

# ALIGNING DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION TO THE SDGs IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES: A CASE STUDY OF SAMOA

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# OECD Working Paper

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# Abstract

This case study explores whether the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be used as a shared framework for results by development co-operation actors in Samoa. The study offers an introduction to Samoa's progress in mainstreaming the SDGs in national policy making, as well as in monitoring the SDG targets and indicators. It then focuses on the experiences of development co-operation partners in aligning their country-level programmes and frameworks with the SDGs, and identifies enabling factors, drivers and obstacles that contribute to SDG alignment and monitoring in Samoa. The study concludes with recommendations for both the government and its development partners to increase the collective use of the SDG framework and improve policy coherence, effectiveness and sustainable impact of all development efforts.

# Foreword

Achieving sustainable and resilient societies everywhere is the defining challenge of the 21st century. Realising that ambition, made concrete in the SDGs, requires the international development community to work more closely together. Indeed, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the community will need to collaborate in ways that lead to an inclusive recovery and to systemic transformation.

Can the framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework, with its 169 targets and 232 indicators, be used at the country level as a shared framework for results by development co-operation actors? If governments and their international partners can incorporate the SDG framework in useful ways into their planning and policy or project design, efforts will be less fragmented and better aligned. Interventions will reinforce each other and account for possible synergies and trade-offs. By using standard SDG indicators to monitor the results and impact of their efforts, stakeholders can report on their respective contributions, hold each other accountable, learn about what works and better coordinate their decisions. However, reaping these benefits will first require that all partners collectively align to the SDGs.

In response to a request by the DAC Results Community, in 2019, for guidance on these matters, the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate has undertaken a series of case studies exploring the use of the SDGs in various development contexts. This paper describes the Samoan experience. Its findings and lessons can be applied to other international norms and frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. This work contributes to the broader OECD effort to improve the alignment and contribution of development co-operation towards the SDGs.

# Acknowledgements

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This study would not have been possible without the active engagement, candour and generosity of the many senior officials and technical staff that participated in bilateral interviews, surveys, data sharing, focus groups and validation workshops. These include representatives and officials from the following institutions in Samoa (alphabetically): the Asian Development Bank; the Australian High Commission; the Embassy of the People's Republic of China; the Embassy of Japan; the Embassy of the United States; the European Delegation in Fiji; the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development; New Zealand's High Commission; the Samoa Audit Office; the Samoa Bureau of Statistics; the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations (SUNGO); the technical secretariats of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme; the United Nations' Resident Co-ordinator Office and officials from 13 agencies represented in Apia; as well the World Bank Group.

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# Abbreviations and acronyms

DAC	Development Assistance Committee
GDP	Gross domestic product
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDS	Strategy for the Development of Samoa (national development plan)
SIDS	Small island developing state
UN	United Nations
VNR	Voluntary national review (to the United Nations on progress in implementing the SDGs)

## Specific terminology

Development partners: Bilateral and multilateral organisations that provide development co-operation.

Official development finance: The sum of official development assistance and other official development flows (excluding export subsidies), as defined in OECD rules.

# Executive summary

## Samoa is on an SDG journey

In a comparative perspective, Samoa represents the median situation for most Pacific nations – and a vanguard of SDG adoption. It has a clear vision for the SDGs as a road map to resilience. It has also updated cross-government co-ordination and consultative mechanisms around the SDGs and has mapped the availability of SDG data. In addition, new national strategies, sector plans and monitoring frameworks are progressively informed by the SDG indicator framework. As a result, the country was able to report on SDG progress for the second time in 2020.

Despite this progress, Samoa faces challenges in maximising the use of the SDG framework. Aligning plans, strategies, budgets and finance to the SDGs is a work in progress. Major development partners are also yet to align to the SDGs. And, when they do, it is often as individual organisations, adding to fragmentation of SDG support and delaying the country's progress in SDG alignment and measurement across all of the SDGs (Infographic 1).

## Aligning development co-operation results to the SDGs in Samoa is at an early stage

Samoa has a diverse ecosystem of development partners, which account for around a third of government financing. Government-donor partnerships benefit from mutual trust and high cross-donor collaboration. All partners prioritise country ownership and most use advanced results-based management approaches. Furthermore, there is a strong consensus around the 2030 Agenda. These are enablers for joined-up SDG uptake in Samoa.

However only half of Samoa's partners, representing a third of development funding, have explicitly begun aligning to the SDG framework. Other partners do so implicitly or unintentionally. Overall, framing SDG alignment decisions strategically, i.e. based on synergies, is still rare.

Obstacles to greater alignment include a lack of mandate or guidance from headquarters, own planning cycles, the prevalence of results frameworks designed prior to Samoa's alignment to the SDGs, and a priority to short-term accountability on results over long-term outcomes. The co-existence of "early SDG adopters" and more traditional ones also hinders harmonisation and co-ordination around SDG results. When SDG alignment does take place, it tends to be selective and sector-specific. Integrated, cross-sector approaches are still rare.

## Monitoring approaches that support SDG measurement in Samoa are growing

Only some development partners explicitly support monitoring, evaluation and statistical systems in Samoa. Still, other good practices have increased the availability of data for decision

making. These include regional investments in peer learning, capacity building, monitoring and reporting. Sector-wide programmes have helped build data systems at ministry level, increasing SDG data availability in those sectors. In 2020, Samoa was able to report on 166 SDG-aligned indicators (65% of the total).

## Greater use of the SDGs as a shared framework for results in Samoa is possible

The use of the SDGs in Samoa as a shared framework to guide development efforts is still incipient. The government primarily uses the SDG framework and data for accountability purposes. It is also using the framework and data increasingly in new sector plans.

Half of Samoa's partners use it to formally report on their SDG contributions, too. The next planning phase will offer opportunities for using the SDG framework more broadly for strategic decision making and integrated cross-sector work.

Integrated SDG approaches and fresh SDG data can help address the negative effects of the pandemic and increase the impact of development co-operation efforts. Development partners should consider adjusting their project designs and results-based approaches so as to add to the availability and use of SDG data in Samoa. 4Annex D provides an SDG-aligned framework for shared results in Samoa, taking into account Samoa's data availability.

## Key recommendations

### For the government of Samoa:

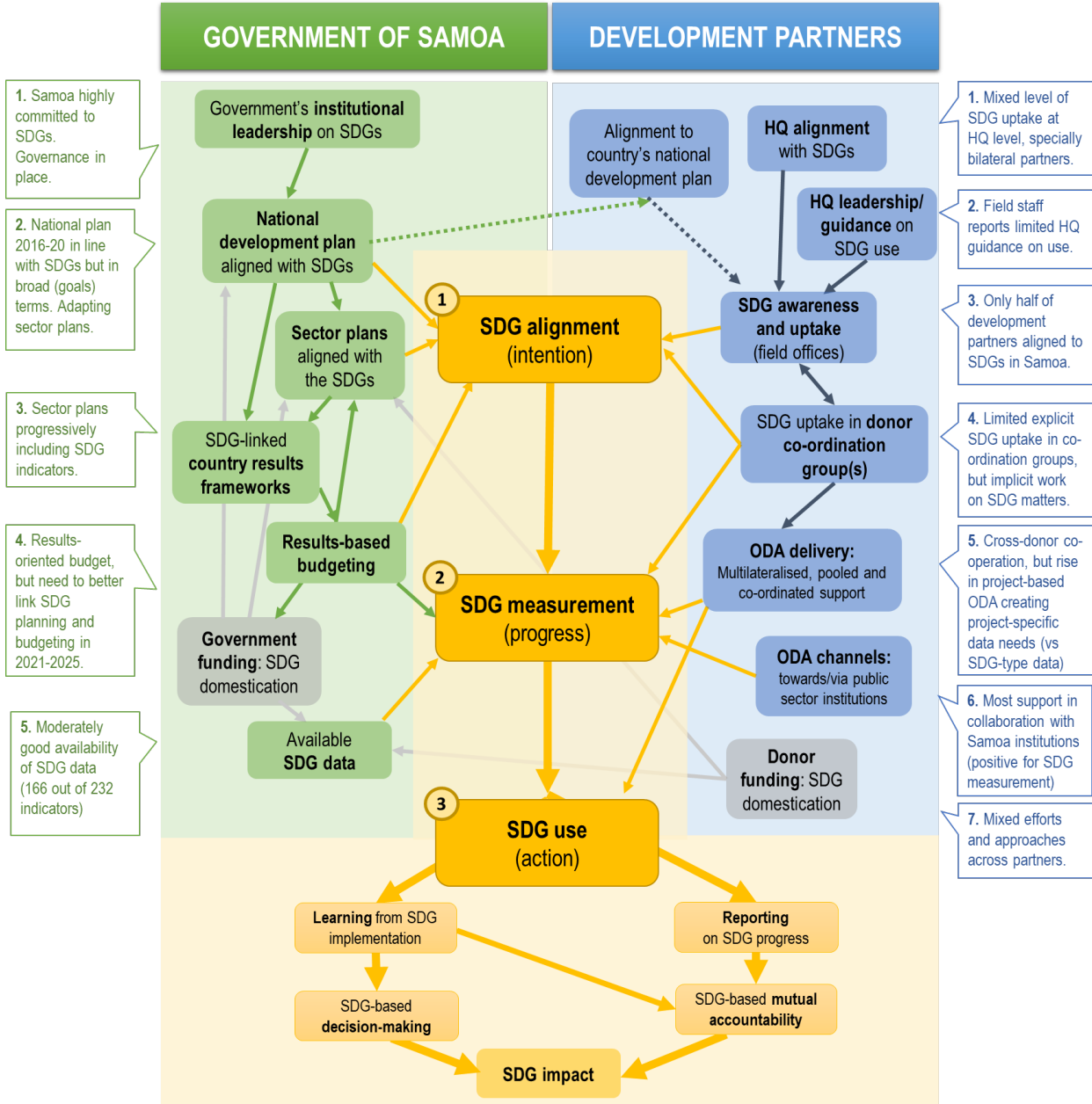
- Establish clear linkages with select SDG indicators to help streamline monitoring and reporting processes (also among development partners).
- Include cross-sector linkages and trade-offs more explicitly. Strengthen collaboration and data sharing across sector ministries and co-ordination mechanisms.
- Prioritise investments in data frequency or disaggregation for SDG targets and indicators that become strategic priorities in the 2021-25 planning cycle and/or are clearly linked to recovery from the pandemic.

### For development co-operation partners:

- Synchronise results planning with Samoa's results frameworks – including its priority SDG targets.
- For those partners that do not use the SDG framework in full, set alignment to SDG targets as a first step.
- Map implicit linkages between country-/project-level results frameworks and actual SDG indicators.
- Use SDG data and results in sector co-ordination mechanisms to articulate joint responses and monitoring frameworks that lead to SDG-aligned projects.
- Continue using programme-based and budget support or joined-up efforts in specific sectors.
- Harmonise monitoring and evaluation requirements, as requested in Samoa's aid policy (the Joint Policy Action Matrix). Do not overload local capacities.
- Continue investing in Samoa's country systems linked to strategic planning, monitoring and analysis.

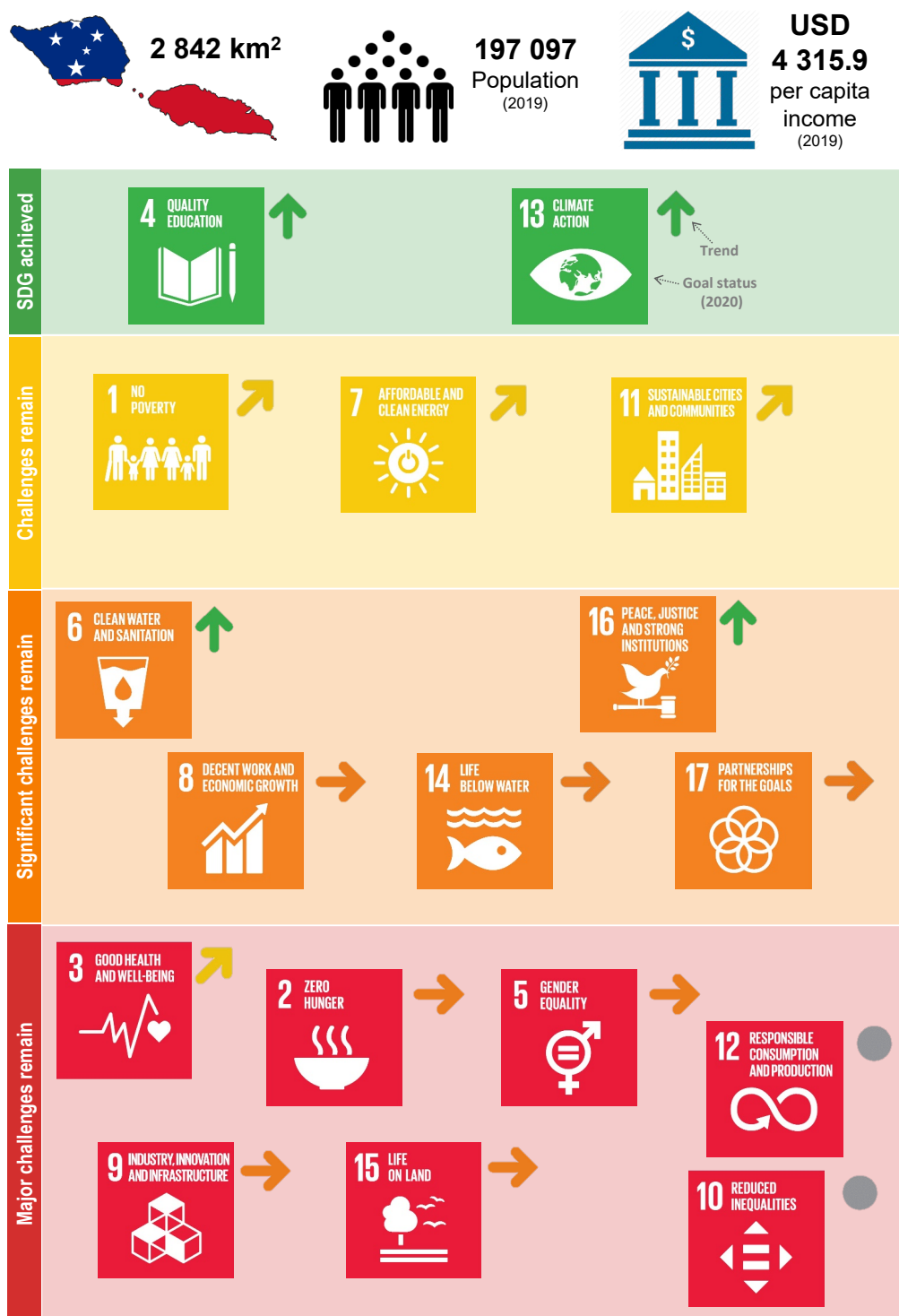
**Infographic 1. Summary of key findings**

Status of key enablers to using the SDGs as a shared framework for development co-operation results in Samoa



Note: HQ: headquarters. ODA: official development assistance.

## Infographic 2. Samoa's trends in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals before the pandemic hit (2020)



Notes: A grey dot denotes insufficient data to identify the trend. Arrows reflect trend. As a result of the 2020 global pandemic, forecasts estimate a significant decline across most SDGs (UN, 2020<sup>[1]</sup>; UNDP, 2020<sup>[2]</sup>).

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from Sachs et al. (2021<sup>[3]</sup>).

# 1 Samoa's journey towards the SDGs

This case study explores the role of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in enhancing development co-operation delivery in small islands developing states (SIDS). Samoa is a representative case study of the typical situation in many SIDS (Box 1.2).

## Samoa sees the SDGs as part of a long-term strategy for sustainability

Sustainable development has been at the heart of Samoa's long-term vision and strategic planning since 2005. Successive national development plans have prioritised a sustainable balance between economic, social and environmental dimensions in the country's development. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were prioritised in national planning and monitoring from early on. To that end, Samoa conducted three national reviews of MDG progress between 2004 and 2014, hosting a landmark conference for SIDS in that final year: the "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway" (UNGA, 2014<sup>[4]</sup>). The SAMOA Pathway outcome document helped raise awareness about SIDS' special circumstances, despite the fact that most had reached middle-income status. Specifically, it identified how fragile and volatile sources of development financing compound their vulnerability to external shocks and unique sustainable development challenges.

### Box 1.1. In brief: Key features of Samoa's vision for the Sustainable Development Goals

Samoa aims to use the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in three ways:

- As a road map to complete the "unfinished business" of the Millennium Development Goals and to further articulate a long-term sustainable path for the development of Samoa, particularly by strengthening Samoa's resilience to external shocks and by orienting Samoa's Vision 2040.
- As a process that builds on and strengthens existing arrangements for intra-government co-ordination and management; uses existing mechanisms for engagement with society and the private sector; and relies on national and regional monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes – without creating parallel mechanisms for SDG follow-up and review.
- More recently, as a compass to recover from the devastating socio-economic impacts caused by the global pandemic in Samoa and to build back better, with development partner support. As in other small island developing states, Samoa has so far contained the health impacts, but the economic hit on key sectors (e.g. tourism) and related fiscal impact have both been significant.

Sources: Government of Samoa (2016<sup>[5]</sup>; 2020<sup>[6]</sup>); Tortora and Agnelli (2021<sup>[7]</sup>).



### Box 1.2. Samoa in the context of small island developing states

Small island developing states (SIDS) like Samoa account for 26% of all developing countries.

Most SIDS have seen significant increases in living standards and have achieved middle-income country status over the last 20 years. But vulnerability to external shocks remains a critical development challenge. Our comparative review of SIDS' 20 voluntary national reviews (VNRs) on progress to date towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reveals multiple sources of vulnerability. These include geographic remoteness (particularly for Pacific nations) and related higher transport and connectivity costs, small populations, skills shortage, and limited human resources and economies of scale. SIDS' heavy dependency on tourism and migrant remittances, volatile economic growth, limited natural resources and a highly specialised export structure expose them to exogenous economic shocks. Climate change has a disproportionate impact on SIDS (CDKN, 2014<sup>[8]</sup>), with more frequent natural disasters (particularly hurricanes and tsunamis) causing heavy damage and reconstruction costs in relation to their small economies. For example, a 2012 cyclone caused losses equivalent to 23% of Samoa's gross domestic product.

Due to these compounded factors, SIDS often face a fragile fiscal outlook, with volatile sources of revenue, higher per capita costs for service delivery and sizeable exogenous shocks. Most recognise the importance of better access to development financing in their VNRs and have jointly articulated the need for sustainable financing in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. Both the quantity and quality of support that SIDS receive from their development partners is seen as critical to build resilience and to achieve sustainable development (UNGA, 2014<sup>[4]</sup>; OECD, 2018<sup>[9]</sup>; OECD, 2018<sup>[9]</sup>).

