



Voluntary National Survey for Monitoring of Progress in Asia and the Pacific towards the Implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Background

This voluntary national survey will provide information on progress regarding the implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development¹ and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Asia and the Pacific.² Results from the survey will be reported and discussed at the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, in 2023.

The ICPD Programme of Action provides an invaluable framework to guide Member States in enhancing the quality of life and well-being of every individual and promoting human development by underscoring the interrelationship between development policies and programmes, human rights, and economic and social development. At the 20-year Asia-Pacific regional review of the Programme of Action, in 2013, ESCAP member States adopted the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. This Declaration serves as region-specific guidance on population and development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the 2018 intergovernmental meeting for the Midterm Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration, a monitoring framework was presented to ESCAP members and associated members to monitor progress in implementing the recommendations of both documents in the region. This framework was based on existing SDG indicators and targets to reduce the reporting burden on member States. The ESCAP Committee on Social Development, during its sixth session in 2020, endorsed the monitoring framework, noting that it would serve as an essential tool for voluntary, regular assessment and reporting of progress of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2013 Ministerial Declaration.³

At the Committee session, several member States recognized existing data gaps and lack of capacity at the national level in collecting, generating and disseminating reliable sex- and age-disaggregated data. In preparation for the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, in 2023, ESCAP, with support from UNFPA, has developed a survey based on the monitoring framework to assist member States in collecting data and monitoring the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2013 Ministerial Declaration. The survey is highly qualitative in nature, aiming to understand countries' progress and achievements in all priority action areas, along with key challenges and lessons learned. Additionally, ESCAP has compiled quantitative information on the SDG indicators identified in the monitoring framework and is providing this information to member States along with the survey. The data are sourced from the Global SDG Indicators Database maintained by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

¹ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20APPC%202013.pdf>.

² Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

³ ESCAP/CSD/2020/3.

Suggestions for completing the Asia-Pacific voluntary national survey

The survey should be completed by countries, through their national focal points on population and development. The survey and attached monitoring framework⁴ are structured according to the priority actions identified in the Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.⁵ As the Programme of Action of ICPD is a multi-dimensional framework, it is recommended that completion of the survey involves a consultative process with ministries and departments responsible for implementing the priority action areas and reporting the associated SDG indicators, and with the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders.

ESCAP is sending the survey to member States as a Word document and as a PDF document. Member States are invited to respond to it directly in the Word document. For the check boxes, please double click on them to insert a check mark.

The survey and associated documents can be downloaded from the ESCAP website at: www.unescap.org/events/2023/seventh-asian-and-pacific-population-conference.

The survey should be completed (and submitted/returned), together with relevant attachments by **31 March 2023**, by email, to: escap-sdd@un.org Please do not hesitate to contact escap-sdd@un.org should you have any questions.

I. Contact information

Please identify the office responsible for coordinating the responses to this survey and completing it and include its contact information.

Country Independent State of Samoa	
Ministry/Office/Agency Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	
Name contact persons (First and Last) [REDACTED]	Title/Position [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]	Telephone [REDACTED]
Mailing address Level 3, FMFMII Government Building, Eleele Fou P.O. Box L1859 APIA	
Please indicate whether the completed survey may be posted on the ESCAP public website of the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference.	
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	
No: <input type="checkbox"/>	

⁴ See ESCAP/CSD/2020/3 (see Annex IV).

⁵ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20APPC%202013.pdf>.

II. National coordination mechanism for implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

1.1	Is there a national coordination mechanism to support implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development? If “yes”, please provide information for the question below. If “no”, please skip section III below.		Yes X	No
1.2	Name of the coordination mechanism and website link if available: National SDG Task Force			
1.3	Year of establishment: 2016			
1.4	What level does the coordination mechanism operate at:	<input type="checkbox"/> Prime minister or highest level of government <input type="checkbox"/> Minister <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director in collaboration with ministerial level <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Please elaborate:</i>		
1.5	Are civil society organizations included as members of the coordination mechanism?	Yes X	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
1.6	Does the coordination mechanism have formalized Terms of Agreement or other formal operating agreements?	Yes X	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
1.7	How often does the coordination mechanism meet?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bi-annually <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Yearly <input type="checkbox"/> Ad-hoc, as needed <input type="checkbox"/> The committee has not yet met <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):		
1.8	Contact information, including mailing address, telephone/fax, email and website link for members of the coordination mechanism: <i>please elaborate:</i> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div>			

III. Challenges and successes in achieving progress concerning priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

The following sections cover the **11 priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development**. Please answer the questions in regard to the specific priority area mentioned in the text. This is to help measure which priority areas are characterized by **challenges** and by **progress**, as well as identify any **achievements, good practices** and **lessons learned** that can be shared with other countries regarding specific areas.

