

Concept Note:

Side Event on Development of an Action Programme to Address Food and Nutrition Challenges in SIDS

Wednesday 6 April 2016

Introduction

Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives in September 2014 adopted SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A Pathway) inviting FAO to facilitate a meeting on food and nutrition security in Small Island Developing States to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing SIDS (Paragraph 61). Towards fulfilling the mandate, FAO, DESA, OHRLR have proposed an indicative road map towards fulfilling paragraph 61, in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This side event forms part of the roadmap consultation meetings and involve high-level representatives from FAO SIDS members in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean. The main purpose of the side event is to present (i) the food security and nutrition challenges of the SIDS in the Indian Ocean and Atlantic; (ii) roadmap to address paragraph 61 of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway; (iii) hear from the example of the Indian Ocean SIDS currently formulating a Regional Food and Nutrition Security Programme, under the leadership of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and with technical assistance from FAO.

Background

1. Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives in September 2014 adopted SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A Pathway) inviting FAO to facilitate a meeting on food and nutrition security in Small Island Developing States to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing SIDS (Paragraph 61).
2. Towards fulfilling the mandate, FAO has been engaged with member states at National and sub-regional level towards identification of priorities to be integrated into the action program. Among activities was the High Level panel organized during the 39th Session of FAO Conference in Rome, Italy on 6 June 2015. A Ministerial Meeting followed on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) jointly organized by the Government of Italy and the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in Milan, Italy, on 14–16 October 2015.
3. The processes and actions towards development of action programme are closely aligned with existing processes and utilize existing mechanisms (e.g. FAO's Regional Conferences, AOSIS Ministerial Meeting and DESA online platforms). In addition to S.A.M.O.A Pathway, the action programme will also explicitly link to other international efforts (Sendai Framework, SDG-2030 Agenda etc.,).
4. This side event forms part of the roadmap consultation meetings and involve high-level representatives from FAO SIDS members in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean. The objectives are to present (i) background on state of Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS; (ii) discuss roadmap towards preparation of the action programme and; (iii) identify major elements to be proposed in the action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing SIDS.

¹ For the purpose of this document, the Atlantic and Indian Ocean refers to Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles.

5. Atlantic and Indian Ocean islands account for seven of the countries classified as SIDS. For the purpose of this document, the Atlantic and Indian Ocean refers to Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles.

Figure 1: Overview of SIDS

REGIONS	Number of countries	Land Area (SQ. KM 000)	GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	Population (mn)	GDP (current US\$ mn)	GDP per capita (current US\$)	GDP growth (annual %)	Agricul., value added (% of GDP)	Agricul., value added (annual % growth)
CARIBBEAN	16	587.2	\$8,806.9	39	\$212,403	\$9,349	2.3	7.3	1.38
PACIFIC	14	516.73	\$5,615	9,5	\$6,840	\$4,006	1.4	14.65	1.4
INDIAN OCEAN	4	4.7	\$7,077.5	2,4	\$16,163.6	\$8,672	4.2	10.9	2.5
ATLANTIC	3	33.1	\$1,873.3	2.5	\$3,709.7	\$2,002	3.1	25	-1.2
OTHER (Bahrain)	1	0.8	\$36,140.0	1,3	\$32,8	\$24,868	4.5	n/a	n/a

World Bank: 2013/2014

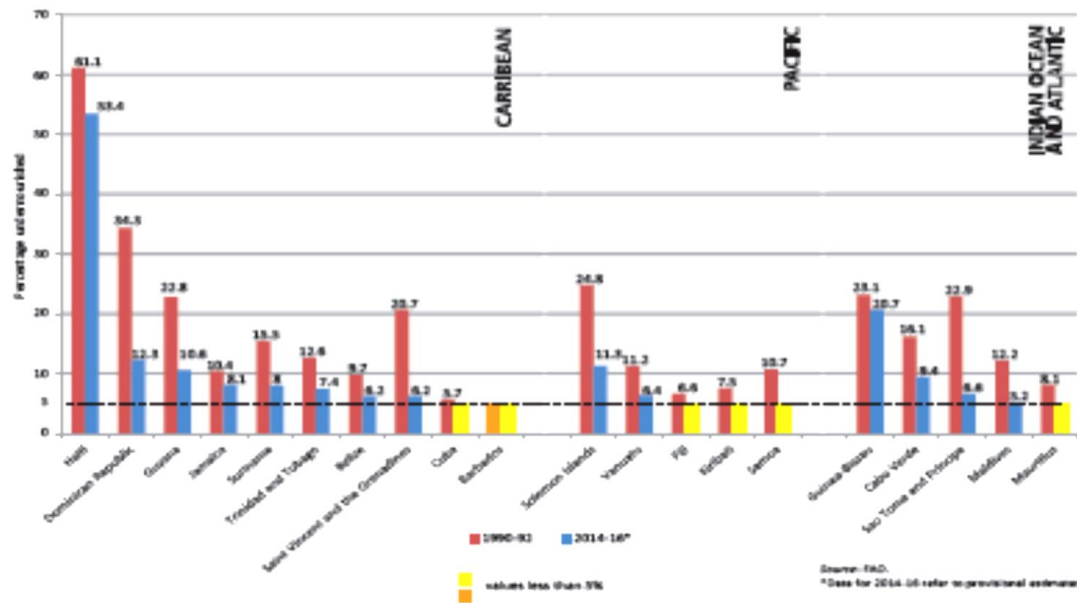
6. The next section begins with the state of Food Security and Nutrition, describes the road map to follow-up to Paragraph 61 of the S.A.M.O.A pathway and concludes with a case example of the Indian Ocean SIDS currently formulating a Regional Food and Nutrition Security Programme under the leadership of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), with FAO's technical assistance.