To a great extent, Samoa shares these challenges and debt financing needs (OECD, 2018<sup>[9]</sup>; IMF, 2019<sup>[10]</sup>). It is also close to the typical SIDS context, while exhibiting strong leadership in terms of SDG alignment and reporting (Table 1.1). Exploring how development co-operation could best support Samoa's pursuit of the SDGs can guide future work not only in Samoa, but also in other SIDS.

**Table 1.1. Samoa represents the archetypal case of SIDS committed to the SDGs and where development co-operation remains a critical contributor to development**

	Population 2019	GDP per capita (current USD) 2019	Importance of ODA (% of GNI, net ODA, 2018)	Voluntary national review on SDGs
<b>Samoa</b>	<b>197 097</b>	<b>4 316</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>Two (2016, 2020)</b>
Pacific island small states (15-country average)	249 370	4 213	9.7	80% (12)
All ODA-eligible small island states (29-country average)	524 045	6 915	9.8	69% (20)

Note: GDP: gross domestic product; ODA: official development assistance; GNI: gross national income.

Sources: World Bank (2020<sup>[11]</sup>). Authors' own review of 20 voluntary national reviews presented to the United Nations by small island developing states (2016-20).

Like many other Pacific nations, Samoa seeks to abide by the SDGs as an international framework. At the same time, it wants the framework to be country-owned and "localised" to the needs and priorities of its own sustainable development path. To that end, it acknowledges the need to continue deepening long-term relationships with international partners. Working in

synergy with other Pacific nations and leveraging regional approaches and institutions is seen as crucial to compensate for capacity constraints and lack of economies of scale in Pacific SIDS. This is their comparative advantage *vis-à-vis* Caribbean and other SIDS.

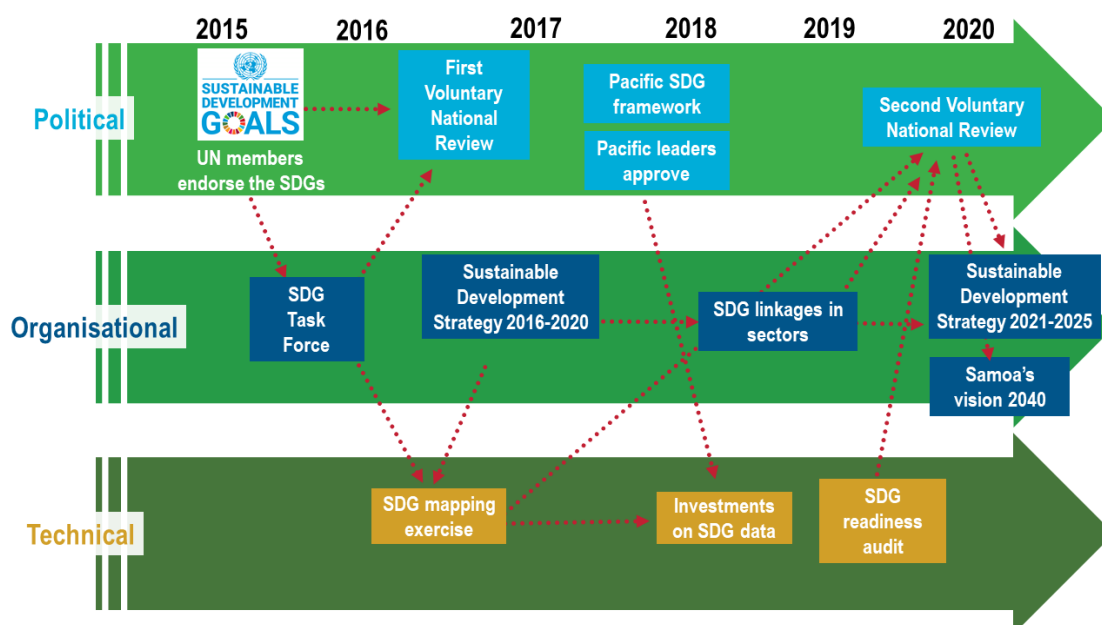
## Existing governance structures were updated to support SDG adoption

Samoa was among the vanguard of countries in initiating preparations for SDG adoption (Infographic 1.1). It assessed its national sustainable development strategy for alignment with the SDGs just before they were approved. It also set up a National SDGs Task Force chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with representatives from various ministries (Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Finance; Natural Resources and the Environment; and Women, Community and Social Development), as well as Samoa's Audit Office as an observer (GoS, 2016<sup>[12]</sup>). Samoa was one of the first countries to have its parliament review SDG-related reports. This ensures visibility for the programme as the country works to integrate the SDGs into its development plan.

To manage the SDG journey, Samoa repurposed national mechanisms to co-ordinate SDG alignment, monitoring, implementation and reporting (GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>). Moreover, consultative arrangements with civil society, parliament and other actors also build on existing practices and platforms. This approach avoided funding and sustaining a parallel entity to co-ordinate the SDGs, while ensuring clarity of SDG responsibilities among centre-of-government institutions.

Political leadership from the top has driven the process of SDG adoption in Samoa. This political drive was supported over time by technical exercises and organisational milestones. These built the infrastructure for SDG reporting and allowed for a complete VNR on SDG implementation in 2020. Political stability and staff continuity have helped maintain the focus.

### Infographic 1.1. Visualising Samoa's SDG journey: Key steps to date



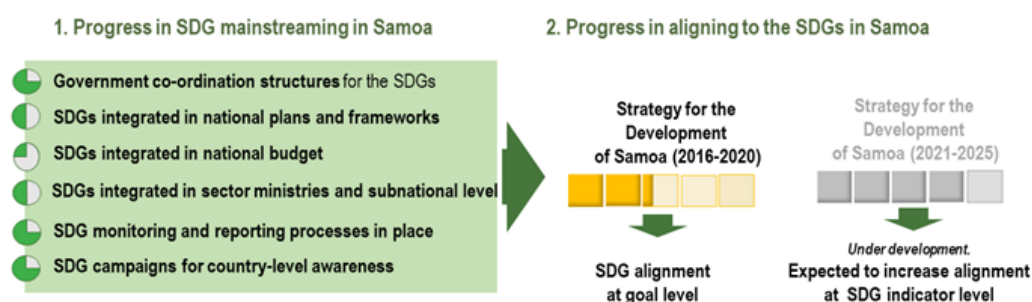
Source: Author's elaboration based on UNDP (2019<sup>[13]</sup>); Government of Samoa (2016<sup>[5]</sup>; 2020<sup>[6]</sup>).

## Samoa has been progressively aligning national planning with the SDGs

In aligning medium-term national planning to the SDGs, countries try to reconcile domestic priorities and various international frameworks into a coherent strategic direction, and Samoa was no exception. Four distinctive international commitments guided the preparation of the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2016/17-2019/20 (hereafter “SDS 2016-20”). These are the 2030 Agenda and SDG framework (still in development in 2016/17), the Paris Agreement, the SAMOA Pathway and the Pacific Framework for Regionalism (GoS, 2016<sup>[5]</sup>). The government identified 14 key outcomes, related to the SDGs at “goal” level, clustered around 4 priority areas: economic, social, infrastructure and environment (see Annex A). It tasked sectoral ministries and agencies to prioritise, monitor and deliver on these 14 key outcomes, privileging sector-wide approaches where possible. Sector strategies and plans updated after 2016 include SDG indicators for agriculture (2016), gender policy (2017), justice (2018), culture (2018), education (2019), non-communicable diseases (2020), and communications and information technology (2021). Integration into sector results frameworks is improving SDG data availability.

Samoa’s progress in aligning domestic policy making to the SDGs offers a broad framework to converge all partners around country priorities (Infographic 1.2). Just before the global pandemic hit in early 2020, Samoa had made significant strides to reflect the SDGs in the government’s medium-term planning, monitoring and policy making. Cross-government co-ordination structures used for the narrower Millennium Development Goals were updated (cross-ministerial “SDG Task Force”) and expanded in scope (17 SDGs), to manage a coherent implementation and monitoring of the SDGs (GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>). The 2016-20 national plan was broadly aligned to the SDGs, at “goal” level (see 4 Annex A). Sector strategies were starting to reflect SDG-related priorities and indicators (UNDP, 2019<sup>[13]</sup>). At the regional level, Samoa agreed with other Pacific leaders on SDG priority areas and indicators (ForumSec, 2018<sup>[14]</sup>). At the domestic level, extensive SDG campaigns across society helped raise Samoans’ awareness about the SDGs. Meanwhile, bottom-up consultative processes with villages and social groups were feeding into sector and national planning, monitoring and reporting (GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>). Under the leadership of the Samoa Bureau of Statistics, the government carried out data-mapping exercises to identify and strengthen its capacity to monitor the SDGs. In addition, it carried out an independent audit on SDG preparedness in 2018/19 to foster the SDG domestication process (GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>). These actions were to be reflected in greater SDG alignment in the next iteration of Samoa’s Strategy for Development 2021-25. However, the global pandemic interrupted its preparation, as it altered the country context, created urgent socio-economic needs (UN, 2020<sup>[11]</sup>) and a tight medium-term fiscal outlook (IMF, 2020<sup>[15]</sup>).

### Infographic 1.2. Sustainable Development Goal alignment in Samoa: A good start

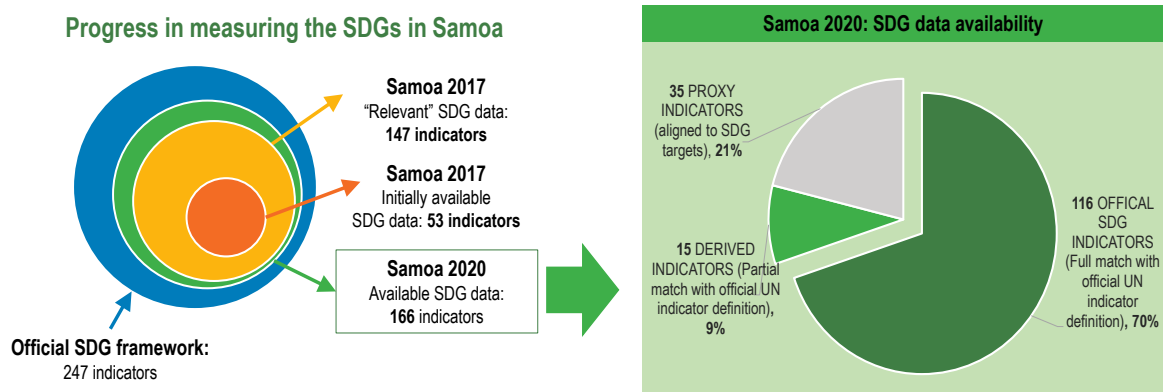


Source: Authors’ elaboration based on own assessment of Government of Samoa (2016<sup>[5]</sup>; 2020<sup>[6]</sup>); IAEG-SDG (2020<sup>[16]</sup>); UNDP (2019<sup>[13]</sup>).

## Samoa has been improving its capacity to measure the SDGs over time

Samoa uses domestic and international SDG monitoring and reporting exercises to integrate and expand the access and coverage of SDG data. Samoa presented VNRs on SDGs to the United Nations twice, in 2016 and 2020. In between those two checkpoints, it also participated in the first regional quadrennial reporting process on SDG progress in the Pacific (2018), co-ordinated by the Pacific Forum Secretariat. In parallel, it actively engaged in the regional SDG data hub of the Pacific Community (ForumSec, 2018<sup>[14]</sup>; SPC, 2018<sup>[17]</sup>; SPC, 2018<sup>[17]</sup>). These reporting processes at country and international level have served to identify and integrate SDG data sources from across government and with international agencies, under the leadership of the SDG task force and the Samoa Bureau of Statistics. Improved monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks integrated into recent sector strategies, with SDG linkages, also help increase coverage of regular SDG data. These efforts have increased the capacity to monitor SDG indicators in Samoa from 53 indicators (2017 estimate) to 166 indicators across all 17 SDGs in 2020 (67% of the SDG framework) (Figure 1.1). Of these 166 indicators, 70% match the official UN SDG indicator definition, while the rest incorporate “localisation” adjustments. These adjustments make them more relevant to the Samoan context or reflect existing data sources (e.g. using available proxy indicators to track specific SDG targets, as an alternative to official SDG indicators with no data in Samoa). This localisation process reflects a common behaviour among countries to select, borrow and modify pre-existing international normative frameworks (such as the SDGs) to the local context. In so doing, they seek to build coherence between local needs and capacities and these emerging standards (Acharya, 2004<sup>[18]</sup>).

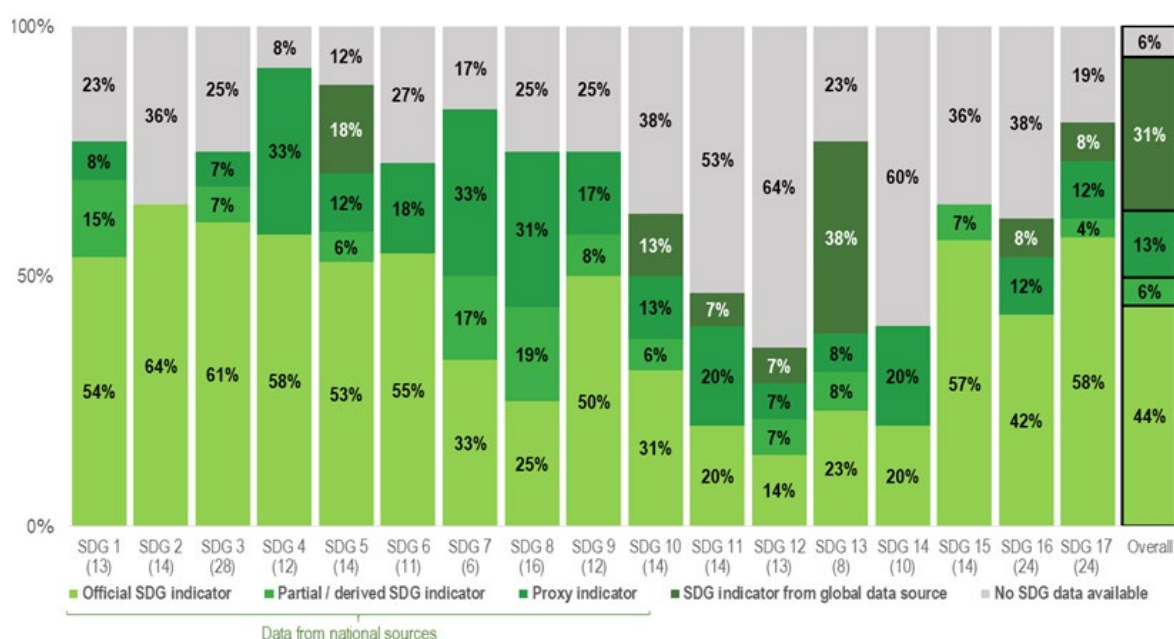
### Infographic 1.3. Sustainable Development Goal measurement in Samoa: Good coverage for most indicators



Source: Authors' elaboration based on own assessment of Government of Samoa (2020<sup>[19]</sup>); IAEG-SDG (2020<sup>[16]</sup>); UNDP (2019<sup>[13]</sup>).

**Figure 1.1. Samoa's capacity to report on SDG indicators reached 166 indicators in 2020**

Percentage of SDG indicators with available data for Samoa, by goal and type of data (2020)



Notes: Definitions: "Official SDG indicators" use the official UN indicator definition. Partial/derived SDG indicators use the official definition, with a slight variation (e.g. output instead of outcome, referred to a subgroup instead of total population, or deviating in the unit of measurement). Proxy indicators do not use the official SDG indicator, but refer to the related SDG target.

Horizontal axis: Total number of official SDG indicators per SDG is indicated (between brackets) under each goal number.

Source: Authors' own estimates based on a review of data from Government of Samoa (2020[6]) against the official SDG indicator definitions (IAEG-SDG, 2020[16])

Samoa aims to calibrate monitoring efforts of international commitments like the SDGs with its limited human and financial resources. SDG mapping and data integration processes have proven efficient in maximising the availability of SDG data for VNR reporting. However, during interviews, government officials expressed a conscious desire to keep a balance between domestic capacity and further SDG monitoring. In their view, expanding the list of SDG indicators for monitoring, or the frequency of monitoring, should reflect actual country needs for results information. It should rely on sector-wide approaches with the participation of line ministries (to foster use). Finally, it should come hand in hand with partners' financial/technical support. SIDS in the Pacific and the Caribbean have also tended to follow Samoa's cautious approach to collecting data on sustainable development. They want to avoid being overstretched by the reporting needs of external processes. At the same time, support by external agencies has not always been coherent or facilitated a country-led approach (Uitto, Kohlitz and Todd, 2017<sup>[20]</sup>).

## Figure 1.2. Data freshness: Do most SDG-aligned indicators in Samoa have recently collected data?

Data availability for SDG-aligned indicators in Samoa, by most recent year of latest data collection



Source: Authors' estimates based on Government of Samoa (2020<sup>[19]</sup>) and IAEG-SDG (2020<sup>[16]</sup>).

Although these positive findings reflect a decade of investments in government monitoring systems and statistical capacity building, often in partnership with Samoa's development partners, some important challenges for SDG measurement remain. These challenges include increasing the frequency of some key non-economic surveys (e.g. household surveys and health/demographic surveys that currently take place every five years). Monitoring and administrative data from line ministries and regional/international sources also need to be better integrated into the national statistical system (although the VNR process is helping do so). In addition, government capacity for data analysis and use needs strengthening for integrated policy making (GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>). Furthermore, the pandemic and its social distancing rules underline the need to identify innovative, low-cost solutions for remote monitoring and data collection that can help in managing an effective response.

Nevertheless, Samoa's commitment to increase capacity to monitor the SDGs is clear. The SDG Task Force has been explicitly tasked with the responsibility to achieve that target. To that end, it began monitoring a "proxy SDG indicator" on SDG data availability in 2020 (SDG Target 17.18).

## Use of the SDGs in Samoa has been geared towards accountability

Samoa is now fully capable of reporting regularly on SDG progress in domestic and international settings. These efforts include accountability and communication to parliament and society, and frequent reporting in regional fora and in the UN context.

