

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN SAMOA



SAMOA
Delivering as One



Joint actions. Better results.



Joint actions. Better results.

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Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present you the United Nations (UN) system in Samoa.

This booklet is an overview of the specific mandates and areas of expertise of the 13 UN agencies that have presence in the country. Beyond these, there are many other UN agencies that have programs in Samoa directly managed from the UN office in Suva, Fiji. Created for all our partners, this publication aims at raising awareness on the role the UN plays to improve the quality of life for the Pacific communities.

The United Nations partners with the Government of Samoa and its people to address the main development challenges and meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by UN member states on September 25th, this year.

As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: "The new development agenda is bold and transformational. It is a plan of action for ending poverty

in all its dimensions, irreversibly, everywhere, and leaving no one behind. It seeks to ensure peace and prosperity, and forge partnerships with people and planet at the core".

We appreciate the strong collaboration with Samoa's ministries and I am grateful to all our development partners who make our work in the country possible by providing their invaluable support, dedication and contributions.

We look forward to working with you to achieve the SDGs in Samoa, a vibrant middle-income country that has made significant development progress in the last decade.

Finally, we strongly encourage opportunities to create new innovative partnerships in our efforts to transform our world by 2030.

Lizbeth Cullity
United Nations Resident Coordinator
Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau

Delivering as One:

Making the UN System more coherent, effective and efficient

The Secretary-General has appointed a Panel of experts to examine ways to improve the performance of the United Nations and develop reforms which will better respond to the challenges of the 21st Century.

One of the key recommendations of this Panel is for the UN system to accelerate its efforts to increase the coherence and effectiveness of programmes and operations in the field by Delivering as One at country level. Among other issues, the Panel highlighted the need for the UN to strengthen the focus on results as well as its partnerships with host Governments.

Eight countries volunteered to pilot the approach and have demonstrated its advantages. The pilot programme countries were: Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

In 2011, the pilot countries undertook evaluations of their experience, shared the lessons learned and set the basis for scaling-up the new approach to help the UN to better coordinate at country level.

Today, more than forty countries around the globe have formally adopted the Delivering as One.

What does the Delivering as One mean in practice?

The “Delivering as One” approach is based on five operational pillars, namely:

- 1 The One Programme** unifies the UN system under one national development strategy, underpinned by integrated policies, services and monitoring through joint work plans;
- 2 The Common Budgetary Framework** provides a shared view of the UN’s contribution as a whole to the country, with the costs of all UN programme activities presented transparently in one place.
- 3 The One Leader** means the strong commitment and accountability of the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team (UNCT) to carry responsibility for the role and results of the UN in the country;
- 4 Operating as One** provides options to build ever more cost-effective common operations and service support; and
- 5 Communicating as One** facilitates coherent messaging and advocacy as well as a consistent strategic dialogue with the national government.

UN system in Samoa: Joint action, better results

In 2012, the Government of Samoa requested the UN to adopt the Delivering as One approach. Since then, the organization has progressively made efforts to align its goals to the national development priorities and bring together the comparative advantages of the UN family to enhance better impact through joint actions.

As agreed between the Government of Samoa and the UN, the main programmatic priorities for the period 2015 to 2017 are women’s empowerment and youth employment. Thus, the UN launched in 2015 two joint programmes namely: the Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa (IPPWS) and the Youth Employment Programme (YEP).

The Delivering as One will help the UN addressing the main development challenges and meet the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a more harmonised, efficient and coherent manner.



Farmer in rural village in Upolu.

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Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) strives to achieve food security for all – to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

To achieve this aim, FAO partners with governments and organisations around the world to improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices. As a technical agency, FAO facilitates partnerships for food and nutrition security, agriculture and rural development between governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector.

The FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Islands was established in Samoa in 1996 to coordinate the work of FAO in 14 countries in the region.

FAO

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The first Green Works Youth Contractors for Samoa, a partnership between ILO, the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment and Samoa Red Cross.

©ILO/Samoa/2015



The International Labour Organization (ILO) was founded in 1919. The ILO became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946. The main aims of the ILO are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.

Samoa became a member of the ILO in 2005 and ratified ILOs eight Fundamental Conventions in 2008. ILO established an office in Samoa in April 2014. ILOs priorities in Samoa are defined under the Decent Work Country Programme.

ILO is currently leading the work to establish the Samoa National Action Plan on Youth Employment in Samoa. The agency is also responsible for establishing the first forum on green works in Samoa for youth and the community at large.

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HIV testing.

©UNAIDS/Asia-Pacific/



The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), is the main advocate for accelerated, comprehensive and coordinated global action on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The mission of UNAIDS is to lead, strengthen and support an expanded response to HIV and AIDS.

In Samoa, in partnership with other UN agencies, UNAIDS focuses on: (1) strengthening the national capacity to scale up of integrated Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) and HIV testing; (2) counseling services and provision of antiretroviral medication to HIV-positive pregnant women in order to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission and (3) strengthening the capacity of teachers on how to deliver sexuality education.

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Financial education in schools.

©PFIP - UNCDF/Samoa/2015



The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is the UN's capital investment agency for the world's 48 least developed countries. It provides technical assistance, capital grants, loans, guarantees and credit enhancements to local governments, financial service providers and local economic actors to drive equitable growth and local development.

In the Pacific, UNCDF has a joint program with UNDP, the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP). PFIP aims to increase access to sustainable, appropriate and affordable financial services by low-income and rural people in the Pacific Island Countries.

In Samoa, PFIP is working with the Central Bank of Samoa to develop an enabling policy environment for financial inclusion. PFIP is also working with private sector financial service providers to develop innovative approaches, such as mobile money and branchless banking, to increase the access to suitable formal financial services to low-income households, especially to women.