7. Similar work are on-going in the other SIDS countries and experiences would be highlighted during the meeting to be presented to other regions (Caribbean, Pacific and other) towards the Action Program for Food and Nutritional Security as called for in the S.A.M.O.A pathway.

I. State of Food Security and Nutrition

8. According to FAO data, (SOFI 2011/2013, 2014/2016) many SIDS did not achieve the MDG goal of eradicating hunger when based on achieving a level of undernourishment less than 5%.

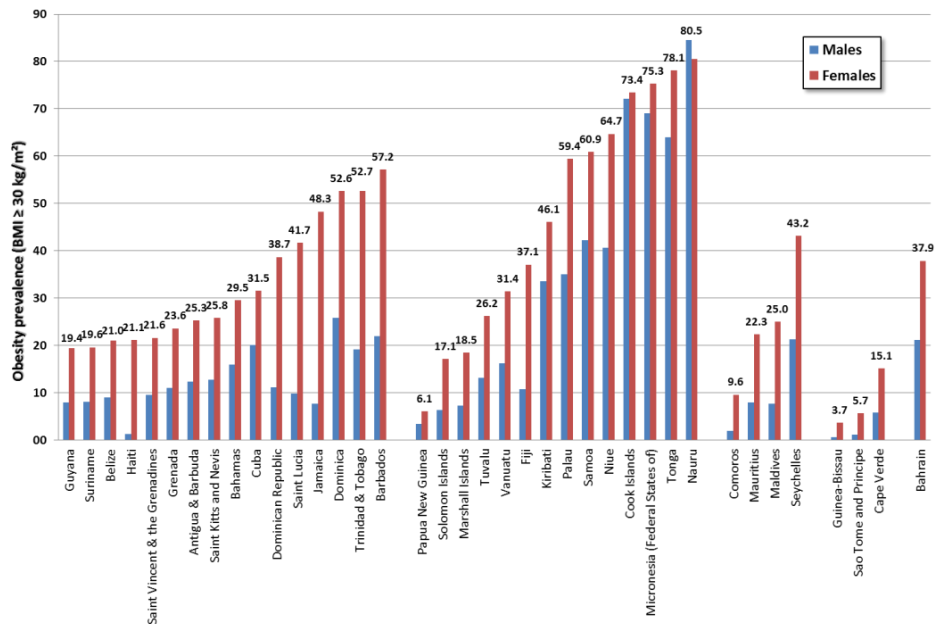
Figure 2: Prevalence of undernourishment in SIDS. (Many SIDS have a level of undernourishment above 5 percent)



Source: WHO 2010

9. For almost all SIDS, the second dimension of the food security challenge is malnutrition, poor food decisions leading to a major challenge related to obesity.

Figure 3: Obesity in SIDS, Male and Female > 15 Years



Source: WHO 2010

10. SIDS have increasingly imported a greater proportion of their food consumption and the major category of imported foods is processed foods. The shift from locally produced healthier foods to imported processed food has a major health and economic consequences in several of the SIDS irrespective of the regions.

11. Regional preparatory meeting of Small Island Developing States of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and south China sea (AIMS) held on 17-19 July 2013 in Mahe, Seychelles identified food security as one of the priorities that also included climate change, energy, coastal protection, waste management, and water and sanitation.