The use of SDG results data to steer policies, make budget allocations and learn from policy implementation is still incipient, but promising. The main constraints include weak SDG uptake in Samoa's daily planning and management across line ministries (as many use non-SDG aligned sector strategies that are pending for update in 2020/21). In-country analytical capacity is needed to increase the use of evidence for policy making and account for SDG cross-linkages. The budget process and Samoa's medium-term expenditure frameworks need better linkages to SDG-informed planning. Finally, all domestic and international sources of public and private financing should be mapped and mobilised towards the SDGs (JSDGF, 2020<sup>[21]</sup>; UNDP, 2019<sup>[13]</sup>).

Before the pandemic hit, plans were underway that would have helped Samoa maximise the use of SDG data for policy learning, decision making and implementation (UNDP, 2019<sup>[13]</sup>; GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>; GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>). These plans included consultations and data gathering for the new national strategy (SDS 2021-25) and long-term vision (Samoa 2040) to be better aligned to the SDG framework. Work continued to progressively align remaining sector-wide strategies to the SDGs. Corporate performance plans for individual ministries have deeper linkages with annual budget decisions. Therefore, aligning these plans to the SDGs would help make Samoa's budget more responsive to SDG results. Furthermore, Samoa was considering better

synchronisation of these various levels of national-, sector- and ministry-level planning and monitoring. It wanted clearer linkages to sector-wide programmes, the annual budget and the medium-term expenditure framework (JSDGF, 2020<sup>[21]</sup>). All of these actions could help simplify the link between SDG data and evidence, planning, and implementation. These considerations will be important to build back better and sustainably in the post-pandemic recovery phase, particularly in a context of narrow fiscal space and as the country revises its draft development strategy 2021-2025 (IMF, 2020<sup>[15]</sup>).

### Figure 1.3. Samoa's use of SDG data in national policy making is slowly expanding

Before the pandemic hit, Samoa was making steady progress in aligning government policy making to the SDGs

<b>Regional and global frameworks</b>	<b>Development priorities</b>	<b>Means of implementation</b>	<b>Accountabilities</b>
<i>Samoa's commitments</i>	<i>Plans and strategies</i>	<i>Financing</i>	<i>Measuring results</i>
<b>Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development</b>  and: - SAMOA Pathway - Paris Agreement - Sendai Framework - Addis Ababa Action Agenda - Framework for Pacific Regionalism - Human Rights Conventions	<b>Samoa Development Strategy</b>  <b>14 sector development plans</b>  <b>Agency/ministry/sector work plans</b>  <b>Development financing and co-operation policies</b>  <b>Multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement</b>  <b>National statistics development strategy</b>	<b>Medium term expenditure framework</b>  <b>Annual national budgets</b>    <b>Donor financing</b>	<b>National monitoring and reporting frameworks</b>  <b>National indicators</b>    <b>Agency/ministry/sector monitoring and reporting</b>

Source: Government of Samoa (2020, p. 9<sup>[6]</sup>).

Using the SDGs to harmonise and co-ordinate Samoa's development partners is an area with untapped potential. Development partners' role is essential to implement the SDGs in Samoa, as their average annual contribution represents about 16.8% of Samoa's economy (see Infographic 2.1). As such, they help finance about half of all public investment in the country (UNDP, 2019<sup>[13]</sup>). As subsequent sections will detail, most development partners in Samoa are in the early stages of aligning their country-level frameworks and programmes to the SDGs. Therefore, most do not frame their development support through an SDG lens. Interviews and analysis suggest this delay is in part due to their own corporate requirement to align to the SDS 2016-20. This was aligned to the SDGs, but mostly at "goal" level. Delays in aligning sector

strategies and budgetary decisions to the SDGs were also mentioned as constraints in taking a more proactive stance around the SDGs. While other reasons (specific to development partners) are discussed later in this study, Samoa's steps to align the country's planning and policy making to the SDGs should encourage development partners to do the same (Box 1.3). Samoa's partners did respond immediately to Samoa's request for support to counteract the negative socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. However, the immediate joint response plan was not built on the SDGs due to several factors, including the evolving and unpredictable nature of the ongoing crisis (which discourages long-term planning) and reliance on a survey instrument to assess the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic that is not aligned to the SDG framework. That said, in designing future programmes to build back better, partners could consider more joined-up approaches and chart an SDG-guided path to recovery and resilience in the years to come.

**Table 1.2. Enablers and challenges for greater use of SDG data in Samoan decision making**

	<b>Enablers</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
<b>Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong and decisive leadership from the centre of government, systems and capacity.</li> <li>• Alignment and mainstreaming of the SDGs to the next national strategy for sustainable development 2021-25.</li> <li>• Effective management of significant amounts of national data and reports supported by data analysis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited capacity, including for implementation, data analysis and management at all levels:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ staffing and skills shortages;</li> <li>○ lack of systematic analysis use of data in decision making across line ministries;</li> <li>○ competing international reporting needs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Development partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constructive partnerships at all levels.</li> <li>• Use of sector-wide approaches and emphasis on capacity building.</li> <li>• Increased use of country systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncoordinated partner SDG support efforts.</li> <li>• Limited partner SDG alignment to date.</li> <li>• COVID-19 responses significant and fast-tracked, but not necessarily using an SDG lens in their design.</li> </ul>
<b>Development context</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Localisation of SDG indicators to the Samoan context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased vulnerability to external shocks.</li> <li>• Disasters and emerging threats, including health crises (successive measles and COVID-19 epidemics).</li> </ul>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on Government of Samoa (2020<sup>[6]</sup>) and field interviews with key informants.



### Box 1.3. Samoa Ocean Strategy 2020-2030: Using SDG 14 to articulate an integrated response

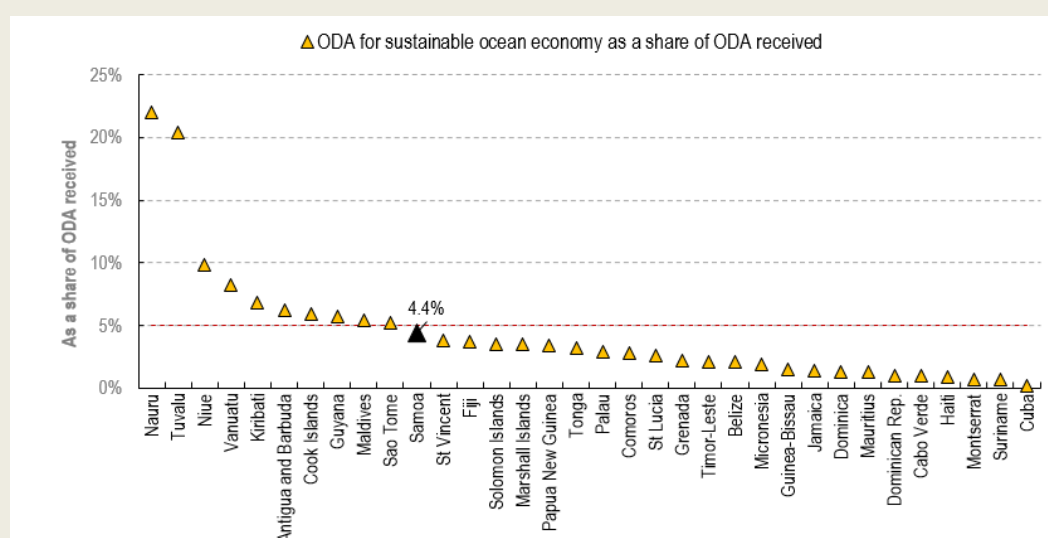
Ocean-based sectors – such as tourism, fisheries and maritime shipping – are the backbone of the economy in many small island developing states (SIDS) (OECD, 2020<sup>[22]</sup>). Many SIDS consider the “blue economy” as a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) accelerator. Samoa is no different, with tourism alone accounting for 25% of gross domestic product (GDP) and a significant share of formal jobs. While SIDS like Samoa have largely succeeded in isolating themselves from the pandemic, the heavy impact on these core sectors related to the blue economy contributed to a deeper recession (-6.9%) in 2020 than for the global average decline (-4.8%) (Tortora and Agnelli, 2021<sup>[7]</sup>).

Making these sectors more sustainable and resilient, and improving government’s capacity to formulate and monitor an integrated response to “build back better”, led to the approval of the Samoa Ocean Strategy in October 2020 (GoS, 2020<sup>[23]</sup>). The strategy promotes the sustainable management of the comparatively important ocean-based sectors, while preserving coastal areas and biodiversity and resources below water. It does so by adopting integrated results management at the core, which explicitly accounts for synergies and trade-offs between SDG 14 (“Life below water”) and other SDGs’ targets (Patil et al., 2016<sup>[24]</sup>; OECD, 2020, p. 38<sup>[22]</sup>). It also adopts a whole-of-government approach and reconciles various national and international goals using an SDG lens.

#### **SDG 14 as an entry point to strengthen coherence for sustainable development in Samoa**

Development partner support for sustainable development in ocean-based sectors tends to be sector-specific and to remain underinvested (at 4.4% of official development assistance; see Figure 1.4). Investments have gone to individual projects linked to maritime transport facilitation, maritime protection and submarine connectivity. As a result of fragmentation and project specificity, investments in SDG 14 data have been weak – with data available for two of the official SDG 14 indicators (Figure 1.1). Samoa’s Ocean Strategy 2020-2030 and its results framework offer a clear opportunity for development co-operation to articulate a harmonised, integrated SDG response that helps build back better and sustainably after the pandemic, while generating common SDG data.

Figure 1.4. Support for a sustainable ocean economy in Samoa is below its potential



Notes: ODA: official development assistance. For the full profile of Samoa, see: <https://oe.cd/samoaprofileocean>.  
Source: OECD (2020<sup>[22]</sup>).

# 2 Aligning development co-operation to the SDGs in Samoa

## Highlights

- While the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have started to articulate policy dialogue and cross-donor collaboration in Samoa, most development partners are yet to align their country programmes and results with the SDG framework. Reasons argued include slow SDG uptake in Samoa, delayed planning cycles and a lack of internal incentives.
- Given good levels of results-based management among most development partners, leadership and guidance from headquarters to promote alignment to the SDG framework can accelerate uptake by field offices, particularly if the government of Samoa continues to take the lead in the SDG alignment process.
- Moving forward, the future national plan (2021-25), which could be better aligned to the SDGs, generally good availability of SDG data in Samoa and the observed joined-up response to COVID-19 by all development partners create an enabling environment to improve development co-operation alignment to the SDGs.

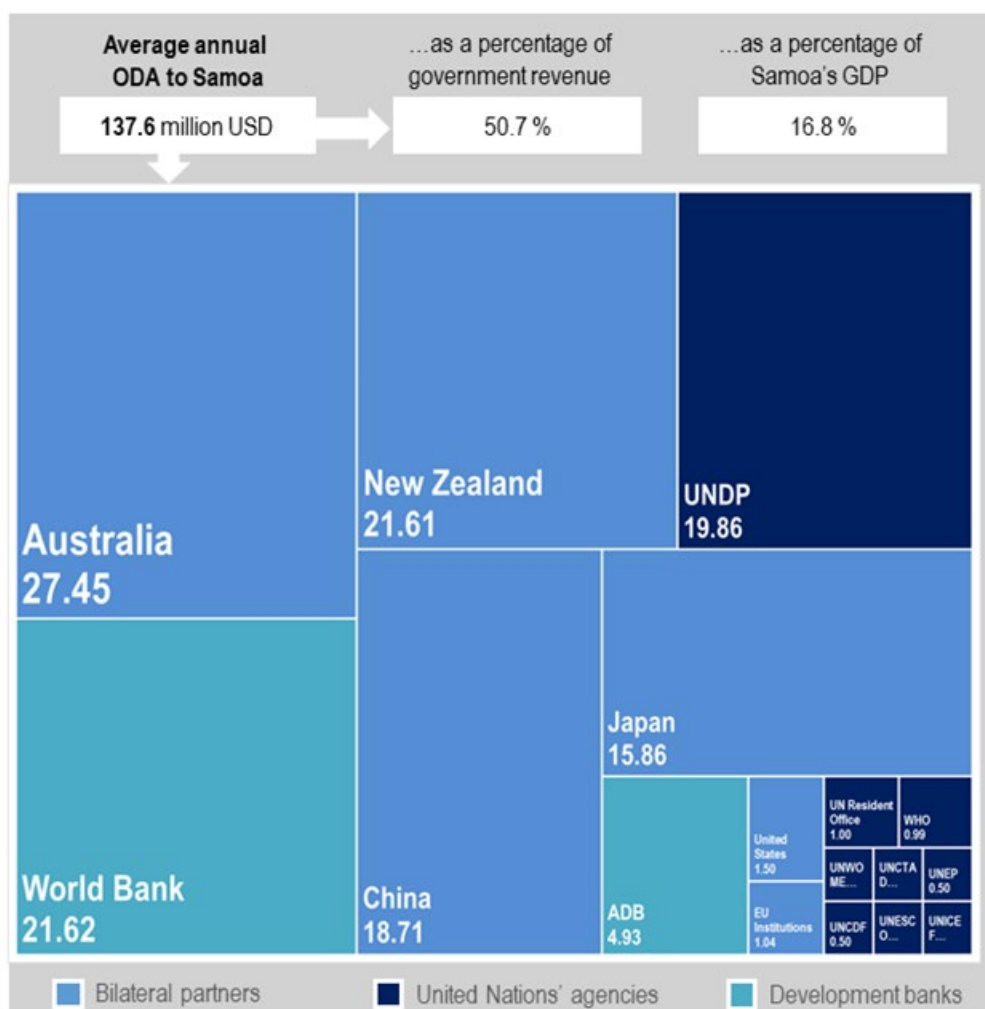
## The development co-operation ecosystem in Samoa is small but diverse

As a middle-income country and a small island developing state (SIDS), Samoa has a relatively small but diverse ecosystem of development partners. This compares favourably with other SIDS, which on average rely on a single partner for half of their development financing (OECD, 2018<sup>[9]</sup>). Australia, the People's Republic of China (hereafter "China"), Japan and New Zealand provide the bulk of bilateral development co-operation, with smaller contributions from the United States and the European Union (Infographic 2.1). The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are the main multilateral development banks operating in Samoa, while the International Monetary Fund is playing a growing role in the face of the pandemic's effects on public accounts. The United Nations (UN) Country Team oversees the activities of 26 UN agencies in the Pacific, 13 of which have offices in Samoa with the rest based in Fiji. It has been a driving force in supporting Samoa's alignment process to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some vertical funds and initiatives (e.g. Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, Global Fund, Joint SDG Fund) are particularly active in Samoa, funding projects that are implemented locally. Given Samoa's active support for regional integration, regional institutions (the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Pacific Forum Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme) are key partners for the country. This is particularly true for capacity building and support for monitoring processes, country diagnostics,

peer learning and dialogue. International non-governmental organisations and foundations have no significant presence in the country.

### Infographic 2.1. At a glance: Development co-operation ecosystem in Samoa

Average annual development co-operation support (2015-19), total and by partner (million USD)



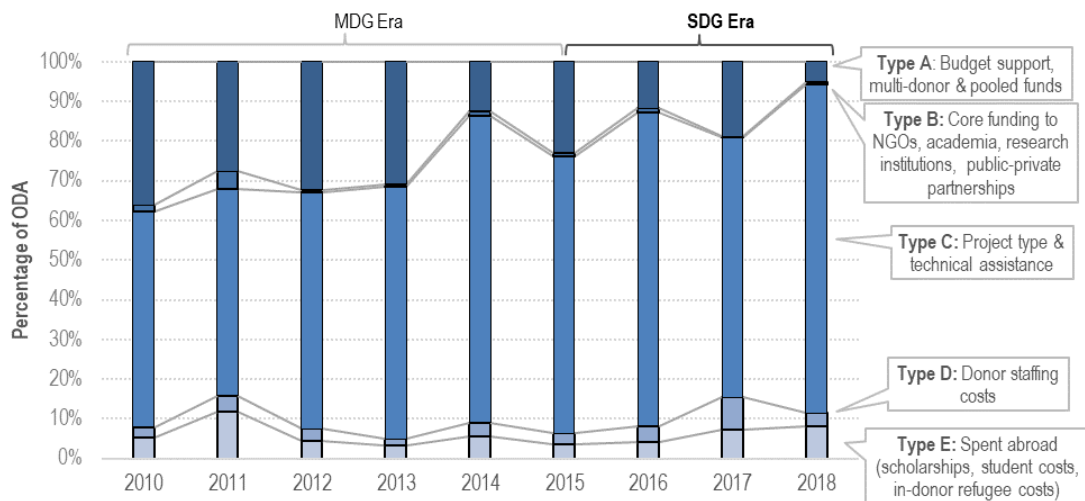
Notes: ODA: official development assistance; UNDP: United Nations Development Programme; ADB: Asian Development Bank; WHO: World Health Organization; UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme; UNCDF: United Nations Capital Development Fund; UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund. Average annual commitments of ODA during 2015-18/19. Source: OECD (2020<sup>[25]</sup>). For China, average development co-operation amounts as reported in Samoa's national budget documents for 2016-20.

Given the importance of Samoa's development partners in helping the government meet its development goals, the quality and effectiveness of partnerships is critical for the country. The government of Samoa exhibits strong country ownership in its partnership with international agencies, and all actors report a good level of mutual trust and willingness to work together. As noted, development co-operation represents a significant source of financing for public investment, sector expenditure and capacity building (UNDP, 2019<sup>[13]</sup>). To ensure a positive development impact, both the government and most development partners have tried to

develop and maintain good practices in their partnerships and ways of working. These include country ownership (with good development plans to which development partners align), mutual accountability mechanisms, transparency and approaches that promote the inclusion of civil society organisations and the Samoan private sector in development partnerships (GPEDC, 2019<sup>[26]</sup>). However, use of country systems, on-budget support and programme-based approaches have declined in recent years. This decline occurred despite good progress in strengthening public financial management in Samoa. Moreover, important levels of tied aid (~15%) and “in-kind” support persist (GPEDC, 2019<sup>[26]</sup>; GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>; GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>). Project-type modalities (Figure 2.1) grew, which tend to create project-specific results frameworks and short-term data needs. Short-term projects are less prone to use results indicators related to long-term outcomes, such as many of those in the SDG framework (Vähämäki and Verger, 2019, pp. 18-19<sup>[27]</sup>). This also affects some of the bilateral funding to UN agencies, where earmarked project-based aid tends to create project-specific results frameworks and data needs incompatible with SDG harmonisation; an exception to this is the UN-New Zealand Pacific Partnership, a pooled funding modality based on six broad outcomes. Nevertheless, even if there is space for harmonising approaches, using country systems and untying aid further, development partners in Samoa co-ordinate with government institutions in the country to deliver results – a positive precondition to align to the SDG framework jointly. The response to the pandemic’s effects on Samoa’s fiscal situation has reversed the focus on project-based assistance: programme-based and budget support from major development partners surged in 2020 (IMF, 2020<sup>[15]</sup>), which by design and volume can more easily target long-term (SDG) outcomes.

