ESCAP ongoing and future work in SIDS

TD recent/current engagement with SIDS

- 2020-2021: impact on the SIDS’ maritime connectivity (2020-2022) + Participation in the preparatory work for MCT4 and RAP

- Recent/Ongoing XB projects:
  - Sustainable maritime connectivity for resilient and efficient supply chains in the aftermath of COVID-19 (2020-2023)
  - Building capacity for integration and application of digital technology in urban public transport systems (2022-24)
  - Strengthening the capacity of Pacific SIDS to utilize smart mobility technologies
  - Digital and transport connectivity for the socioeconomic resilience of rural communities post-COVID-19 in Asia-Pacific countries
  - Regional Dialogue on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity (2022-2024)

Results and lessons learned

- **Awareness raising and advocacy** (CS76 Theme study, Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport, RAP)

- **Several analytical studies:**
  - Facilitating Sustainable and Resilient Port Development in the Pacific (2022)
  - Analysis of maritime connectivity in ASEAN and SIDS in the Pacific (ESCAP/UNCTAD, 2022)
  - Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the Pacific region (2023)
  - Study Report on Port Digitalization in the Pacific (2023)
  - Sustainable maritime and port connectivity for resilient and efficient supply chains in the aftermath of COVID-19 (2023)

- Cooperation with global (IMO, UNCTAD) and regional (SPC) partners

- **Costs/benefits** of the local engagement and Bangkok-based events
Inclusive Transport Accessibility

- Inclusive transport is an integral part of sustainable transport development
- Inadequate transport accessibility creates structural challenges for the poor and marginalized social groups
- Existing transport infrastructure, services and systems are not designed for all social groups
- Common transport barriers include high travel costs, misplaced priority seats in public transport, inadequate public transport services in rural areas, lack of safe walking paths, bike lanes and accessibility facilities
- Only 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific have existing strategies to improve the inclusiveness of transport
Existing Relevant Policies and Measures

• Social impact assessments for transport projects

• Promote inclusive and sustainable development while fostering innovation

• Specific goals and targets on inclusive transport and accessibility

• Women only public transport services to reduce harassment, bicycle lanes and safety features, such as proper lighting, surveillance, segregated areas, and staff trained to assist women commuters
ESCAP planned work on efficient, resilient, low carbon and accessible port cities in Asia-Pacific Small Island Developing States to achieve better transport connectivity and accessibility for all.

**Follow up to SIDS4 Outcome document:** enhancing inter-island connectivity and linking SIDS economies to regional markets and global supply chains, including by integrating them into existing and emerging maritime and multimodal transport and economic corridors, and encouraging sustainable transport initiatives to support SIDS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation period: 2024-2027</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 Target Countries among the Asia-Pacific SIDS</td>
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**TWO THEMATIC AREAS**

- Maritime connectivity and port development
- Transport Accessibility

**Focus on Port Cities**

**TWO LEVELS OF ACTIONS**

- **OC1:** Strengthened national capacity of beneficiary countries to develop policies for efficient, resilient, low carbon and accessible port cities
- **OC2:** Help SIDS leverage regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific in implementing the national port and transport accessibility policies.
2024-2027: Supporting policies for efficient, resilient, low carbon and accessible port cities

Data collection and stakeholder consultations

Preparation of national roadmaps for efficient, resilient and low carbon shipping and ports

Develop inclusive transport indicators (SUTI+)

National workshops to validate national roadmaps and agree on the application of SUTI+ in target countries.

Support selected target countries in implementing pilot measures from the national roadmaps.
2024-2026: Strengthened national capacity of SIDS to leverage regional cooperation

Develop Asia-Pacific regional guidelines on inclusive transport accessibility

Asia-Pacific SIDS meeting on the priorities for the next Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2027-2031).

SIDS meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, during the 2026 Fifth Ministerial Conference on Transport
Supporting Caribbean and Pacific SIDS from additional GA funds building on SIDS4 (UNDA 16)

- Project focused on the **implementation** of concrete measures based on the country’ validated roadmap

- **Synergies with:**
  - Ongoing ESCAP projects on maritime connectivity, port development, urban, inclusive and smart transport
  - Preparations for the next RAP

- **Next step:** designation of the project focal points, confirmation of the timeline and selection of national consultants.