A. Poverty eradication and employment

Overall policy environment		
1.A.	<p>Are any priority actions for poverty eradication and employment included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>i. Pathway for the Development of Samoa Samoa (PDS)</p> <p>Link: https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pathway-for-the-Development-of-Samoa.pdf</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan 2021-2026</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area page 7 and 8</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>Poverty</p> <p>The key priority Area 1 in the Pathway of the Development of Samoa is Alleviating Hardship. The Government is committed to maintaining and enhancing social well-being, with a focus on the elderly and persons with disabilities. The government is also committed to improve crime prevention and promoting a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women, older persons and persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Employment</p> <p>The key priority area 6 in the Pathway of the Development of Samoa is Community Development, which focuses on increasing income generation and employment opportunities in the community.</p> <p>(d) its impact - The expected outcome for this key priority area is the alleviation of hardship and poverty amongst families and the enhancement of resilience in managing social issues.</p> <p>Other reference documents: Samoa Hardship and Poverty Report 2014 by the Government of Samoa and UNDP Pacific Centre.</p> <p>Link: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/ws/UNDP_WS_SamoaHardshipAndPovertyReportFINALreduced.pdf</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X</p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

2.A.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “poverty eradication and employment” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link i. Labour and Employment Relations Amendment Bill 2022</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame i. Labour And Employment Relations Amendment Bill 2022</p> <p>(c) its main elements Labour Employment Relations Bill 2022: improve consistency with ratified International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarify terms and conditions of employment; ● clarify the role of labour inspectors ● improve processes for resolving employment grievances and complaints ● provide for a process regarding the termination of employment <p>(d) its impact- improvement and clarification on provisions for employment provisions.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<i>Achievements and good practices</i>		
3.A.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of poverty eradication and employment in the country since 2013?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There was an increase in improved drinking water sources from 94.1% in 2009 to 97.3% in 2015. For the sanitation facilities it improved from 94.7% in 2014 to 97% in 2015. Government spending on essential services such as health, education and social protection as a proportion of overall government expenditure was also reasonable at 40% in 2015 and 36.8% in 2019. (page 32) ● Source: Samoa’s Second VNR: https://samoa.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/Samos2ndVNR2020_LowRes.pdf 	

4.A.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing poverty eradication and employment programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samoa's Multidimensional Poverty Index: creation in 2022 - indicators for MPI to provide a clear way of designing programs that deliberately target the poor and help formulate new plans and programs in targeting the poor. <p>This critical analytical tool is important to increasing resilience through sustainable social protection systems that will address life cycle vulnerabilities. Understanding poverty comprehensively is a precondition for effective targeting of social protection measures.</p> <p>Link for Samoa's MPI Report: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2023-02/Samoa%20MPI%20Report%20Final.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Employment Schemes: Samoa participates in the New Zealand based Recognized Seasonal Employer Scheme and the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme. Both schemes have development objectives, with workers' incomes contributing to economic development in home countries Link- https://www.mcil.gov.ws/services/labour-export-and-employment-programme/ Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship- The UNESCAP helped launch a five-year effort to support the growth of women entrepreneurs. This project was formally launched in July 2019 . Press release: https://www.unescap.org/news/new-un-project-boost-women-s-entrepreneurship-launched-samoa The UNWomen also introduced a program on 'Markets for Change' Program to ensure access to appropriate logistics at the market places for female producers
------	--

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for poverty eradication and employment, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.A.	Lack of human resources dedicated to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.A.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need to strengthen cross-sectoral coordination for resource mobilization.
7.A.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	

8.A.	Lack of data on poverty eradication and employment, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samoa has made progress on data for poverty. for example: Samoa's Multidimensional Poverty Index as well as the SDG statistical indicators. The SDG statistical indicators are to be integrated in the national and sector strategic plans for Samoa to keep its data commitment to the UN and also the Pacific Region.
9.A.	Lack of overall political support related to poverty eradication and employment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.A.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to poverty eradication and employment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.A.	Lack of international support related to poverty eradication and employment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.A.	Lack of development partner coordination related to poverty eradication and employment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.A.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of poverty eradication and employment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.A.	A bottom-up approach to poverty eradication and employment not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is extensive inclusiveness of the population in poverty related programs
15.A.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	If "2" or "3", please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. Measles outbreak 2019 COVID 19 Pervasive impacts of climate change