**Figure 2.1. Development assistance to Samoa has become more project-oriented (2010-18)**

...but this trend is reversing in 2020-21, due to the joint response to the pandemic’s effects in Samoa



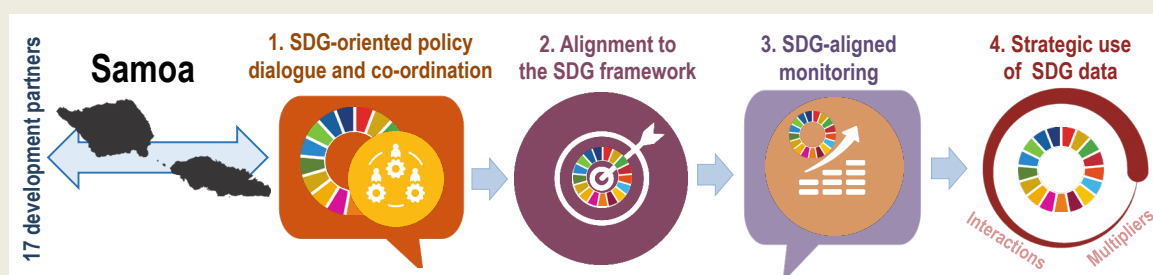
Note: ODA: official development assistance; MDG: Millennium Development Goal; SDG: Sustainable Development Goal; NGO: non-governmental organisation.

Source: Authors’ elaboration based on data from OECD (2020<sup>[25]</sup>).

### Box 2.1. How do we assess alignment to the Sustainable Development Goal framework?

At its most basic level, aligning development co-operation to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework requires prioritising SDG targets and using SDG indicators to monitor results. However, it requires more work to obtain meaningful SDG alignment that leads to sustainable impact. First, good SDG alignment strategies must be discussed, co-ordinated and broadly coherent with other development partners' efforts (1). Second, results frameworks in country-level strategies and projects must be aligned with the SDG framework when relevant (2), either *directly* (by using SDG indicators) or *indirectly* (by relying on intervention logics and theories of change that lead to SDG results). Third, SDG data are also regularly collected (3). Fourth, these data guide learning and strategic decision making in development co-operation (4). When these data guide learning and strategic decision making, development agencies use the SDGs not for piecemeal alignment, but as a system of interactions, trade-offs and multiplier effects, which serves to address development complexity in the real world.

Figure 2.2. Four steps in aligning and using the Sustainable Development Goal framework in development co-operation



Most countries and development partners initiate their SDG alignment strategies at the “goal level”, **retroactively mapping current programmes to the 17 SDGs. Advanced SDG alignment uses SDG targets and indicators, in ways that contribute to overall development co-operation effectiveness in the country.**

Figure 2.3. Type of alignment to the SDG framework and associated benefits



## How well does development co-operation align to the SDGs in Samoa?

This section analyses the extent to which development partners are steering their delivery practices around the SDG framework in Samoa.

### 1. SDG-oriented policy dialogue and co-ordination is progressively growing

Many development partners in Samoa engage in policy dialogue and activities that are increasingly oriented towards the SDGs. Development partners align their country programmes to the objectives of Samoa's Development Strategy 2016/17-2019/20 (hereafter "SDS 2016-20"), which are broadly in line with all 17 SDGs, as presented in Annex A. Given the push of the Samoan government to integrate the SDGs into national policy making, over half of Samoa's partners also engage in policy dialogue related to the implementation of specific SDGs (Table 2.1). For some, particularly for UN agencies, new programmes and projects are framed using an explicit SDG focus. In some sector co-ordination mechanisms, the SDGs are starting to trickle down into discussions.

However, major development partners in Samoa are less directly engaged in explicit SDG adoption or monitoring efforts. Some of them perceive this as a primary responsibility of the Samoan government to pursue with UN technical support. For others, lack of guidance or knowledge on the relevance or usefulness of the SDG framework are also factors discouraging greater SDG adoption.

**Table 2.1. Most development partners discuss the SDGs as part of their activities**

Percentage of development partners that engage in the following activities

	N	Average annual support (million USD)	SDGs discussed as part of...			Support requested by the government to measure the SDGs or to prepare a national report on SDG progress
			policy dialogue	new programmes/ projects in the country	donor co-ordination mechanisms	
<b>Bilateral development partners</b>	5	85.1	40%	40%	40%	20%
<b>UN agencies</b>	10	5.8	70%	90%	80%	100%
<b>Multilateral development banks</b>	2	26.6	100%	50%	50%	50%
<b>ALL PARTNERS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>117.48</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>65%</b>
Weighted responses (by official development assistance)			55%	45%	44%	31%

Source: Authors' elaboration based on OECD (2020<sub>[28]</sub>) and OECD survey to 17 development partners active in Samoa (OECD, 2020<sub>[29]</sub>).

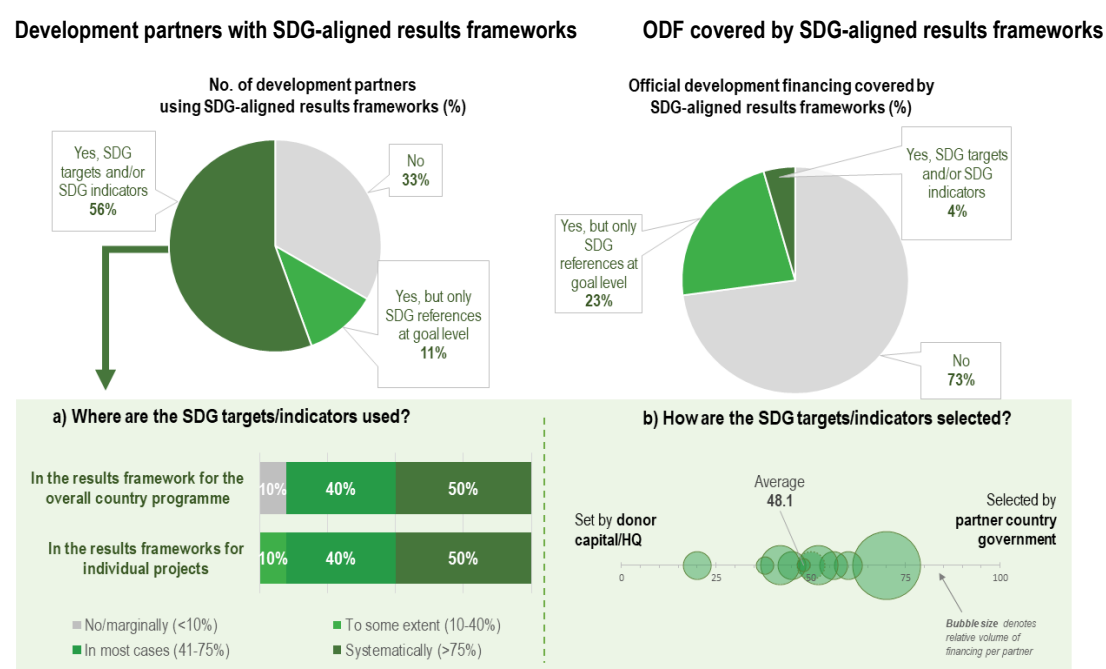
In planning for development results in Samoa, most development partners use advanced results-based approaches and rely heavily on results frameworks, which are designed to reflect country priorities, but also results attributable to the intervention. Among 17 development partners, 12 (71%) develop country-level results frameworks that are included in their Pacific- or Samoa-specific strategy document, and 5 (29%) are developing one (OECD, 2020<sub>[30]</sub>). Over half of Samoa's partners systematically include results frameworks in their individual projects, while a third report doing so for about half of the interventions. The dominant criteria to populate

results frameworks are agreement of indicators with the partner country (70%) and good reflection of their own programme/project contribution (59%). Half of the partners prefer results indicators that can be tracked using existing country data/statistics. Partners that have begun integrating SDG indicators into their results frameworks tend to match SDG indicators used by the government. Others try to reflect results prioritised at headquarters. In contrast with their own headquarters, country offices do not prioritise results indicators that are easy to communicate. This is considered a secondary purpose for the use of results information at country level.

## 2. Aligning development co-operation results to the SDG framework is less common outside the United Nations agencies

Most development co-operation finance is not explicitly aligned to the SDG framework in Samoa. Most (56%) of its 17 development partners are using results frameworks aligned to SDG targets or indicators to some extent (all of them UN agencies), or at least guided by the SDGs (11%) (New Zealand, the Asian Development Bank). However, results frameworks explicitly aligned to the SDG framework do not guide almost three-quarters of development co-operation financing to Samoa (Figure 2.4). During field interviews, respondents argued that SDS 2016-20 did not yet rely on an SDG-aligned results framework. They also pointed to reliance on pre-SDG strategies and results frameworks, lack of corporate mandate or push, or limited use of results frameworks in general. Some field staff highlighted the absence of specific corporate guidance on why and how to use the SDG framework (e.g. definitions, plans, specific targets) as a disincentive.

Figure 2.4. Use of the SDG framework in Samoa is still limited to UN agencies



Note: SDG: Sustainable Development Goal; ODA: official development assistance; HQ: headquarters.  
Source: OECD survey to 17 development partners with a presence in Samoa (OECD, 2020<sub>[30]</sub>).

### Box 2.2. Aligning results to country-prioritised SDGs: The experience of the United Nations

Many United Nations (UN) agencies are among the most Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) aligned development partners working in Samoa.

Nine of them have started incorporating explicit references to SDG targets or indicators in their results frameworks, in both country strategies and individual projects. Half do so systematically (>70% of indicators), while the rest do so for higher level outcomes or where feasible (Figure 2.4, panel A).

Many UN agencies are custodians of particular SDG indicators, and benefit from corporate leadership and incentives to rely on those indicators for results-based management. On the other hand, the selection of SDG targets and indicators requires balancing government priorities for specific SDG results and their own agency's mandate, strategy and results priorities (Figure 2.4, panel B).

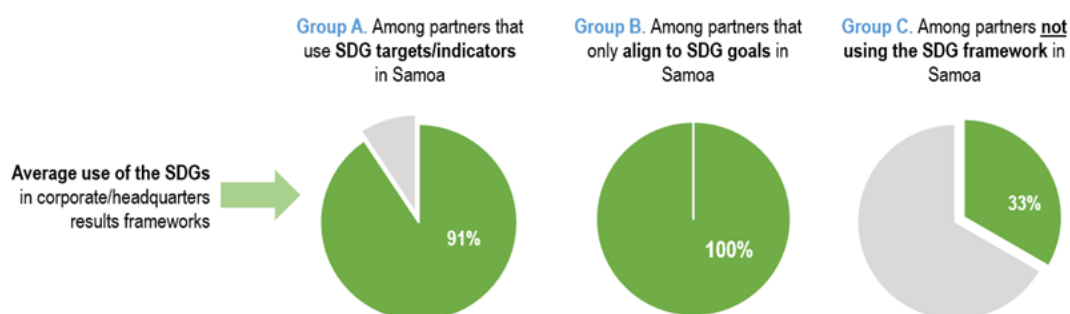
In 2018, initial attempts were made to develop a Pacific-wide multi-country results framework for the UN system (ForumSec, 2018<sup>[14]</sup>; SPC, 2018<sup>[17]</sup>; SPC, 2018<sup>[17]</sup>). However, Samoa requested a negotiated, country-specific strategy and results framework for the country in 2019. This iterative process helped foster country ownership in SDG alignment taken up by the UN system in Samoa. It also highlighted the need to localise SDG-aligned regional development co-operation frameworks to country-specific circumstances.

### What leads to alignment of development co-operation to SDG results?

Several factors are common to development partners that have started using the SDG framework with any level of depth in Samoa:

- **Corporate requirements:** Corporate leadership and demand for SDG data are powerful drivers for the use of the SDG framework in Samoa. In fact, the vast majority of development partners that are using the SDGs to define country-level results have also incorporated the SDGs in headquarters' overall results framework (Figure 2.5)

**Figure 2.5. Corporate instructions matter: SDG adoption at headquarters level creates incentives for the use of the SDG framework at the country level**



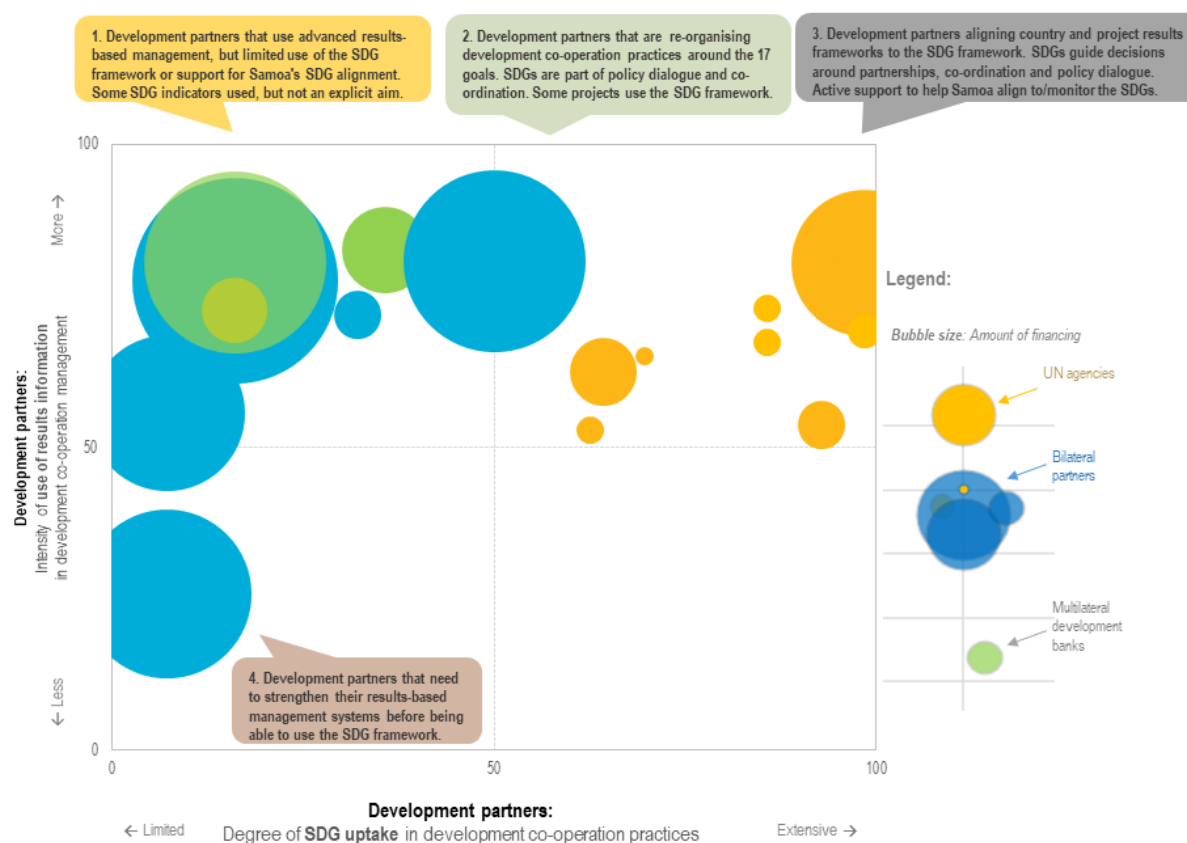
Notes: Sample of 17 major bilateral and multilateral partners active in Samoa. Percentage reflects the extent of the use of the SDG framework per donor grouping.

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from OECD (2020<sup>[30]</sup>) and Guerrero-Ruiz, Schnatz and Verger (2021<sup>[31]</sup>).



- **Demand for results data:** A minimum consolidation of results-based management approaches is a precondition to start using the SDG indicator framework. Two-thirds of development partners in Samoa use management approaches that require intensive use of results frameworks and data (Figure 2.6). For some others, more extensive use of results frameworks in development co-operation could enable a deeper alignment with the SDG framework.

Figure 2.6. Use of the SDG framework in development co-operation in Samoa



Notes: SDG: Sustainable Development Goal. UN: United Nations. Bubble colours indicate the type of development partner (Blue: bilateral partners, Green: development banks, Yellow: UN agencies). Bubble size denotes the relative size of a development co-operation programme. The SDG uptake index is a composite indicator that reflects the use of the SDGs in results frameworks, as well as the complementary investments made to promote SDG alignment, monitoring and use.

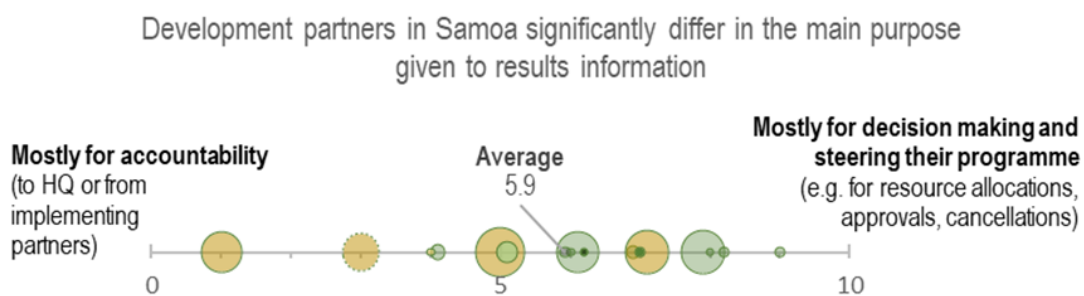
Source: Authors' elaboration based on OECD (2020<sub>[30]</sub>).

- **Country ownership and alignment:** Most development partners are ready to align to the SDGs as the country moves towards greater SDG alignment in national and sector planning and monitoring. This is a positive legacy of Samoa's experience with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (OECD and GoS, 2010<sub>[32]</sub>), as most partners require new interventions to align to national and sector policies. As a result, they are co-investing in updating sector policies and frameworks that use SDG indicators at various levels of intensity (e.g. Australia/New Zealand in education; the World Bank in health; Australia in gender and communications and information technology policies). Close to half of partners (eight) also report supporting the government in aligning national and

sector results planning to the SDGs. All of these collective behaviours and investments create opportunities for further collaborative alignment around the SDGs, and for a joint response to the impact of the pandemic in Samoa.

