Regional Labour Mobility Principles.

IOM advanced Samoa's Border Management Information System upgrade, improving data management capacities. The upgraded system will enable Samoan immigration officers to monitor those entering and exiting the territory The upgrade will also allow Samoan government to have a more comprehensive understanding of mobility dynamics and characteristics, contributing to improved border control and law enforcement operations, migrant protection and evidence based policy making.

Output 4.3.5:

Improved Government capacities to collect, analyse and utilize data and increased awareness of the right to privacy and data protection.

ILO:

ILO provided technical and financial support for Samoa's 2022 Labour Force Survey, resulting in the completion of a comprehensive LFS report in 2023. Additionally, ILO Suva supported the launch of Samoa's National Strategy and Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour and the updated Employee-Employer Guidelines to Labour and Employment Relations, advancing efforts toward safe, fair labor standards in August 2023.

Output 4.4.3:

The relevant institutions have adequate power, mandate, and capacity to share responsibility in fighting corruption.

UNDP supported the development of Samoa's first National Anti-Corruption Policy, strengthening institutional capacities to prevent, detect, and prosecute corruption. Through capacity development initiatives, 128 public servants and journalists gained enhanced knowledge on ethical conduct and investigative reporting, contributing to a more transparent governance environment.

UNODC:

UNODC delivered technical support for training in anti-corruption and financial investigations, strengthening the capabilities of local agencies to detect and address corruption effectively. Additionally, UNODC enhanced law enforcement and border agency capacities to combat maritime crime under the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), improving cross-border security and enforcement.

Output 4.5.2:

Institutional capacities, mechanisms, and policies are enhanced to design and implement PFM reforms to strengthen budgeting, increase accountability, and ensure gender-responsive budgeting.

UN-Women supported the Ministry of Women, Community, and Social Development (MWCSD) in strengthening gender-responsive budgeting, resulting in improved integration of gender considerations across multiple government ministries. This led to more gender-equitable resource allocations within the national budget.

UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, updated Samoa's National Sector Planning Manual, aligning national planning and budgeting processes with the government's broader development frameworks. This effort ensured that budgetary allocations were more strategic and results-oriented.

Output 4.6.2:

Improving knowledge and behaviors related to gender equality, women's economic empowerment, and young people's rights to political participation and leadership within local communities.

UN-Women strengthened the capacity of government ministries in Samoa on gender-responsive budgeting, particularly within the Ministries of Finance, Commerce, and Agriculture. This resulted in more effective gender integration in policy and budgetary planning, contributing to women's economic empowerment and gender equality.

UNDP's collaboration with the Samoa Culture Centre resulted in 73 women passing oratory language proficiency tests, a key milestone for Samoan women pursuing leadership roles in traditionally male-dominated spaces. Additionally, UNDP's training program increased women's representation on public sector boards from 24% in 2019 to 39% in 2023.