16.A.	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of poverty eradication and employment programmes?</p> <p>As a Small Island Developing State, vulnerability to the negative impacts of more frequent disaster events remains a challenge and data shows regression on the poverty targets since 2013. Global shocks, natural disasters and health crises are disrupting national development, affecting economic growth and undoing hard fought development gains</p> <p>As a result of COVID 19, the recovery process has been slow – as a result a significant number of young and able bodies men and women both semiskilled and skilled have opted to register for seasonal work and labour mobility programs in Australia and New Zealand. Host countries have offered permanent opportunities- likelihood of extensive brain drain</p>
-------	---

Lessons learned

17.A.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of poverty eradication and employment not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to build financial and environmental resilience at all levels including at the community level and strengthening social protection with close consideration of the Samoan context is crucial.
-------	---

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring

18.A.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply.</p>	<p>X Capacity-building X Advocacy and awareness raising X Resource mobilization X Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. X South-South cooperation X Public-private partnerships X Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):</p>
19.A.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply to your country.</p>	<p>X Capacity-building – data collection X Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. X Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):</p>

B. Health

Overall policy environment		
1.B.	<p>Are any priority actions for health included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link i. Pathway to the Development of Samoa Link: https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pathway-for-the-Development-of-Samoa.pdf ii. Health Sector Plan Link: https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Health-Sector-Plan-2020-2030.pdf</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan i. The Pathway for the Development of Samoa provides the direction of Samoa’s development over the next five years. Time frame : 2021-2025 ii. The timeframe for the implementation of the health Sector plan is from 2020-2030 (ten years)</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area PDS - pages 7,9 and 41 Health Sector plan- pages 28, 31, 42, 47, 61, 69</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area i. Better nutrition (reduce obesity rates) ii. Improved prevention, control and management of communicable and neglected tropical diseases (prevalence of HIV/AIDS)</p> <p>(d) its impact Both the PDS and Health Sector plan are geared towards providing everyone with quality people- centred health care services and high standards of patient care that promote the health and well-being of its people</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
2.B.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “health” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link (b) date of implementation and time frame (c) its main elements (d) its impact</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
Achievements and good practices		

3.B.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of health in the country since 2013?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional reforms • Improved immunisation rates • A refocus on primary health care • Improved health infrastructure • Samoa's life expectancy increased from 65 years in 1990 to 75 years in 2015; women have higher life expectancy, at 78 years, compared to men, at 71.8 years. The under-five mortality rate declined from 37 per 1,000 live births in 1985 to 18 per 1,000 in 2015, and the IMR has halved since 1985, down to 15 per 1,000 live births in 2015
4.B.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing health programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing build up of institutional capacity and government ownership. • Enhanced GoS' efforts to curb unhealthy diets through regulations such as introducing excise duties for alcohol, tobacco, sugary, and salty products. • Ensure complementarity of the macro-level policy interventions through implementation of interventions at the sector level thus providing a unique opportunity for linking health sector development efforts within a whole-of-government context and addressing the NCD crisis in a systematic manner. • Financing linked to performance outcomes • Integration of climate change – health impacts in sector plan

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for health, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.B.	Lack of human resources dedicated to health	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Ministry of Health has identified under the Health Sector plan the need to ensure effective and efficient human resources development of health at all levels and across all disciplines.
6.B.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to health	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need to improve on resource mobilisation and delivery
7.B.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on health	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Ministry of Health is looking at strengthening monitoring and evaluation through a wide range of capacity development initiatives. This will form the basis for resource allocation, policy-making and effective management of programmes

8.B.	Lack of data on health, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samoa's second national voluntary report highlighted the further need for disaggregated data for all SDGs to ensure all sectors reflect interventions for them and their inclusion.
9.B.	Lack of overall political support related to health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.B.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.B.	Lack of international support related to health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.B.	Lack of development partner coordination related to health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.B.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of health	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.B.	A bottom-up approach to health not followed (e.g., involvement of persons with lowest access to health care, etc.)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.B.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	If "2" or "3", please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc.
16.B.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of health programmes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to be more meticulous in the delivery of longstanding health programmes for children including immunisation. The health crises of the measles outbreak and the COVID pandemic added an additional layer of risks that further exacerbate vulnerability and derail development efforts and gains. The Non Communicable Disease crisis continues to cause more sickness, premature deaths, disabilities and costing government up to 15% of the health budget 				
Lessons learned					
17.B.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of health not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from?				
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring					

18.B.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for health. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.B.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for health. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

C. Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

Overall policy environment		
1.C.	<p>Are any priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link Pathway of the Development of Samoa Link: https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pathway-for-the-Development-of-Samoa.pdf</p> <p>ii. Health Sector plan Link: https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Health-Sector-Plan-2020-2030.pdf</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>i. Pathway for the Development of Samoa - 2021-2026 (5 years) ii. Health Sector Plan- 2020-2030 (10 years)</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>i. Pathway for the Development of Samoa- Page 9 ii. Health Sector Plan- pages 7, 10 , 16, 22, 28, 29</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>i. Improved public health i. Health Sector plan- expanding antenatal care coverage, training of midwives and traditional birth attendants</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <p>i Pathway of the Development of Samoa- improvement in health care services and facilities ii. Health Sector Plan- The health sector will make further investments in Health Information Systems to increase the efficiency services and support improvements in managing the procurement and dispensary</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X</p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