- **Emphasis on results data for decision making:** SDG adopters tend to use results information for programme steering and decision making more often (Figure 2.7). Partners in Samoa use SDG data in the context of sector or country diagnostics, in designing new interventions, and in learning about programme effectiveness. When used, SDG metrics tend to be complemented with qualitative analysis. They are used either to analyse trends or identify bottlenecks, or in the context of interpreting disaggregated data with a lens to “leave no one behind”. Demand-driven analytical work with an SDG lens (particularly when it helps uncover synergies and trade-offs across SDG targets) can represent a key contribution to Samoa’s development, given that the country has good levels of SDG and other development data, but a narrower capacity to process, analyse and use these data at sector level.

**Figure 2.7. On average, SDG adopters emphasise results data for programme steering and decision making at country level**



Notes: HQ: headquarters. **Green** represents partners that are currently using the SDG framework in Samoa; **yellow** for partners that were not explicitly using the SDG framework (as of 2020). **Bubble size** denotes the volume of development assistance per development partner.

Sources: Authors’ elaboration with data from OECD (2020<sup>[30]</sup>; 2020<sup>[25]</sup>) .

- **Implicit alignment:** Use of well-established indicators for sector performance constitutes a basis of SDG alignment for all partners – including for non-SDG adopters. A detailed review of their strategic plans and a sample of project documents reveal frequent use of SDG results indicators that existed well before 2015. These well-established indicators represent 45% of all SDG indicators, with abundant data for SDG 3 on health (93% of related indicators); SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure (75%); SDG 7 on energy (67%); SDG 17 on partnerships/means of implementation (60%); SDG 15 on life on land (57%); and SDG 6 on water and sanitation (55%).

### What limits development partners’ use of the SDG framework in Samoa?

- **Lag in planning cycles:** Many field offices (76%) point to the need to follow headquarters’ planning cycle and legacy results frameworks that have not expired yet. For those that have already started aligning frameworks to the SDGs, like the UN partners, the process of alignment is done in parallel with the government’s own SDG

alignment process, by identifying, localising or developing data sources during the period prior to this review. In practice, this has meant that UN partners had to wait for national or sector authorities to align to the SDGs first.

- **Lack of incentives or guidance from headquarters:** During interviews, field managers noted that this is compounded by limited instructions, guidance or incentives from headquarters to increase the use of the SDG targets and indicators in results frameworks. Several partners also identify their internal processes and understanding of methodologies for results-based management as a constraint. Many field offices indicate that formal demand for results reporting is generally strong (for accountability and communication purposes). However, they add that use of results data to manage development co-operation programmes is still weak. This makes them question the usefulness of integrating the complex SDG framework in practice. In some instances, development partners report that they have not explicitly embraced the SDG framework, language and branding at country level. However, a review of project documents and results frameworks show implicit matching with SDG indicators for sector performance (Box 2.3).

### Box 2.3. In all but name: Working on Sustainable Development Goal issues without the branding

As of 2020, several development partners present in Samoa claimed not to rely on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework to plan and measure their development interventions, nor to contribute to SDG measurement in the country. However, a desk review of a sample of projects helps uncover multiple examples of implicit contributions to targeting, measuring and achieving various SDG priorities. The collaborative preparation of the 2020 voluntary national review also served to identify many of those unbranded or “hidden” linkages between development programmes and the SDGs. Examples include:

- **Australia’s** support through the Women in Development Programme is critically aligned with implementing various SDG 5 targets (DFAT, 2015<sup>[33]</sup>; 2020<sup>[34]</sup>; DFAT, 2020<sup>[34]</sup>).
- The **World Bank’s** support in 2020 targeted areas related to domestic revenue mobilisation, climate change preparation, disaster risk reduction and management, and preventing communicable diseases – all of which correspond to specific SDG targets and indicators.
- **Japan’s** studies and projects on solid waste management directly contribute to measuring and implementing various SDG 6, 12 and 14 targets.

Making these SDG linkages more explicit in development co-operation delivery is a quick win, enabling the use of the SDGs as a shared framework for results in Samoa.

- **Funder-oriented results reporting:** While successful in integrating the SDG framework into their results-based approaches, UN agencies also report some bumps in SDG alignment related to their funding modalities. A key issue refers to earmarking practices in bilateral financing of multilateral agencies. These add pressure for accountability-oriented results frameworks, to allow reporting on attributable outputs linked to earmarked funding (instead of SDG outcome indicators). Moreover, some agencies work on less measurable issues that are poorly reflected in the official SDG framework (e.g. human rights, culture and governance). Others may focus their entire programme on a given goal, which limits the extent to which they can fully align their results frameworks (as the number of SDG indicators per goal is finite). Finally, as a whole, there is a perception that some trends in international development financing (i.e. emphasis on climate financing in SIDS, single-topic vertical funds or global

initiatives) drive a disproportionate amount of financing towards specific goals regardless of overall country needs and diminish the capacity of UN agencies to adopt the type of integrated, cross-sector approaches needed for resilience and sustainable development.

- **Donor co-ordination:** For a majority of SDG adopters, communicating about their own contribution to the SDGs in Samoa is important, and especially for the UN system, but there is a lack of collective co-ordination strategically guided by the SDGs. The SDGs have not permeated sufficiently into donor co-ordination mechanisms or sector policy dialogue in Samoa, and the *explicit* use of SDG data in those contexts is still limited. This is especially the case if the line ministry or the primary donor organisation has not incorporated the SDG framework into its own results-based approaches. This gap can be attributed to the mixed composition of those groups and because major partners in Samoa were not aligned to the SDGs prior to COVID-19. A review of these partners' project documents in response to the pandemic's effects in Samoa also reveals a lack of explicit references to the SDGs or their framework. This is the case even if some level of implicit alignment takes place given that some SDG indicators are common development metrics. All in all, limited co-ordination around SDG support might lead to fragmented, less effective approaches – as noted by the government in its latest voluntary national review (GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>).

As a result of these constraints, development co-operation practices in Samoa are not yet ready for the type of integrated, cross-sectoral approaches needed for meaningful SDG alignment and measurement. Aligning to the SDGs is more than incorporating SDG targets and indicators in results frameworks. It requires a move towards systems-thinking, planning and design that incorporates synergies and trade-offs into policy/programme design and decision making. The government and its partners are oriented towards sector-wide approaches in terms of SDG alignment. This approach is in part due to a preference for assigning clear lines of responsibility per SDG and in the cross-donor division of labour. This is also serving to raise awareness at line ministry level around cross-sector SDG interlinkages, including during SDG data validation and reporting processes. As a next step, support will be needed to build ministries' capacity to fully integrate these SDG interlinkages into analysis, data collection or decision making. Regional initiatives to analyse transboundary impacts provide a good evidence base to integrate into learning and decision making. Some bilateral partners also adopt regional approaches to calibrate the impact of other policies (e.g. trade, migration, foreign investment) on other Pacific nations. These are two good practices.

# 3

## Setting up monitoring approaches that support SDG measurement in Samoa

### Highlights

- Explicit support for monitoring systems and statistical capacity building by Samoa's development partners has been comparatively limited in recent years. However, other practices have enabled increased availability of data for decision making.
- Good practices include investments in regional initiatives that support peer learning, capacity building, and monitoring and reporting (including around the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] for partners that aligned to them). Equally important, sector-wide programmes have helped build data systems at ministry level over the last decade. This has resulted in increased SDG data availability in those sectors.
- To help further in that direction – particularly given the need for timely evidence in the context of the pandemic – development partners should consider adjustments in their results-based management practices that contribute to collective availability of SDG data in Samoa.

As Chapter 1 discussed, Samoa has reached a comparatively good level of availability of data on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Samoa identified and matched data sources and SDG indicators, integrated sector data into a whole-of-government SDG monitoring approach, and “localised” specific SDG indicators to the local context and data. These practices all helped the country to report on 166 SDG-aligned indicators in its 2020 voluntary national review (VNR) (GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>). In field research interviews, government and other stakeholders saw a need to expand SDG indicator coverage when relevant, and to generate enough SDG data frequency, disaggregation and analysis. As a result of Samoa's investments since 2015, the country can now report on national progress towards the SDGs for most indicators. All in all, data for 166 SDG indicators are available; 82% of them are referred to as development results (Table 3.1). That extensive set of indicators compares well with the other country case studies in this series. It builds a good foundation for an SDG-linked results framework in Samoa for development partners to rally behind.

**Table 3.1. Are there enough data in Samoa for a shared monitoring framework on SDG results?**

A shared SDG framework for results in Samoa could cover up to 166 results indicators

<i>Indicator type →</i>	<b>Outcome/ impact</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Activity/ process</b>	<b>Input</b>	<b>SDG-aligned indicators (by depth of alignment)</b>
<i>Comparability with official SDG Indicators ↓</i>					
<b>Best:</b> Perfect match with official SDG indicator	65	29	5	17	70% (116)
<b>Good:</b> Derived/partial match with official SDG indicator	10	2	1	2	9% (15)
<b>OK:</b> Proxy indicator (i.e. refers to SDG target)	23	7	4	1	21% (35)
<b>SDG-aligned indicators</b> (by type of indicator):	<b>59%</b> (98)	<b>23%</b> (38)	6% (10)	12% (20)	<b>178 out of 232</b> unique SDG indicators
◀= Results =▶					

Note: In **green**, SDG-aligned indicators available in Samoa that track development results across all 17 SDGs and Samoa's 14 policy priorities.

Source: Authors' estimates based on Government of Samoa (2020<sub>[6]</sub>) and IAEG-SDG (2020<sub>[16]</sub>).

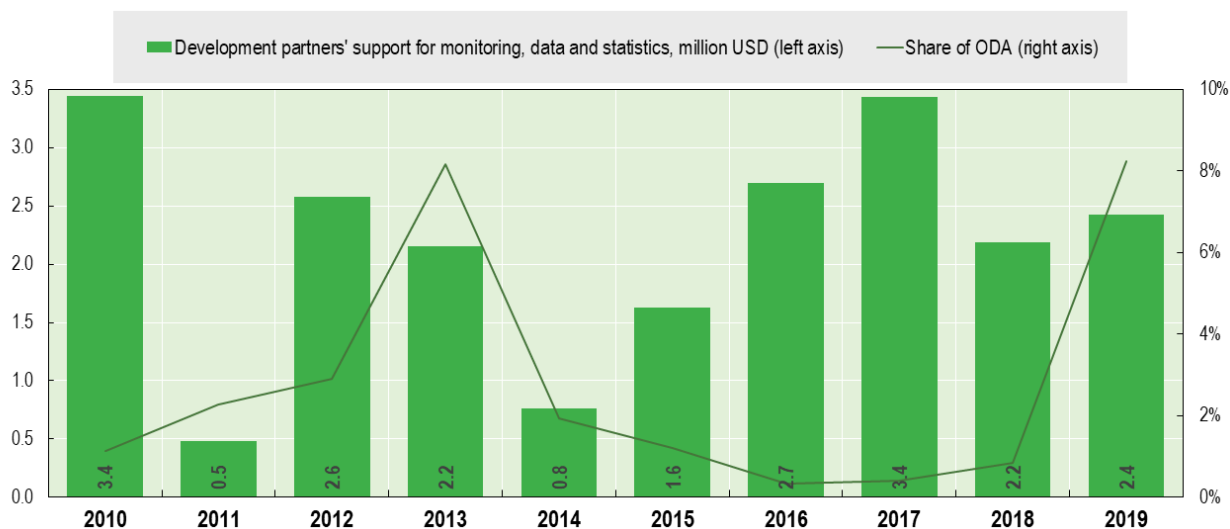
## Are development partners supporting country efforts in SDG monitoring?

Bilateral and multilateral partners actively help Samoa strengthen its capacities for strategic planning and for monitoring and evaluation at all levels. This is generally done in partnership at the sectoral level, reinforced by high levels of trust between Samoan institutions and its partners. With few exceptions, most partners (94%) also collaborate around joint programming or monitoring exercises (OECD, 2020<sub>[30]</sub>). This includes supporting the government in devising strategic plans and associated monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks. Concrete examples include the development and monitoring of Samoa's national development strategies, public financial management reforms, disaster risk mitigation systems or education sector support (Box 3.1). Most partners (88.2%) are also allowed or encouraged to use government data and statistics to monitor programme results. This practice incentivises the investment and use of Samoan government data in the various areas and sectors where they work. In fact, 87% of partners report co-financing sectoral initiatives to strengthen monitoring systems or statistical capacities. There has also been long-term support associated with the country's national statistical capacity strategy and line ministries' data needs. However, the scale of support has been relatively small – between 0.17% and 2.5% of partners' assistance on average (Infographic 3.1).

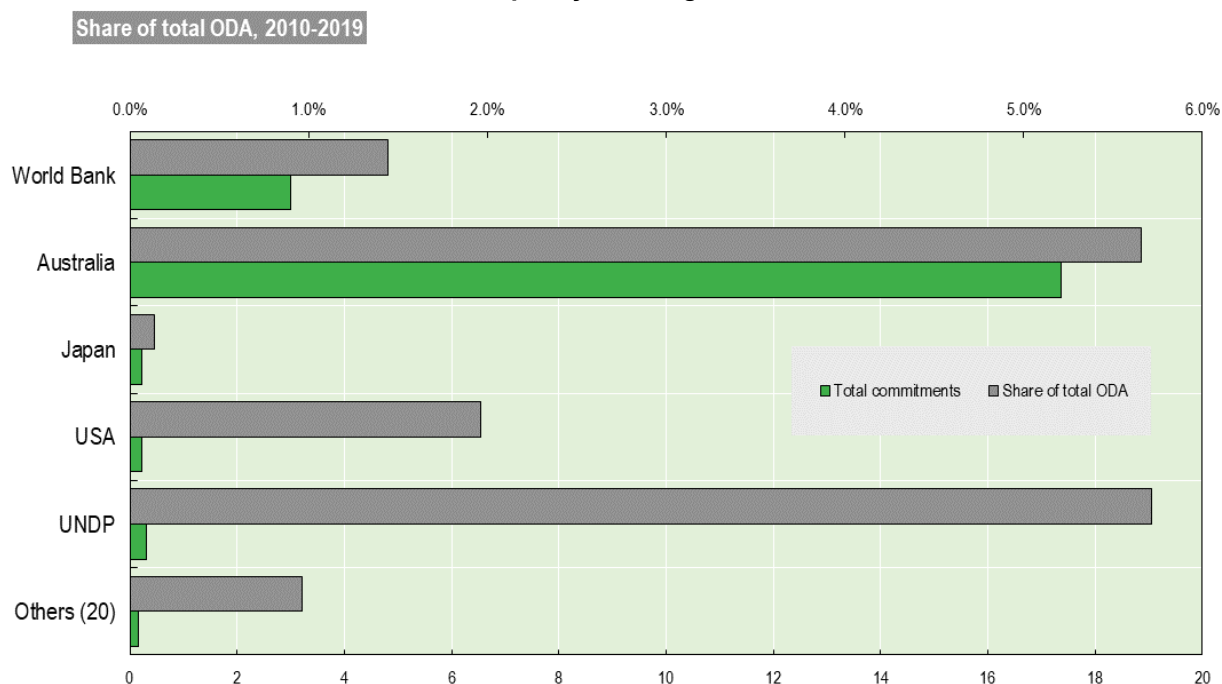
These investments in country and sector planning, data, monitoring, and statistics create a virtuous circle that will enable greater partner alignment to, and measurement of, the SDGs. The policy areas (associated to eight SDGs) that have benefited from the vast majority of assistance for data monitoring and statistics in the last decade have data for 78% of SDG indicators. This compares favourably with the remaining nine policy areas that have received less support; on average they only have recent data for 57% of SDG indicators. The education sector offers a recent example of country-partner synergies around sector planning, data and financing (Box 3.1).

### Infographic 3.1. Development co-operation for data and statistics capacity building

#### A. Total ODA support for monitoring systems and data/statistics capacity building, 2010-19



#### B. Total and relative official development finance support to monitoring, data, and statistical capacity building, 2010-19



Total commitments 2010-2018, current USD, millions

Notes: ODA: official development assistance. UNDP: United Nations Development Programme. Estimates for support for data and statistics follow the methodology in Lange (2020<sup>[35]</sup>). Lange's original list of semantic terms was expanded to include four extra items (i.e. linguistic stems) that reflect investments in monitoring, evaluation and evidence-based policy making.

Source: Author's calculations based on OECD (2020<sup>[25]</sup>).

### Box 3.1. Good practice: Monitoring SDG 4 in the education sector

#### **Samoa's capacity to manage for sustainable results improved with sector-wide support programmes**

With the purpose of strengthening various country systems, Samoa negotiated a Joint Policy Action Matrix with its major development partners (GoS, 2013<sup>[36]</sup>). As a first priority, it aimed to enhance sector planning, budgeting and monitoring systems to raise the effectiveness of public policies. Budget support and other sector-wide modalities were to co-finance the necessary sector investments.

Australia and New Zealand joined forces in 2014 to support the Samoan Ministry of Education's efforts to improve education policy across the whole cycle, from evidence-based planning to impact measurement of education outcomes at every stage – from early childhood to post-secondary vocational training.

The "Samoa Education Sector Support Program" was designed around a comprehensive theory of change and sector diagnostics, while result-oriented governance accounted for synergies and spillovers to other sectors (DFAT and MFAT, 2015<sup>[37]</sup>). Investments were to be made in improving sector results by better planning and budgeting, as well as in enhanced monitoring, evaluation research and learning capabilities.

The final evaluation recognises that, in only three years, progress was significant in strengthening whole-of-government governance and monitoring of the sector (MFAT, 2018<sup>[38]</sup>). Education planning became much more result-oriented and the medium-term budget process strengthened linkages. The programme also helped upskill teachers and strengthen the education system with soft (processes, governance, curricula) and hard (infrastructure, resources) investments. However, the programme's timespan was too short to raise the skills of ministry staff sufficiently on monitoring, evaluation and data analysis – an observed need across other line ministries as well. Follow-up investment built on those lessons and continued to strengthen government capabilities.

#### ***These investments in sector results-based management have contributed to better SDG 4 monitoring***

The above programme supported the ambitions of the Education Sector Plan 2013-18 and its reference to the Millennium Development Goal of achieving universal primary education. However, the subsequent sector plan (2019-24) is largely aligned with SDG 4 on education, with its broader ambitions of education access, quality and learning outcomes for all ages and levels. The sector plan is better connected to Samoa's planning and budgeting. It also built its "Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework" collaboratively. This was rooted on a clear theory of change that connects outputs to intermediate and long-term outcomes. At the same time, its design remained simple and "localised" to sector needs and capacities. As of mid-2020, Samoa was able to track 92% of its SDG indicators using official UN definitions for two-thirds of the indicators; it used localised proxies for the rest. This offers a solid pre-pandemic baseline data (Figure 1.1). Even if Australia and New Zealand had not *explicitly* aligned their own country-level results frameworks to SDG indicators yet, their support was critical to build in-country capacity to do so.