12. Climate change will continue to be the most serious threat to SIDS in their pursuit of sustainable development and survival. The regional preparatory meeting of AIMS SIDS called for integration of critical adaptation needs of SIDS including water, sanitation, coastal protection, and protection of critical coastal infrastructures, into the development agendas, supported by measurable targets by developed countries on adaptation assistance to SIDS.

13. The AIMS region, as so many other regions, recognizes the critical need to address the emerging health crisis represented by NCDs and calls for health issues to feature prominently in the development agendas. It was also emphasized that health issues need to be clustered into one goal entitled “universal health coverage,” which will provide a multi-sectoral approach with a view to reducing health inequities and increasing resilience.

II. Road map to develop an Action Programme to address Food and Nutritional Challenges facing SIDS: Follow-up to Paragraph 61 of the S.A.M.O.A pathway.

14. Following the two High-level Meetings, an indicative road map was proposed towards fulfilling paragraph 61 of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway by developing the requested action programme, in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

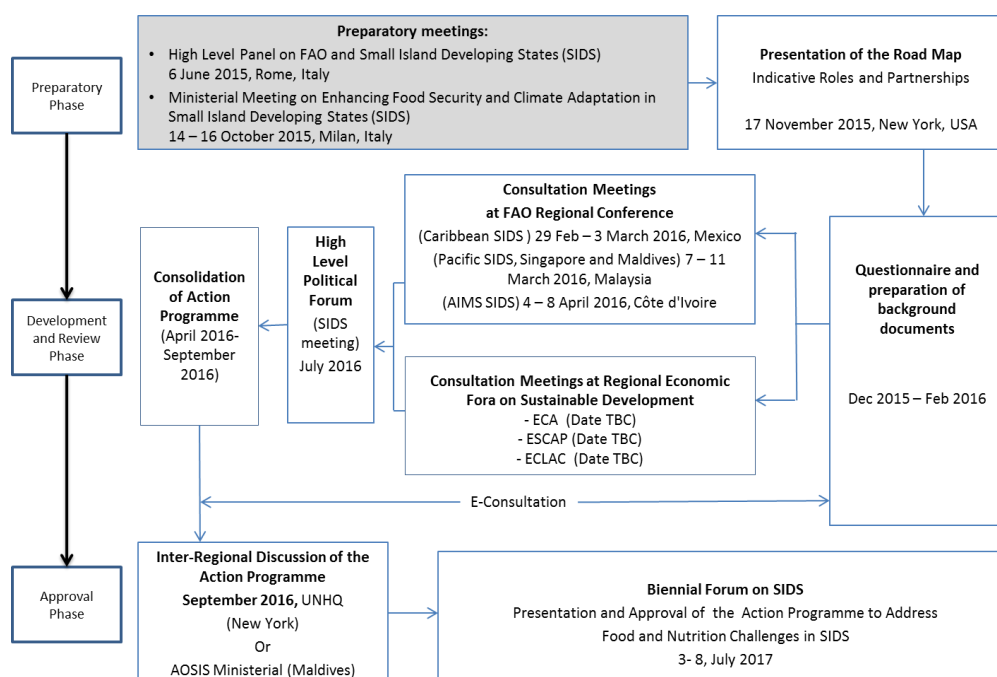
15. The roadmap calls for a close collaboration and consultation with SIDS member States, the UN System, regional inter-governmental bodies, development partners and non-state actors, including non-governmental and civil society institutions and the private sector. Close collaboration with UN-System (FAO, UN DESA, OHRLLS), SIDS member States, regional inter-governmental bodies, non-governmental and civil society institutions and other development partners will be ensured.

16. The road map is a living document consisting of 3 phases: (i) preparatory, (ii) development and review, and (iii) approval. The development and review phase widens participation of multi-stakeholders (through regional consultation meetings, e-consultations, and questionnaire to be sent out to governments and other partners) throughout the development of action programme.

17. The final presentation of the Action Programme is proposed both at the FAO Conference and the High Level Political Forum in mid-2017. The preparation of the action programme will be supported and coordinated by FAO, UN DESA, OHRLLS and regional organizations.

18. Special attention will be taken to ensure adequate participation of non-agricultural sector actors as foreseen in the SAMOA Pathway. This includes different government sectors (such as education, health, and environment) as well as non-state actors. Measures will be taken to ensure that their participation and inputs are received through one or more of the proposed consultation channels.

Figure 4: Roadmap to Develop Action Programme to Address Food and Nutritional Challenges in SIDS



III. Indian Ocean Food Security and Nutrition Action Program

19. The case example of the Indian Ocean Food Security and Nutrition Action Program is unpacked here as one of the processes within the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS. The consultations as envisioned on the roadmap, will explicitly consider other initiatives and proposals i.e. Sao Tome and Principe and Cabo Verde to emerge with regions priority areas.

