Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index

SIDS UN Resident Coordinator Offices in partnership with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

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A multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI)

- Called for by SIDS since 1st SIDS Conference (Barbados, 1994) & Barbados Programme of Action to define SIDS’s “special case for development”

- Mandated by GA Resolution A/RES/75/215 for an MVI for SIDS & report back to the 76th UNGA

- S-G’s report to 76th UNGA (A/76/211) recommends several principles:
  - Multidimensionality
  - Universality
  - Exogeneity
  - Availability (employ available data)
  - Readability

- GA Resolution A/RES/76/203 requests MVI to be finalized and adopted in 2022, a High-Level Expert Panel be established by PGA, UNDESA & OHRLLS operate as Secretariat of the panel
MVI Conceptual Framework

SIDS have common inherent characteristics, but they are a heterogeneous group.

Pacific
Atlantic/Indian
Caribbean

SIDs face a unique set of structural vulnerabilities

Economic vulnerabilities

Structural development limitations

Environmental vulnerabilities

Targeted Financing Mechanisms are needed to respond to SIDS’ structural vulnerabilities and to close the financing gap

- Insurance and guarantee mechanisms
- ODA (grants, soft loans etc.)
- Debt relief

- Compensation mechanisms
- Others

SDG Outcomes
- Poverty
- Well-being
- Life expectancy
- Food security
- Others

Resilience
Public Governance
Etc.

Structural vulnerabilities hinder SIDS’ development progress
Pilot MVI – Technical Aspects

- Designed by SIDS RC network in partnership with SDSN, the pilot MVI:
  - Is an equal weighted composite index
  - Measures SIDS structural vulnerability
    - along three dimensions: economic, structural development, and environmental
  - across different regional clusters, including Caribbean, Pacific, and Atlantic/Indian SIDS.

- Potential use of MVI includes, as mandated:
  - Inform national dev strategies, plans and budgets
  - Debt restructuring (G20 CFDT, SDR allocations)
  - Complement criteria for access to development cooperation including concessional financing (PRGT, RST)
  - Inform multilateral and bilateral financing frameworks (Cooperation Framework, Country Strategies etc.)
  - Inform design of SIDS specific instruments including climate financing
  - Other as decided by 77th UNGA
Pilot MVI – Technical Aspects

✓ Made up of 18 indicators across the three broad dimensions of structural vulnerability.
Pilot MVI – Technical Aspects

Country coverage
✓ The MVI covers 195 countries of which 45 are SIDS

Data
✓ The MVI uses a mix of official data sources and non-governmental data sources
The pilot MVI shows that SIDS represent the biggest share of most vulnerable countries across the world in all dimensions.

In the economic dimension, 80% of the top-30 most vulnerable countries are SIDS, 83% in the structural development dimension, and 77% in the environmental dimension.

Top-30 most vulnerable countries in the three MVI dimensions

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Pilot MVI – Preliminary Results

✔ SIDS in both the Pacific Ocean and Atlantic/Indian Ocean are particularly vulnerable economically.
Atlantic/Indian SIDS face slightly more development constraints compared to their peers.
The Pacific and Caribbean SIDS are the most exposed to environmental shocks.

There is a big heterogeneity across countries in the Caribbean and Pacific regions under the environmental dimension.

**Pilot MVI environmental dimension: average vulnerability, by region**
Variables such as food imports, export concentration, and tourism dependence are found to explain the high economic vulnerability of SIDS, although there are important differences across SIDS regions.
 ✓ Variables such as small population, remoteness and the limited size of arable land are found to explain the high structural development vulnerability of SIDS, although there are important differences across SIDS regions.
Variables such as vulnerability to sea-level rise are found to explain the high environmental vulnerability of SIDS, although there are important differences across SIDS regions.
SDG progress in SIDS

✓ According to the latest SDSN 2021 Sustainable Development Report, on average, SIDS face significant challenges in all SDGs, especially on addressing extreme poverty, access to and quality of key services and infrastructure, biodiversity goals and strong insti
The pilot MVI can be used to assess the impact of structural vulnerability on socio-economic outcomes and SIDS’ ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A higher degree of structural vulnerability is associated with a lower SDG Index performance.
Thank you!