The COVID-19 pandemic also represented a stress test for SDG 4. With multi-donor support, the ministry was able to fast-track a response on basic education (i.e. remote learning). The existing Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework has been streamlined to provide high-frequency results data on its rate of success (MESC, 2020<sup>[39]</sup>).

However, these development co-operation initiatives to support data for evidence-based policy making in Samoa do not always incorporate an SDG lens, slowing down broader use of the SDG framework for country-level monitoring. Half of the partners in the country,



representing the vast majority of development co-operation financing, report they did not promote activities to help Samoa align national or sector plans to the SDGs during the period 2017-20. These partners have not started to incorporate the SDG framework into their country-level planning and monitoring practices either, which may explain a lack of incentives to invest in those activities. As they represent the lion's share of official development financing to Samoa, their limited engagement in SDG planning and monitoring limits the availability, frequency and relevance of SDG-aligned indicators and data, especially in sectors where their funding dominates. This, in turn, delays the use of the SDG framework to track development co-operation results across all sectors in Samoa: a precondition to use the SDGs as an interconnected system of synergies and trade-offs.

## Six factors that can enable sustainable monitoring of the SDGs in Samoa

### **1. Most development partners need significant amounts of sector results data, which leads to support for country statistics and diagnostics**

Most development partners in Samoa rely on results-based management systems that formally require high levels of development data. Almost all partners rely extensively on results frameworks to monitor their strategies and interventions. Fourteen of the 17 partners are required to carry out context analyses to develop these interventions and its results frameworks (OECD, 2020<sup>[30]</sup>). A similar number is required to develop and monitor matrices reflecting risks and assumptions. Furthermore, 12 are required to collect data on all the results indicators included in the results frameworks, regardless of data availability or collection costs. According to most field offices in Samoa, this *formal* drive for results data is adequately formalised by their organisation's results-based management policies and upward accountability mechanisms. It is further supported by "good enough" staff skills, IT systems and sufficient resources. To some extent, these data-gathering and reporting processes are considered burdensome and not as useful for country-level management needs. However, they undoubtedly generate a flow of investments for country-level development data. In SIDS of the size and population of Samoa, the drive for data often means data sampling that becomes representative of the whole population or territory. This partially explains the relative abundance of data (and SDG-related data) in the country despite the comparatively small size of Samoa's public administration.

### **2. Most partners participate in joined-up programming and monitoring exercises**

Development co-operation delivery in Samoa is well grounded in multi-donor collaboration around results planning and monitoring. Fifteen partners (94%) engage in joint programming and monitoring exercises. Collaboration has only grown in preparing the support to Samoa during the pandemic. The high density of inter-donor collaboration in Samoa provides a crucial foundation for joint support to SDG monitoring in the near future. This is especially the case in sectors where SDG indicators have already been included in updated sector strategies. Intense bilateral collaboration is taking place with UN agencies and other multilaterals that actively use the SDG framework for results planning and monitoring in the country. This collaboration is also helping to bring the SDG lens to capacity building for development data and statistics in Samoa. Long-standing investments in development data in various sectors with active multi-donor presence has led to good availability of SDG data, in line with Samoa's statistical capacity-building strategy (SBS, 2011<sup>[40]</sup>).

### **3. Regional SDG monitoring and reporting efforts complement country efforts**

Due to economies of scale and incentives for peer learning among countries, most development partners active in the Pacific rely on regional programmes and initiatives to support capacity-building efforts for statistics and data, as well as for SDG measurement and reporting. Some examples include New Zealand's Pacific Statistics Support Programme, as well as the statistical support for the SDGs offered by the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Asian Development Bank has also invested in monitoring key SDG indicators for Asia-Pacific (ADB, 2020<sup>[41]</sup>). Bilateral partners and the World Bank have supported the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to build statistical capacity in the region and manage the Pacific Data Hub, which includes SDG data (World Bank, 2020<sup>[42]</sup>; SPC, 2021<sup>[43]</sup>; SPC, 2021<sup>[43]</sup>). Finally, the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat has carried out Pacific-wide quadrennial monitoring and review of SDG progress. Samoa is able to report on 84 of the 131 SDG indicators (64%) prioritised by Pacific leaders for the region as part of the Pacific SDG Roadmap monitoring framework (Pacific Data Hub, 2021<sup>[44]</sup>).

### **4. Most partners emphasise government ownership of development efforts and maximising the use of country data and statistics**

Among the seven country cases examined as part of this comparative study on alignment and use of the SDG framework at country level, Samoa's development co-operation ecosystem ranks reasonably well in terms of country ownership and use of country data. Development partners work closely with or deliver support through government entities, and projects generally incorporate capacity-building elements (including for monitoring and data gathering at sector level). In all, 88% of partners are encouraged to use country statistics as much as possible (OECD, 2020<sup>[30]</sup>). In addition, given their relative importance in Samoa's overall development financing, the impact of these partners on the capacity of Samoa (and other SIDS) to collect development data – also SDG data – is potentially large in relation to other country contexts.

### **5. Well-structured co-ordination, mutual accountability and transparency around results**

Development partner co-ordination rests on solid arrangements for mutual accountability, which creates incentives for sustainable monitoring of the SDGs. Samoa has a comprehensive policy framework for development co-operation, which includes country-level targets for the government and its traditional development partners (GPEDC, 2019<sup>[45]</sup>). Most development partners, as well as civil society and other non-state actors, regularly engage in joint assessments of progress, including in the context of the VNRs on the SDGs. Despite capacity constraints, they make joint efforts to publish the results of these assessments in a timely manner. About two-thirds of Samoa's partners regularly consult local stakeholders in developing their results frameworks. Meanwhile, 81% make their results data publicly available, either via annual reports, websites or data platforms (OECD, 2020<sup>[30]</sup>). These individual development co-operation practices, in line with the principles for effective development co-operation, create a positive context for joined-up monitoring of the SDGs in Samoa.

### **6. The COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity for joined-up SDG monitoring**

Unlike the other country case studies, the development co-operation response to the pandemic in Samoa offers a one-off opportunity for multi-donor support to SDG monitoring. In other countries ravaged by the pandemic, national statistical systems have suffered from social distancing, and delayed surveys and other data collection exercises (UNDESA/World Bank,

2020<sup>[46]</sup>). Conversely, Samoa's relative isolation from the virus has helped maintain national statistical capacity and timelines. As long as regular funding for government monitoring and statistical data is not reallocated to other purposes, and as long as efforts are made to reassess SDG status and targets, this continuity will allow for close-to-schedule release of relevant SDG data in the future (Guerrero-Ruiz, 2020<sup>[47]</sup>). The country's review of SDG progress in 2020 also provides a fresh baseline on Samoa's SDG status prior to COVID-19. As the pandemic continues to redefine the development opportunities for Samoa, this shock offers a one-off opportunity to rewrite funding plans and results frameworks with the SDGs at the core (Tortora and Agnelli, 2021<sup>[7]</sup>). In fact, partners' recent rapid assessments on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on the SDGs could serve as a common public good: they could inform development co-operation responses that rely on SDG-aligned diagnostics and monitoring and evaluation frameworks (UN, 2020<sup>[1]</sup>; GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>; GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>). Samoa's partners have demonstrated their capacity to swiftly adapt their programmes to address the pandemic's effects in the country: in all, 71% of partners were empowered by internal policies and practices that allowed them to revise the original programme/project designs and results frameworks in light of the pandemic. However, a review of publicly available project documents approved in 2020 suggests that this opportunity was not being immediately tapped. Often, new interventions were not tailored to, or did not refer to, the impacts of the pandemic on the SDGs in Samoa, or the availability of country SDG data. This may change as short-term rapid responses evolve into longer term support for a sustainable recovery and resilience.

As a lesson from the pandemic, results-based approaches guiding future support in Samoa should be adapted to more explicitly incorporate dimensions of vulnerability and unpredictability, so as to ensure that they are effective and adaptive management tools even in rapidly changing development contexts.

## Issues that hinder the use of the SDG framework in monitoring practices

- **Lack of synchronisation with Samoa's results planning:** The vast majority of Samoa's partners (76%) are required to follow their organisation's own planning cycle (OECD, 2020<sup>[30]</sup>). This results in delays in aligning to the SDG monitoring framework, even when the country might increase its SDG alignment for the next 2021-25 planning cycle. Furthermore, interviewed staff point to very limited exchanges of country strategies, project documents or results frameworks between development partners, which contributes to fragmentation in results planning and monitoring.
- **Legacy monitoring requirements:** Partially as a result of the above issue, as of 2020, legacy results frameworks without SDG references – at regional, country and project levels – continued to dominate most monitoring activities and data collection around development co-operation results in Samoa.
- **Corporate requirements:** In general, most results frameworks in development co-operation in Samoa tend to reflect a bias towards upward accountability needs. This is also true for the dense network of projects with cross-donor financing (e.g. from bilateral to multilateral agencies). As a result, partners' frameworks are heavily populated with indicators that track project inputs, activities or outputs, and usually on annual or semi-annual frequency. In contrast, 60% of SDG indicators available in Samoa reflect broader outcomes, and are collected every two to three years (see Annex A and Figure 1.2). To address this contradiction and keep the level of alignment to SDG results, some partners adapt the official definition (e.g. they adjust official indicator definitions for SDG outcomes to match related project outputs, so as to be

able to monitor results attributable to their projects while maintaining the SDG alignment level).

- **Parallel systems:** Partner rigidities in monitoring approaches lead to burdensome parallel processes. Close to half of Samoa's partners indicate they are not allowed to adapt their approaches or internal processes to the country context or implementing partners' capacities. For SIDS, where human resources are generally thin, this results in implementation requirements that often overstretch capabilities in line ministries and civil society organisations. Particularly in highly project-oriented development co-operation portfolios, business-as-usual in monitoring practices as defined in headquarters becomes burdensome and inefficient. They may emphasise accountability on short-term deliverables – with less use of government-defined results indicators (GPEDC, 2019<sup>[26]</sup>). Finally, planned collection and use of baselines and results data are frequently delayed due to capacity constraints. Multiple project evaluations refer to these long-standing challenges during project implementation in SIDS, which stakeholders confirmed to the OECD team during the field visit to Samoa.
- Aware of these tensions, field staff of partners in Samoa (which increased significantly in number during the 2010s) actively support implementers in these parallel processes for results monitoring. However, to enable sustainable SDG monitoring in Samoa, partner approaches will need to evolve. They must enable less fragmented monitoring practices that have, until now, overstretched local capacities and inefficiencies in terms of data collection and use. As the government suggests in the 2020 VNR on SDGs and most programme/project evaluations confirm, sector-wide approaches are more effective in creating sustainable and efficient monitoring practices. This is also true for the SDGs (GoS, 2020<sup>[6]</sup>).
- **Own indicator selection:** Partner disincentives due to a corporate approach to monitor and report on contributions to the SDGs. Some of Samoa's partners mention corporate practices that result in disincentives to actively incorporate the SDGs as part of regular country programme management. Reasons include a lack of corporate/headquarters mandate to rethink their country programme in terms of the SDGs, or a lack of instructions and guidance on how to do so. For others, corporate processes already report on the donor organisation's overall contribution to the SDGs and partner countries' own progress in implementing them. This replaces the strategic use of the SDG framework at country level. For the latter group, development partners rely on available SDG data for Samoa to populate their corporate SDG report or website with country data. This creates disincentives to invest on further expansion of Samoa's capacity to monitor the SDGs.

Overcoming these issues to allow for greater SDG alignment of monitoring practices is at hand. In the wake of the collective response to COVID-19 and its aftermath in Samoa, better synchronisation of partners' results planning cycles with Samoa's own cycle can enable more sustainable SDG monitoring on the road to 2030. One important enabler would be a results framework well aligned to the SDGs for Samoa's upcoming national plan, medium-term expenditure framework and subsequent annual budgets. This framework should trace a road map to recovery and sustainable development after the pandemic ends. Another enabler has two possible paths to success. As one option, partners could adjust their own requirements on data frequency for SDG outcomes (to match Samoa's data-gathering frequency). They might also increase financial and technical support so Samoa can increase the frequency of key SDG data as agreed with the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and other government counterparts.

# 4 Conclusion: The SDGs as a shared framework for development results in Samoa on the way to 2030

## Highlights

- Notwithstanding progress in domesticating the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework in Samoa and growing data availability, use of the SDGs as a shared framework to guide development efforts is still incipient.
- Samoa's government and partners primarily use the SDG framework and data for accountability purposes. Samoa is also increasingly using the framework and data in new sector plans. Half of Samoa's partners use it to formally report on their SDG contributions, too.

## Using the SDGs as a shared framework for development results in Samoa

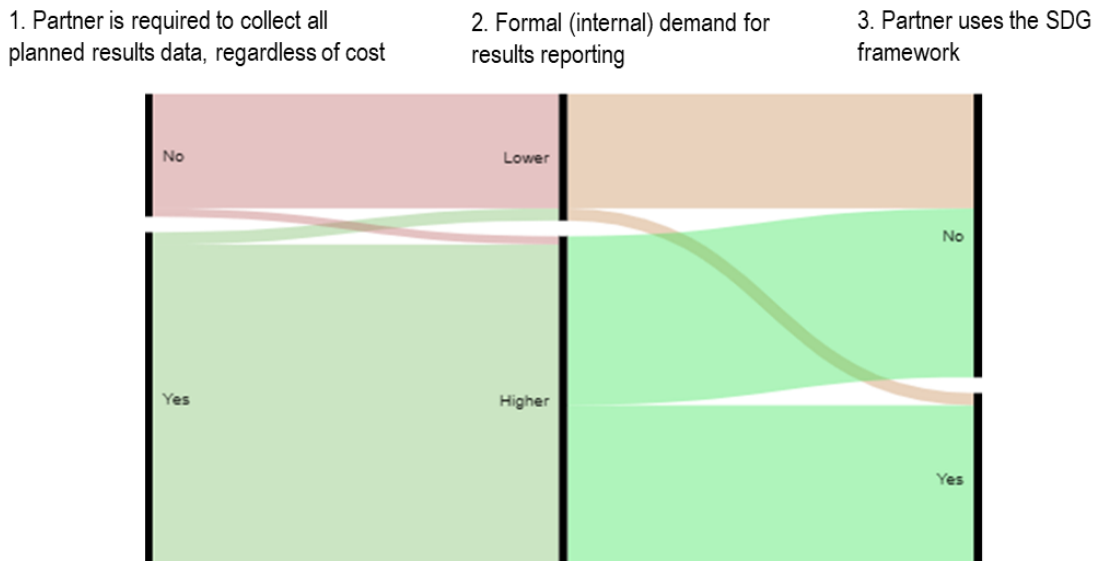
Samoa's main use for the SDG framework and related data has been domestic and international accountability and communication. Until 2020, data collection and reporting processes had led to successive voluntary national reviews (VNRs) and regional reporting. These processes helped raise awareness about the SDGs, identify data availability and gaps, establish baselines, and track progress for most SDG targets. Samoa has positioned itself as a leader in SDG alignment within the Pacific region. Over time, the SDG framework is being used in new sector strategies and monitoring frameworks. This has served as a catalyst to kick-start work that better links development financing and the 2030 Agenda.

Samoa is well positioned to expand the use of SDG data for policy learning and decision making. For this to happen, the next 2021-25 national planning cycle may need to be more deeply rooted in the SDG framework and its indicators, and thoroughly linked to Samoa's medium-term expenditure framework and annual budgets (JSDGF, 2020<sup>[21]</sup>). Another precondition is that development co-operation is more closely aligned and co-ordinated around the SDG framework, given the importance of official development assistance (ODA) for Samoa and the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country's finances and across most SDG indicators.

Finally, the use of SDG data as a guide for development co-operation in Samoa is still relatively recent, but improving. Half of Samoa's development partners (about a third of all ODA) have formally initiated the alignment of strategies and interventions to the SDG framework, with the

aim of reporting on SDG contributions. These agencies largely belong to the group of partners that are governed by results-based management policies. These normally establish formal and regular reporting on results, but in the case of Samoa's partners, they also report on their SDG contribution. These agencies are also required to collect all planned results data, regardless of cost or availability, which creates positive incentives for investments in SDG data collection in the country (Figure 4.1).

**Figure 4.1. Among development partners, most SDG adopters are required to report formally on their contribution to the SDGs in Samoa**



Note: Thickness of flows represents relative amounts of official development assistance delivered by Samoa's 17 development partners.

Sources: Authors' elaboration with data from OECD (2020<sup>[30]</sup>; 2020<sup>[25]</sup>).

Samoa and its partners can build on several good practices that create a favourable environment for SDG alignment. Samoa shows strong country ownership of the 2030 Agenda, as reflected in leadership's commitment at country and regional levels, and the government's inter-ministerial arrangements to manage SDG adoption, integration and reporting. The government's effective role in co-ordinating and managing development co-operation creates ideal conditions for joined-up SDG alignment and measurement by all stakeholders. This is coupled with development partners' good alignment to national policies and participation in country co-ordination mechanisms. In general, development partners are prioritising alignment to existing national and sector planning tools, and waiting for the government's lead before using SDG indicators more explicitly.

Furthermore, both government and partners are actively seeking community-based engagement and civil society participation in bottom-up accountability approaches, in government's steering committees, and in problem/solution identification at the local level. This is a good governance arrangement for the SDGs' commitment of leaving no one behind.

Should Samoa and its development partners wish to tap fully into the unrealised potential offered by the SDG framework to align and co-ordinate development efforts for the post-pandemic recovery, they should consider the following suggestions.

### **A. For the government of Samoa**

- As the government of Samoa continues to review and update national and sector planning tools, **establish clear linkages with SDG indicators** prioritised by Samoa that could help streamline monitoring and reporting processes (also among development partners).
- Samoa and its partners could review the effectiveness of the current sector planning approach over time. In particular, they could **include cross-sector linkages and trade-offs** more explicitly. They could also strengthen **collaboration and data sharing** across sector ministries and co-ordination mechanisms.
- Samoa has reached a critical mass of SDG data, at which most SDGs have one or several recent data points and can provide baselines for programme and project monitoring, evaluation and learning. To build on that basis, consider **prioritising investments in data frequency or disaggregation** for those SDG targets/indicators that become **strategic priorities** in the 2021-25 planning cycle and/or are **clearly linked to recovery from the pandemic**, with support from international partners.