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Inauguration of a mangrove-replanting project financed by the Small Grants Programme in Faleula, Upolu.

©UNDP/Samoa/2015/E. Rollando



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities around the globe. UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone.

UNDP Samoa Multi-Country Office was officially set up in 1979 and covers four Pacific Island Countries namely: Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. UNDP works closely with the four Pacific Governments and with other stakeholders in the areas of: Democratic Governance and Poverty Reduction, Women's Empowerment, Environment and Climate Change, Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

The aim of Samoa Multi-Country Office is to make a difference in Pacific people's lives and accelerate progress on human development.

UNDP

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Samoa community clean-up of solid waste in an Apia stream.

© SPREP Samoa 2014



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) leads the United Nations' environmental activities. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the conservation, wise use and sustainable development of the global environment.

The organization has had a long presence in Samoa starting with the establishment of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), back in 1982, as one of its "regional seas" programmes. It has had a project presence and ongoing partnership with SPREP since then and opened its pacific sub-regional office in September 2014.

Recent projects supported by UNEP in Samoa comprise a solid waste management through the prevention of marine litter, strengthening environmental governance, supporting the phase out of ozone depleting substances and an invasive alien species programme which is designed to help restore at least one of Samoa's national parks. These projects reflect UNEP's philosophy of partnerships with sister agencies – in these cases the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and SPREP which have been executing partner agencies for the projects.

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Fale construction at Samoa Culture Centre.

©UNESCO, Samoa/2015/A, Takalasi



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is known as the “intellectual” agency of the United Nations.

The UNESCO Office in Apia contributes to the construction of peace, human development and intercultural dialogue for a sustainable Pacific through education, the sciences, culture, natural sciences, communication and information in the Pacific region within the framework of several global and regional strategy and action plans.

This work is completed in partnership with other United Nations Agencies, regional organisations, educational institutions and civil society. The Apia-based office was opened in September 1984 and serves sixteen independent countries and one territory in the Pacific.

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UNFPA's programme on mobile governance whose aim is to reach remote populations with information on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

© UNFPA Pacific/2014



The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead United Nations agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA's priorities in the Pacific focuses on the promotion of Youth, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections, including HIV; Mainstreaming of Gender Equality and Emerging issues in Population and Development such as Ageing and Climate Change.

In Samoa, UNFPA works closely with the Government in moving the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy 2011 – 2016 forward. The organization also supports the strengthening of national capacities to deliver high quality family planning and reproductive health services, information, commodities and community-based interventions for family resource management.

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UNICEF promoting children's rights and participation.

© UNICEF Pacific/2015



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is the leading humanitarian and development agency working globally for the rights of every child.

UNICEF assistance is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, under the four main groups of rights – survival, development, protection and participation. The organization works with governments, other UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to ensure all rights for all children.

From the Fiji-based sub-regional office UNICEF serves 14 Pacific Islands Countries. UNICEF's work in Samoa began back in 2008, through a joint officer with UNFPA. At country level, the organization focuses on two main areas: protection against child abuse and violence in all its forms, promotion of birth registration and support to adequate health services for children.

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International Volunteer Day: prize giving activity at Salagi Primary School, Upolu.



The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is the United Nations organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

Volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges, and it can transform the pace and nature of development. In Samoa, the UNV works in enhancing volunteerism with a focus on youth engagement. The organization also fosters awareness raising initiatives on the importance of youth civic engagement. Additionally, UNV supports the establishment of a National Youth Volunteer Scheme (NYVS) in partnership with the Samoa National Youth Council (SNYC) to provide youth with a decent work experience and enhancing their future employability.

UNV will further contribute to youth involvement in Samoan society by extending the concept of volunteerism and providing a structured learning and capacity development experience for youth.

UNV

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Women and men chiefs of Faleolupo village come together for a planning meeting with other village leaders to discuss a potential Solar Power Project for the village, to be implemented by their Women's Group.

© UN Women/A. Esquivel



The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was created by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2010. In doing so, UN Member States took an historic step in accelerating the Organization's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

From letting women have a say in where village water holes are built to making sure women have safe spaces free from the fear of violence in their communities gender equality is the means to ensure that women's needs are met in development planning.

The Samoa Office was established in 2012 and falls under the umbrella of UN Women's Fiji Multi-Country Office (MCO) based in Suva which covers 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. In Samoa, UN Women has 3 key programmatic areas: Ending Violence Against Women and the Regional Pacific EAW Facility Fund; Advancing Gender Justice in the Pacific; and the Joint UN Women/UNDP Programme on Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa.

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WHO's village based model to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

© WHO/Samoa/2015/S.McCarthy



The World Health Organization (WHO) is the United Nations specialized agency which primary role is to direct and coordinate international health. WHO's facilitating and convening role in achieving national health goals and outcomes is seen as essential by governments and partners.

WHO cooperation began in 1962 – more than 50 years. WHO's comparative advantage – a strong in-country presence and an ability to provide tailored, evidence-based technical assistance – has contributed to strengthening health systems to address the triple burden of disease namely communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and diseases resulting from the effects of climate change.

Through its country presence in Samoa which also supports, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau; WHO supports development of national health policies, strategies, and service delivery for universal access to essential services, in turn, to achieve health related millennium development goals.

WHO

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WMO plays a key role in providing weather services.

©WMO/2014



The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is the UN system’s authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth’s atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources.

Since its establishment, WMO has played a unique and powerful role in contributing to the safety and welfare of humanity by providing high quality weather and climate services.

The organization contributes substantially to the protection of life and property against natural disasters. The early warnings delivered by national weather services save countless lives and reduce economic losses from storms, floods, droughts and landslides.

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