20. FAO has provided technical assistance to the Indian Ocean Commission for the formulation of the 'Programme Régional de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle (PRESAN)'. The objective of PRESAN is to contribute to increased agricultural productivity, production, and trade, as well as to food and nutrition security, in the IOC region.

21. The main idea of the program is to promote a bread-basket of the Indian Ocean Space, with priority to rice, maize, onion, various dry grains (beans, soya beans for example), red meat (zebu and goat) and chicken.

22. The program will provide incentives to producers, agribusinesses and public institutions to join effort in ensuring quality production mainly in Madagascar, but also in other islands with agro-ecological potential, and export to other islands.

23. PRESAN will consist of three axis: (1) production, productivity and competitiveness; (2) regional markets; and (3) nutrition security and resilience. IOC will implement these axes by using financing and regulatory instruments to provide incentives to value chain actors as well as public sector.

24. **Axis 1 – 'Productivity, Production and Competitiveness':** To be implemented by using a Regional Value Chains Facility to: (i) support the development of national value chain promotion instruments; (ii) promote farmer organizations and the development of small holders inclusive value chains;

(iii) enhance access of farmers and enterprises to agricultural financing (including risk sharing and insurance) services and improved technologies (including seeds); (iv) promote processing enterprises; and (v) develop production infrastructures.

25. **Axis 2 – ‘Regional markets’** to be implemented by using a Regional Markets Facility to: (i) promote harmonized standardization and enhance certification capacities across the islands; (ii) promote intra-regional agriculture commerce regulation and contracts among importers and exporters; (iii) support the development of market infrastructures as well as the rehabilitation of feeder roads; and (iv) develop a regional market information system.

26. **Axis 3 – ‘Nutrition Security and Resilience’** to be implemented using a Nutrition Security and Resilience Facility to support: (i) the development or enhancement and implementation of harmonized regional and national nutrition security policies; (ii) the establishment and/or enhancement of regional and national mechanisms for the management of food crisis and natural disasters.

27. FAO will help IOC prepare PRESAN implementation projects in order to mobilize internal and external resources to pledge the three regional facilities. IFAD and the European Union have already shown their interest and IOC with FAO’ support will also approach the African Development Bank that is launching an initiative to support the transformation of agriculture in the continent.

28. IOC will set-up the ‘Commission de l’Océan Indien - Unité Régionale pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle (COI-URSAN) based in Antananarivo. The URSAN’ mandate is to manage the three regional facilities tailored to achieve URSAN objectives. IOC will sign an agreement with FAO for the operation of the URSAN.

IV. Conclusion

29. The proposed roadmap and sub-sequent outcomes at global and national level provided a platform to exchange experiences and priorities in the areas of food security and nutrition, especially in light of the challenges facing SIDS with the adverse impacts of climate change.

30. FAO will support SIDS countries to enhance the design and implementation of their agriculture and food and nutrition security programs and Investment plans by mainstreaming the use of concrete and dedicated policy measures.

31. Measures at regional and national levels will be dedicated to promote the cooperation on agricultural trade between the islands and neighbour continental states.

Expected results

32. Participants to this Side Event are invited to guide further refinement of the action programme by providing recommendations on:

- Whether (i) production, productivity and competitiveness; (ii) regional markets and nutrition security and (iii) resilience are necessary and sufficient to construct an Action Program for Food and Nutritional Security as called for in the S.A.M.O.A pathway to achieve the changes signalled by the SDGs;
- whether the proposed thematic focus align effectively with regional and national plans having similar time horizons as that of the SDGs;
- the practicality and sufficiency of the partnership arrangements that are proposed; and the suitability of the action programme as a prospectus to attract investment from both traditional and new investors.

Participants-Panellists:

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- Dr. Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General
- Mr Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director General, FAO Regional Office for Africa
- Dr. Jean Claude de l'Estrac, Indian Ocean Commission Secretary General
- Dr Bernard Valentin, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health Seychelles
- Facilitator Patrice Talla, FAOR Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Comoros

Agenda of the Side Event

Time	Activity
9.30- 9.40am	Opening speech by FAO DG
9.40-9.50am	State of Food and Nutrition in African SIDS/ Roadmap - ADG/RAF
9.50-10:05am	Indian Ocean Commission Regional Programme- IOC Secretary General
10.05-10.12am	Words of the Minister of Health Seychelles, represented by Dr Bernard VALENTIN
10:12- 10:25am	Words of Countries SIDS delegations / Discussions
10:30am	Closing