### **B. For development co-operation partners**

The following actions can help increase development co-operation alignment and use of the SDG framework in Samoa:

- As the pandemic has reset many planning cycles, take the opportunity to **synchronise results planning** for your upcoming country programme with Samoa's results frameworks – including Samoa's priority SDG targets.
- For development partners that do not use the SDG framework in full, **aim to set alignment to SDG targets** as a first level of aspiration, at minimum. Alignment to country-prioritised SDG results indicators will easily follow, as Samoa continues the process of aligning national and sector frameworks to the SDG framework.
- Map **existing implicit linkages** between your country-/project-level results frameworks and actual SDG indicators, as many programmes and projects already support specific SDG targets or indicators without using the SDG "label". This low-hanging fruit will help increase the relevance of the SDG framework to existing development co-operation programmes as well as the visibility of partners' SDG contributions.
- Use SDG data and results in **sector co-ordination mechanisms** as a way to articulate joint responses and monitoring frameworks that lead to SDG-aligned projects.
- As part of the response to the global pandemic, major international partners have emphasised **programme-based and budget support** to quickly respond to the pandemic effects in Samoa. Others have joined-up efforts in specific sectors. **Continue using these modalities**, as they offer a window for greater alignment and use of the SDG framework, as by design and volume these instruments can more easily target long-term (SDG) outcomes than project-based assistance.

The following actions in development co-operation monitoring practices can help to improve the availability of timely, disaggregated and accurate SDG data in Samoa:

- To promote harmonisation and cost efficiency around SDG data, consider further harmonising monitoring and evaluation requirements, as requested in Samoa's aid policy (e.g. the Joint Policy Action Matrix). It is critical to avoid overloading local capacities in small island developing states by streamlining results reporting processes and avoiding parallel monitoring systems.

- Continue investing in elements that support Samoa's country systems linked to strategic planning, monitoring and analysis, including government-owned results frameworks and monitoring and evaluation systems that move beyond financial monitoring to consider SDG indicators (e.g. social dimensions). Capacity-building support can be direct or channelled via regional platforms that support efforts in the Pacific, as both have proven effective in building and consolidating Samoa's capacities over time.
- The impact of the global pandemic in Samoa has spurred an increase in cross-donor collaboration and joined-up approaches. It has also incited a strong demand for fresh evidence on development impacts. If applied with an SDG lens, this evidence and the strengthened collaboration across all partners can help Samoa make the jump to an SDG-informed shared framework for development results. By tapping into this opportunity of using harmonised approaches to results-based management, development partners could contribute to reducing transaction costs and reporting burden in countries like Samoa – where capacities and staff resources were already over-stretched even before the pandemic hit.



## Using the SDGs as a shared framework for results in Samoa: Key findings and opportunities

### Good practices that create a favourable environment to use the SDGs as a shared framework for results

- Samoa's increased uptake of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework in national and sector planning, and the associated availability of SDG data, marries well with the use of sector-wide approaches in development co-operation (deepened in the wake of the pandemic) and longer term investments in capacity-building activities.
- Samoa has reached a tipping point at which most SDGs have sufficient data availability and can provide baselines for programme and project monitoring, evaluation and learning, even if data frequency or disaggregation could be improved for some SDG targets/indicators that may become strategic priorities in the next 2021-25 planning cycle.
- These synergies, coupled with high levels of mutual trust and good partnership practices, create an enabling environment to discuss the SDGs as a shared framework for results in Samoa.

### Opportunities and quick wins for Samoa and its development partners

- Most development partners are well equipped with results-based management approaches that can reasonably use the SDG framework for accountability and reporting purposes. This is true even if some major partners have not yet made the conscious step to do so (either due to internal corporate disincentives or lack of demand in sectoral ministries or co-ordination mechanisms).
- Development partners could consider further harmonising their monitoring and evaluation requirements, as requested in Samoa's aid policy (e.g. the Joint Policy Action Matrix). They could also continue investing in government-owned results frameworks and monitoring and evaluation systems that move beyond financial monitoring to consider SDG indicators (e.g. social dimensions).
- Development partners could explore ways to further support Samoa's efforts in continuing efforts to strengthen strategic planning, in-country capacity data management and analysis, and whole-of-government monitoring and evaluation capacities; SDG alignment can help by creating a shared results framework.
- Use of the SDG framework is still limited for integrated diagnostics or planning purposes (e.g. acknowledging synergies and trade-offs between SDG targets). It is equally limited for strategic decision making (e.g. basing resource allocation and managerial decisions on SDG evidence). However, the impact of the global pandemic in Samoa has spurred an increase in cross-donor collaboration and joined-up approaches. It has also incited a strong demand for fresh evidence on development impacts. If applied with an SDG lens, this evidence can help Samoa make the jump to an SDG-informed shared framework for development results. By tapping into this opportunity of using harmonised approaches for results-based management, development partners could help reduce transaction costs and reporting burdens in countries like Samoa – where capacities and staff resources were already over-stretched even before the pandemic hit.

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## Annex A. Alignment of Samoa's strategy for development 2016-20 to the SDGs

Figure A.1. Samoa's 14 key development outcomes broadly align to the Sustainable Development Goals

Priority Areas	Key Samoan Outcomes	Corresponding SDGs	
<b>1. Economic</b>	1. Macroeconomic resilience increased and sustained	1. No Poverty	8. Decent Work & Economic Growth
		17. Partnership for the Goals	
	2. Agriculture and fisheries productivity increased	2. Zero Hunger	
	3. Exports products increased	9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	
	4. Tourism development and performance improved	8. Decent Work & Economic Growth	
	5. Participation of private sector in development enhanced	12. Responsible Consumption and Production	
<b>2. Social</b>	6. A healthy Samoa and well-being promoted	3. Good Health and Well-being	
	7. Quality education and training improved	4. Quality Education	
		5. Gender Equality	10. Reduced Inequalities
	8. Social institutions strengthened	16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	
<b>3. Infrastructure</b>	9. Access to clean water and sanitation sustained	6. Clean Water and Sanitation	
	10. Transport systems and networks improved	9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
	11. Improved and affordable country wide ICT connectivity	9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	
	12. Quality energy supply	7. Affordable and clean energy	
<b>4. Environment</b>	13. Environmental resilience improved	14. Life Below Water	15. Life on Land
	14. Climate and disaster resilience	13. Climate Action	

Source: Government of Samoa (2016<sup>[5]</sup>).

## Annex B. Analytical framework

**Objective.** Multiple other projects and initiatives contribute to enhanced Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) data collection and use in developing countries. This series of comparative case studies complements these initiatives, looking specifically at how development co-operation providers can strengthen their results frameworks at country level and contribute to enhanced alignment, measurement and data use in the context of the SDGs.

**Case study selection.** Selected partner countries met the following criteria: have a country results framework with some level of alignment to the SDGs; have recently completed or planning to prepare a voluntary national review; have a significant level of development partner density, either in sectors or overall; are a partner country for most OECD-DAC donor countries and other major partners; help represent a variety of country contexts (in terms of fragility, level of income, country capacities and diversity of official development financing). The selected countries included Ethiopia, Kenya and Myanmar in 2018, and Bangladesh, Peru, Samoa and Uganda in 2019-20.

**Table B.1. Comparative case studies**

Topics, sub-topics, key research questions and sources of evidence

TOPIC	SUB-TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	Desk review	Results frame analysis	Interviews	Field survey	Headquarters survey	GPEDC, CRS	Other sources
0. Country context	0.1 Country in context							C	•
	0.2. SDG journey		•		•				
	Political leadership and vision	What <b>types and sources of leadership</b> and <b>motivations</b> are driving the country to domesticate the SDGs (and evolution, if any)?	•		•				
	Organisational change	What <b>organisational set-up</b> has been adopted to manage the “journey”? How effective does it seem to be?	•		•				•
	Progress in SDG alignment	What is the <b>level of alignment of national planning</b> to the SDGs? (now and/or in the upcoming planning cycle). Is the <b>budget</b> being aligned, too?	•	•	•			G	
	Progress in SDG measurement	How many <b>SDG indicators are being measured</b> ? What are the issues with the rest?			•				•
	Use of the SDGs in the country	How are <b>the SDGs currently used</b> by the country? (i.e. four functions)	•		•				
	0.3. Progress and limits	What are main <b>strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and risks</b> of the above?							•
1. Aligning country-level results frameworks to the SDGs	1.1. Supporting the SDGs at country level	What are <b>providers’ approaches to incorporate SDG results indicators</b> in their country-level results frameworks?	•	•	•	•	•		•
		Do providers promote <b>cross-sectoral and/or cross-disciplinary approaches</b> to SDG selection?	•	•	•	•			
	1.2. Adapting to context	What <b>types of assessments and diagnostics do providers use</b> to inform the design of SDG-linked country-level results frameworks?		•					•



		(i.e. to obtain a sound understanding of local dynamics and needs).							
	1.3. Enhancing country ownership	To what extent do providers <b>align their country-level results frameworks with SDG indicators prioritised by partner countries</b> ?		●		●	●		●
		What <b>local participatory mechanisms</b> do providers use in setting up their SDG-linked country-level results frameworks?		●		●		G	
	1.4. Maximising the use of results information	What purposes/ <b>anticipated uses</b> guide providers' SDG indicator selection? by type: steering/learning/communication/reporting by level: corporate/thematic/regional/country/project level			●	●			●
	1.5. Fostering a culture of results and learning around SDGs	Within provider organisations, where does <b>leadership/ decision-making authority</b> reside on the incorporation of SDG indicators in their country-level results frameworks?			●	●	●		●
		What support (capacity building, guidance, incentives) is provided to <b>enable operational staff/implementing entities</b> to plan for, manage and monitor SDG indicators?			●				●
	1.6. Manageable and reliable results systems	What <b>types of provider policies, processes and other considerations</b> guide providers in defining SDG results at country level?			●	●			
		What <b>monitoring arrangements</b> are required (if any) at the design stage? Are baseline values calculated? Are these drawn from country sources or statistics?		○		●		G	●
2. Setting up monitoring approaches that support SDG measurement	2.1. Measuring the SDGs at country level	What are <b>providers' approaches to monitor the SDGs</b> across the whole cycle, including at strategic planning, and country programme, sector and project-level monitoring? Do providers promote <b>cross-sectoral approaches</b> to SDG monitoring?				●	●		
	2.2. Adapting to context	To what extent/how do providers <b>adapt their monitoring approaches</b> to countries' statistical and monitoring capacities (and across sectors)?	●	●	●	●	●		
	2.3. Supporting joined-up SDG monitoring	What are providers' approaches to <b>strengthen and maximise the use of partner countries' monitoring and statistical systems</b> for SDG monitoring? Do providers rely on <b>joined-up monitoring approaches</b> for SDG monitoring?		●		●		G	C*
	2.4. Maximising the use of results information	To what extent is the <b>monitoring approach set-up to generate timely, usable SDG results information</b> for decision making/communication/learning/mutual accountability purposes?				●			
	2.5. Fostering a culture of results and learning around the SDGs	To what extent do providers set <b>institutional, financing and co-ordination arrangements</b> that favour "managing for the SDGs"? What <b>staff (dis)incentives</b> are in place to monitor and reflect/learn from SDG results?				●	●		G, G
	2.6. Manageable and reliable results systems	To what extent can providers' existing <b>information systems and processes support</b> the collection, aggregation, analysis and sharing of results data, including SDG data?				●	●		
	3. Using SDG-linked results information	3.1. Using the SDGs at country level	To what extent is <b>country-level (SDG) results information</b> used to inform decision making, communications, reporting/accountability and learning at country level/globally?		●		●		
3.2. Adapting to context		To what extent do providers adapt the <b>use of (SDG) results information</b> to each specific country context?		●	●	○	●		
3.3. Fostering mutual accountability		Is the <b>SDG results information</b> made publicly available? How? Are <b>inclusive approaches</b> used in assessing achieved results? In partnerships, is there a <b>clear understanding</b> of common goals and each party's contribution to achieving shared outcomes and sharing risks?		●		●		G	G
3.4. Maximising the use of results information		To what extent do providers <b>use (SDG) results information</b> in dialogue, mutual accountability, communications and co-ordination arrangements at country level? How?				●		G, C*	●
3.5. Fostering a culture of		Are <b>learning approaches</b> promoted? Is there implicit or explicit				○	●		

	results and learning around the SDGs	evidence that staff is allowed/not penalised for <b>failure</b> when coupled with learning? Is there evidence of <b>experimentation</b> or <b>innovative approaches</b> to foster results? Is there space and resources for <b>analysis of results information</b> and learning?		●	●	●			
	<b>3.6.</b> Manageable and reliable results systems	Do providers' current monitoring and evaluation systems produce <b>credible quantitative and qualitative evidence</b> that meets the needs and capacities of the provider and the local partners?			●	●		G	

Note: GPEDC: Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation; CRS: Creditor Reporting System; SDG: Sustainable Development Goal.

## List of consulted parties

This study benefited from many insights and contributions from all of the official development actors working in Samoa. Below is a list of the institutions and organisations consulted during the study:

### Government of Samoa:

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
- Samoa Audit Office
- Samoa Bureau of Statistics

### Other regional and domestic stakeholders:

- SUNGO: Samoa's Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations
- Pacific Community's Statistics for Development Division
- Pacific Island Forum Secretariat
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

### International development partners:

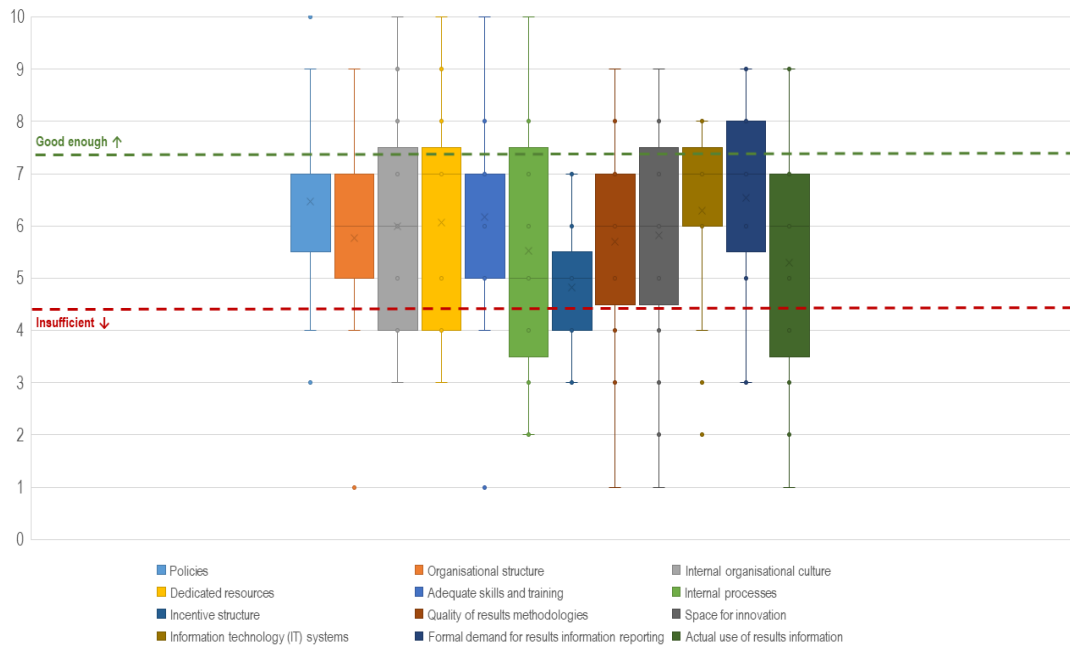
- Asian Development Bank
- Australia
- People's Republic of China
- Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
- Global Environmental Facility
- International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Japan
- New Zealand
- United Nations' Resident Co-ordinator Office
- United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (UNHCOHR) and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (UNHSP)
- United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United States
- UN Women
- World Bank Group
- World Health Organization

## Annex C. Statistical annex

**Figure C.1. Most of Samoa's development partners identify areas of improvement affecting their results-based approaches to manage development co-operation activities**

Self-assessed quality of 13 key elements of results-based management systems (1-10 scoring)

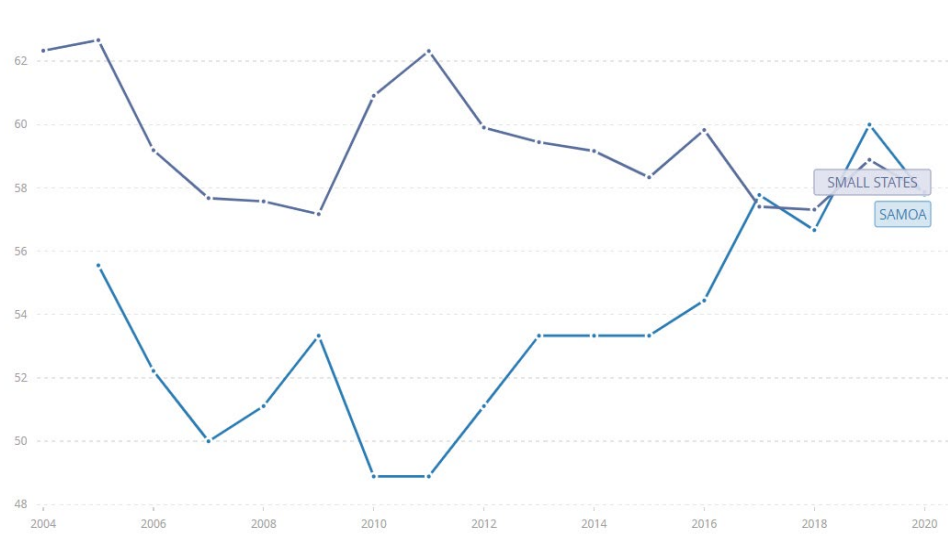


Notes: In the box-and-whisker diagram above, X represents the median value. Boxes cover values the 25th-75th percentiles. Minimum and maximum values are shown as whiskers. Dots represent individual outliers. Respondents were guided to interpret values above 8.5 as “strong”, above 7 as “good enough”, 4 for “insufficient” and below 2.5 as “very weak”.

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from OECD (2020<sub>[30]</sub>) .

### Figure C.2. Samoa has comparatively low statistical capacity compared to its peers

World Bank's Statistical Capacity Index (0-100), 2004-20



Note: Data for other Pacific Island small states are not available.

Source: World Bank (2012<sup>[48]</sup>).

## Annex D. A set of SDG-aligned indicators for shared results in Samoa

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework has 17 goals, 169 targets and 231 unique indicators to track those targets. Out of these, Samoa had data in 2020 for 166 indicators that are fully or partially aligned to the official SDG results framework. Of these indicators, 82% reflect development results (i.e. output/outcome/impact indicators), with relatively recent data across all SDGs.

This extensive list represents a comparatively good basis for an SDG-aligned shared framework for results to guide development co-operation in Samoa (Table D.1). By using common SDG-aligned indicators already available in Samoa, development actors will ensure that sufficient, frequent and accurate development data informs decision making, diminishes fragmentation and maximises impact, all the while harmonising monitoring and reporting processes in the context of a small island developing state. For indicator data available for Samoa from global sources, see the source columns in Table D.1; grey shading of an indicator indicates that data for Samoa are available for this indicator from global sources.

Table D.1. List of indicators aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals with available country data in Samoa

SDG target	SDG indicator SDG-aligned indicators available in Samoa, as of 2020 <i>(indicators in italics do not perfectly match the official UN SDG indicator definition)</i>	Indicator type	SDG alignment	Available data source in Samoa	Most recent data
<b>SDG 1: NO POVERTY – END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE</b>					
1.1	SDG 1.1.1 Proportion of population living below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2018	2018
1.2	SDG 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2018	2018
1.2	<i>Proportion of households below the basic needs poverty line</i>	Outcome/impact	Derived	Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2018	2018
1.4	<i>Proportion of population living in households with access to improved drinking water and improved not-shared sanitation facility</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	WASH Baseline Survey Demographic 2015 and Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2015	2015
1.5	SDG 1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100 000 population	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment/World Bank IDA 2019	2019
1.5	SDG 1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment/World Bank IDA 2019	2015-20
1.5	<i>SDG 1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</i>	Activity/process	Fully aligned	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	2017-20
1.5	<i>Number of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</i>	Activity/process	Derived	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment/Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development/National Disaster Management Office/Samoa's 6th Report 2018 to the Convention on Biological Diversity	2020
1.a	SDG 1.a.1 Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income	Input	Fully aligned	Government Finance Statistics Report	2018/19
1.a	SDG 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)	Input	Fully aligned	GDP	2019
<b>SDG 2: NO HUNGER – END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE</b>					
2.1	SDG 2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Food and Agriculture Organization, Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2018	2018
2.1	SDG 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity	Outcome/impact	Fully	Household Income and Expenditure Survey	2018

	Experience Scale		aligned	(HIES) 2018	
2.2	SDG 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization [WHO] Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Demographic and Health Survey-Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS)	2019
2.2	SDG 2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Demographic and Health Survey-Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS) 2019	2019
2.4	SDG 2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Agricultural Census	2020
2.a	SDG 2.a.1 The Agriculture Orientation Index for government expenditures	Input	Fully aligned	Samoa Bureau of Statistics GDP and GFS official data	2018
2.a	SDG 2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector	Input	Fully aligned	X-GFS 2018/19 OECD	2018-19
2.b	SDG 2.b.1 Agricultural export subsidies	Input	Fully aligned		2020
2.c	SDG 2.c.1 Indicator of food price anomalies	Output	Fully aligned	Food and Agriculture Organization	2017
<b>SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH – ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES</b>					
3.1	SDG 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Health	2019
3.1	SDG 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Output	Fully aligned	Ministry of Health	2019
3.2	SDG 3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Health	2019
3.2	SDG 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Health	2019
3.3	SDG 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1 000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Health – Samoa Global AIDS Monitoring Report	2019
3.3	SDG 3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100 000 population	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Health – Samoa Global AIDS Monitoring Report	2019
3.3	SDG 3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100 000 population	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Health – Samoa Global AIDS Monitoring Report	2019
3.4	<i>Mortality from non-communicable diseases for the four selected non-communicable diseases: a) cardiovascular b) cancer c) chronic respiratory diseases and d) diabetes + % of deaths caused by non-communicable diseases by 2030</i>	Outcome/impact	Derived	STEP Survey 2013; 2020/30 Samoa Health Sector report	2013/2020
3.4	SDG 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Health – TTM PATIS 2019	2019
3.5	SDG 3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	World Health Organization – Global Information System on Alcohol and Health	2018



3.6	SDG 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	2018 World Health Organization – Global Status Report 2018	2018
3.7	SDG 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2014	2014
3.7	Teenage birth rate aged 15-19	Outcome/impact	Derived	Census 2016	2016
3.8	Percentage increase in antenatal care coverage by 2030 + others	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)	2014
3.8	Proportion of total health expenditure paid for by households	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)	2009
3.9	SDG 3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene for all [WASH] services)	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	World Health Organization	2016
3.a	SDG 3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2014; Global Youth Tobacco Survey 2019, Country Report	2019
3.b	SDG 3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Health – EPI reports	2019
3.b	SDG 3.b.2 Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors	Input	Fully aligned	OECD	2018
3.c	SDG 3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution	Output	Fully aligned	Ministry of Health	2019
3.d	SDG 3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness	Activity/process	Fully aligned	Samoa Health Sector Plan 2008-2018 Full Review Report	2018
<b>SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION –ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL</b>					
4.1	SDG 4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading; and (ii) mathematics, by sex	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture – Education Statistical Digest Samoa 2017	2018
4.2	SEHCI development score for 2-5 year-olds in Samoa	Outcome/impact	Proxy	World Bank – Samoan Early Human Capability Index report, 2017	2017
4.2	SDG 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	Output	Fully aligned	Samoa Education Statistical Digest 2019	2019
4.3	Post-school education and training (PSET) graduation rate	Output	Proxy	Ministry of Education Sports and Culture – Education Sector 5th Annual Review; NUS Statistical Digest 2017	2017
4.4	Percentage of post-school education and training (PSET) graduates finding employment within 6 months of completion	Outcome/impact	Proxy	NUS Statistical Digest; Review of Samoa Education Sector Plan (2013-2018)	2018
4.5	SDG 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)	2014

4.6	SDG 4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy; and (b) numeracy skills, by sex	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Census	2016
4.7	Multiple indicators on gender equality, cultural diversity and contribution, teachers toolkits, curriculum, etc.	Activity/process	Proxy	NUS Statistical Digest/Student Administrator Database/NUS 2017	2017
4.a	SDG 4.a.1 Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service	Output	Fully aligned	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture – Education Statistical Digest Samoa 2017	2017
4.b	SDG 4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study	Input	Fully aligned	OECD Creditor Reporting System	2018
4.c	SDG 4.c.1 Proportion of teachers qualified in basic education by education level	Output	Fully aligned	Education Statistical Digest	2019
<b>SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY – ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS</b>					
5.1	SDG 5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	Output	Fully aligned	Report on the Status of Women, 2017, CEDAW Report, Government of Samoa	2017
5.2	SDG 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Demographic and Health Survey-Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS)	2019
5.2	SDG 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Demographic and Health Survey-Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS)	2019
5.3	<i>Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married at ages 15 and 18</i>	Outcome/impact	Derived	Demographic and Health Survey-Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS)	2019
5.3	SDG 5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Voluntary National Review	2020
5.4	<i>Proportion of time spent by those outside the labour force on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Samoa Labour Force Survey 2017	2017
5.5	SDG 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments; and (b) local governments	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Report on the Status of Women, 2017, CEDAW Report, Government of Samoa	2017
5.5	SDG 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Census	2016
5.6	SDG 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)	2014
5.6	<i>Presence of national sexual and reproductive health policy and its education through curriculum</i>	Output	Proxy	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2012
5.a	SDG 5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	Output	Fully aligned	AG's office/Food and Agriculture Organization	2020
5.b	SDG 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2018	2018
<b>SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION – ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL</b>					
6.1	SDG 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Outcome/impact	Fully	WASH Baseline Survey 2015	2015

			aligned		
6.2	SDG 6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services; and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	WASH Baseline Survey 2015	2015
6.3	Number of CBD properties connected to wastewater treatment plant; sewerage coverage rate; annual average compliance rate against SPREP effluent discharge standards	Output	Proxy	Samoa Water Authority – PWWA Benchmarking report 2017	2017
6.3	SDG 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Water and sanitation sector	2019
6.4	SDG 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time	Output	Fully aligned	Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS)	2018/19
6.5	SDG 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management	Activity/process	Fully aligned	UNEP/OPAC IWRM 2017 Baseline Survey	2017
6.a	SDG 6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan	Activity/process	Fully aligned	Government of Samoa – Budget	2018/19
6.b	Number of water schemes and village watershed management plans	Output	Proxy	Water and sanitation sector – 11th Annual Performance Review report 2017/18	2017-18
<b>SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY – ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL</b>					
7.1	Proportion of households with access to electricity	Outcome/impact	Derived	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	2019
7.1	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology for cooking	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) – Census	2016
7.2	Renewable energy share in the final energy production (electricity)	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Ministry of Finance	2019
7.3	SDG 7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	United Nations Statistics Division – Energy Balances	2017
7.a	SDG 7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems	Input	Fully aligned	DAC Statistics Database	2017
<b>SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH – PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT, AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL</b>					
8.1	SDG 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS)	2019
8.3	Proportion of informal employment, by sex	Outcome/impact	Derived	Labour Force Survey 2017	2017
8.5	Average gross monthly wages for paid employees, by sex; average gross monthly income of female and male persons with disabilities	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Labour Force Survey 2017	2017
8.5	Unemployment rate, by sex (no other disaggregation)	Outcome/impact	Derived	Labour Force Survey 2017	2017
8.6	SDG 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Labour Force Survey 2017	2017
8.7	Number of children aged 5-17 years working on the streets, by sex and age	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)	2019
8.8	Number of fatal and non-fatal occupational accidents reported	Outcome/impact	Derived	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour – Annual Report 2017/2018	2017/18

8.8	<i>National compliance measured by the presence of a Decent Work Country Program</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour/International Labour Organization	2013
8.9	<i>Tourism earnings ratio to GDP</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Central Bank of Samoa	2019
8.10	SDG 8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100 000 adults; and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100 000 adults	Output	Fully aligned	Central Bank of Samoa	2019
8.10	Percentage of adults with at least one type of regulated deposit account	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Demographic and Health Survey-Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS)	2020
8.b	SDG 8.b.1 Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy	Output	Fully aligned	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development; International Labour Organization; and SNYC	2016-20
<b>SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT, AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL</b>					
9.1	<i>Total population who have direct road access</i>	Outcome/impact	Derived		2015
9.1	SDG 9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) – X-ECO & SOCIAL (partial)	2018
9.2	SDG 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) – Statistical Abstract	2018
9.2	SDG 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Labour Force Survey	2017
9.4	SDG 9.4.1 CO <sub>2</sub> emission per unit of value added	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	World Data Atlas	2018
9.5	<i>Proportion of government expenditure to the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS)</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Government of Samoa	2019/20
9.5	<i>Number of full-time researchers at the SROS</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa	2020
9.a	SDG 9.a.1 Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure	Input	Fully aligned	OECD Creditor Reporting System	2016
9.c	SDG 9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	ESCAP Oct 2019	2019
<b>SDG 10: REDUCING INEQUALITIES – REDUCE INCOME INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES</b>					
10.1	SDG 10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40% of the population and the total population	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)	2013/14
10.2	<i>Proportion of people living below 50% of the median by (1) expenditure per capita per week; (2) sex; and (3) age</i>	Outcome/impact	Derived		2018
10.3	<i>Formally reported cases to the National Human Rights Institution related to discrimination</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	National Human Rights Institution	2019
10.5	SDG 10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators	Output	Fully aligned	Central Bank of Samoa	2019
10.a	<i>Number of tariff lines imposed under preferential or non-preferential terms</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Ministry of Customs and Revenue	2020
10.b	SDG 10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official	Input	Fully	Central Bank of Samoa	2019

	development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)		aligned		
10.c	SDG 10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Central Bank of Samoa	2019
<b>SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES – MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE</b>					
11.2	<i>Proportion of use of public transport</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Census	2016
11.5	SDG 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100 000 population	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment/World Bank IDA, Oct 2019	2015-20
11.5	SDG 11.5.2 Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment/World Bank IDA, Oct 2019	2015-20
11.6	<i>Proportion of urban area covered by collection contractors; amount of waste generated and discharged</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	National Waste Management Strategy 2019-2023	2017
11.a	<i>Presence of a national urban development policy and other similar plans</i>	Activity/process	Proxy	Voluntary National Review	2020
11.b	SDG 11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	Output	Fully aligned	National Disaster Management Plan 2017-2020	2018-21
<b>SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION – ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS</b>					
12.1	SDG 12.1.1 Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production	Output	Fully aligned	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	2020
12.4	<i>Plans, commitments, agreements, obligations and compliance on hazardous waste, and other chemicals</i>	Output	Derived	Voluntary National Review	2020
12.8	<i>Multiple indicators on gender equality, cultural diversity and contribution, teachers toolkits, curriculum, etc.</i>	Activity/process	Proxy	Ministry of Education Sports and Culture	2020
12.a	<i>Renewable energy share in the final energy production (electricity)</i>	Output	Proxy	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	N/A
<b>SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION – TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS BY REGULATING EMISSIONS AND PROMOTING DEVELOPMENTS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY</b>					
13.1	SDG 13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100 000 population	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment/World Bank IDA	2015-19
13.1	SDG 13.1.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	Output	Fully aligned	Voluntary National Review	2020
13.1	SDG 13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	Output	Fully aligned	Voluntary National Review	2020
13.2	<i>Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)</i>	Activity/process	Proxy	Voluntary National Review	2020
13.b	<i>13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing states that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth</i>	Input	Derived	Voluntary National Review	2020

	<i>and local and marginalized communities</i>				
<b>SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER – CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>					
14.2	<i>Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches</i>	<b>Output</b>	Proxy	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	2019
14.6	SDG 14.6.1 Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	<b>Output</b>	Fully aligned	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries reported to FAO CCRF Survey	2020
14.b	SDG 14.b.1 Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	<b>Output</b>	Fully aligned	Food and Agriculture Organization – CCRF Survey	2020
14.c	<i>Progress in implementing resource management in port state measures for conservation and sustainable use of oceans</i>	<b>Output</b>	Proxy	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries/Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	2020
<b>SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND – PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS</b>					
15.1	SDG 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	<b>Outcome/impact</b>	Fully aligned	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment/Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Organization	2015
15.1	SDG 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type	<b>Outcome/impact</b>	Fully aligned	National Sector Steering Committee – Quarterly Report Dec 2019	2019
15.2	<i>Forest area certified under an independently verified certification scheme; forest area net change rate (%)</i>	<b>Output</b>	Derived	FSC and PEFC Secretariats to the Food and Agriculture Organization, Global Forest Resources Assessment	2000-17
15.4	SDG 15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity	<b>Outcome/impact</b>	Fully aligned	United Nations SDGs Dashboard	2017
15.5	SDG 15.5.1 Red List Index	<b>Outcome/impact</b>	Fully aligned	Samoa's 6th National Report 2018 to the CBD	2018
15.6	SDG 15.6.1 Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits	<b>Output</b>	Fully aligned	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	2020
15.8	SDG 15.8.1 Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species	<b>Output</b>	Fully aligned	Samoa's 6th National Report 2018 to the CBD	2018
15.a	SDG 15.a.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilised from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments	<b>Input</b>	Fully aligned	OECD/Ministry of Finance	2018
15.b	SDG 15.b.1 Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems	<b>Input</b>	Fully aligned	OECD/Ministry of Finance	2018
<b>SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS – PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS</b>					
16.1	SDG 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100 000 population, by sex and age	<b>Outcome/impact</b>	Fully	Samoa law and justice sector, United	2018

			aligned	Nations Survey of Crime Trends & Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UNCTS) 2019	
16.1	SDG 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence; (b) psychological violence; and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Demographic and Health Survey Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS)	2019
16.1	<i>Percentage of population feeling safe (a) in public places; and (b) at home, during day time/night time</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	2019
16.2	SDG 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Demographic and Health Survey Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS) 2019	2019
16.2	SDG 16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100 000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	National Human Rights Institution; Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	2018
16.3	SDG 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Police; Demographic and Health Survey Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (DHS-MICS)	2019
16.3	<i>SDG 16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population</i>	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Ministry of Police	2020
16.4	<i>Number of firearms seized or collected from gun amnesty</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Ministry of Police	2018
16.6	SDG 16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Government Service Delivery Survey 2017	2017
16.7	SDG 16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local public institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	CEDAW Report 2017; Samoa Public Service Commission	2019
16.9	SDG 16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)	2014
16.10	SDG 16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Voluntary National Review	2020
16.10	SDG 16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information	Output	Fully aligned	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Regulator's office, AGOs	2019
16.a.	SDG 16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	Output	Fully aligned	National Human Rights Institution	2019
<b>SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS – STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>					
17.1.	SDG 17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Government Finance Statistics	2019
17.1.	SDG 17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Government Finance Statistics	2019
17.2.	<i>Total actual ODA to Samoa</i>	Input	Derived	Ministry of Finance	2019
17.3.	<i>Foreign direct investment to Samoa</i>	Input	Proxy	CBS	2019

17.3.	SDG 17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in US dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	Input	Fully aligned	GOP & BOP	2018/20
17.4.	SDG 17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	Input	Fully aligned	GFS & BOP	2018/19
17.5.	SDG 17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries, including least developed countries	Output	Fully aligned	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour	2020
17.8.	SDG 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)	2018
17.9.	SDG 17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular co-operation) committed to developing countries	Input	Fully aligned	OECD Creditor Reporting System	2016
17.10	SDG 17.10.1 Worldwide weighted tariff-average	Outcome/impact	Fully aligned	World Trade Organization/tariff analysis online and Samoa Trade Policy Review	2018
17.11	<i>Percentage of total exports to the top 5 country destinations</i>	Outcome/impact	Proxy	Central Bank of Samoa	2019
17.14	SDG 17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development	Output	Fully aligned	National Policy Coordination Committee	2020
17.15	SDG 17.15.1 Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development co-operation	Activity/process	Fully aligned	Ministry of Finance/GPEDC	2018
17.17	SDG 17.17.1 Amount in US dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure	Input	Fully aligned	Asian Development Bank and TA contract	2019
17.18	<i>Increase in the number of disaggregated SDG indicators that will be collected through future surveys (Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Demographic and Health Survey Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Census, etc.)</i>	Output	Proxy	SDG Taskforce	2020
17.18	SDG 17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	Output	Fully aligned	Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS)	2020
17.18	SDG 17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding	Output	Fully aligned	Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS)	2020
17.19	SDG 17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries	Input	Fully aligned	Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) – 2015 Annual Report	2015
17.19	SDG 17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100% birth registration and 80% death registration	Output	Fully aligned	Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS)	2018

Source: Authors' assessment based on Government of Samoa (2020<sub>[6]</sub>) and IAEG-SDG (2020<sub>[16]</sub>).