2.C.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>i. Crimes Act 2013 ii. Family Life Education iii. Child Care and Protection Bill iv. National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy 2018-2023 (Ministry of Health) v. National HIV, AIDS & STI Policy 2017-2022</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame i. Crime Act - implemented in 2013 ii. Family Life Education- launched in December 2022 iii. Child Care and Protection Bill - still in discussion iv. National Sexual Reproductive Health Policy- timeframe: 2018-2023 v. National HIV, AIDS & STI Policy 2017-2022</p> <p>(c) its main elements i. The Crime Act 2013, section 111-115 establishes abortion in Samoa as a criminal offence unless section 116 done in the case of pregnancy not more than 20 weeks gestation and the person doing the act believes that the continuance of the pregnancy would result in serious danger. ii. Family Life Education was brought to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture via UNFPA. It is an educational programme designed to assist young generations in their physical, social, emotional and moral development to make them able to cope with temporal changes like adolescent, puberty and aging, with an objective of living a better family life. iii. Childcare and Protection Act 2016- child’s right to health and healthcare iv. National Sexual Reproductive Health - The purpose of this policy and strategy is to outline national policy statements ensuring proper coordination, integration and harmonious delivery of comprehensive SRH information and services in support of sexual and reproductive health and in turn fulfilling its contribution to the vision of a healthy Samoa and an improved quality of life for all. v. National HIV, AIDS &STI Policy- The goal of this policy on HIV, AIDS and STIs is to provide a framework and coordination of national multi-sectoral response by the Ministry of Health and provides</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X</p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
------	---	---

	<p>(d) its impact</p> <p>i. The Crimes Act 2013-the legal grounds on which abortion is permitted is to save a woman's life and to preserve a woman's physical health.</p> <p>ii. Family Life Education- introduction of Comprehensive Sexual Education into Samoa's education curriculum</p> <p>iii. Child care and Protection Act 2016: legislative and policy framework for the care and the protection of children and domesticates the Convention on the Rights of the Child in its entirety (Article 24 - CRC- Child's right to health and health care)</p> <p>iv. National Reproductive Policy- expansion of the scope of the SRH policy to include maternal health and mental health, stakeholder's roles for greater ownership in combating matters pertaining to SRH and the need to establish the linkage of SRH to gender-based violence.</p> <p>v. National HIV, AIDS and STI policy- identify key areas of public health intervention and provides information on policy issues related to these areas</p>			
Achievements and good practices				
3.C.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in the country since 2013?</p> <p>i. Introduction of Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) in Samoa's education curriculum</p> <p>ii. Access to basic services have improved including to sexual and reproductive health services. In 2018, the Samoa Family Health Association which provides public sexual and reproductive health-care services opened branches in Motootua and in Savaii</p> <p>iii. Strong collaboration of the Ministry of Health with Non-governmental Organizations (such as Samoa Health Association, Samoa Faafafine Association and Samoa Red Cross) and line ministries such as the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSO) is the contributing factor in the improvement of reproductive and maternal health service delivery and community engagement and awareness of Sexual Rights and Reproductive Health (SRHR)</p>			
4.C.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewed efforts to ensure access to Sexual Reproductive Health information All public health facilities in Samoa provide family planning services, have providers trained in family planning service delivery and have planning guidelines available. 			
Challenges				
<p>In implementing priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?</p> <p>[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]</p>				
Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:

5.C.	Lack of human resources dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of adequate budget allocation for SRHR
6.C.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited financial resources
7.C.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need for capacity development for key partners and stakeholders in delivering interventions to communities, coordinating service delivery and implementing M&E
8.C.	Lack of data on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of disaggregated data
9.C.	Lack of overall political support related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Balancing act of observing our conservative Christian values and the implementation of SDG target 3.7
10.C.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.C.	Lack of international support related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.C.	Lack of development partner coordination related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need for adequate funds for national implementation. Should be a member needs driven process
13.C.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Challenge to have free and frank discussions in relation to sexual and reproductive health
14.C.	A bottom-up approach to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights not followed (e.g., involvement of persons with lowest access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	SRHR is a sensitive subject and sometimes hinders a wide inclusion of a broad spectrum of stakeholders
15.C.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<p>If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measles outbreak 2019 .

16.C.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights programmes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge to have free and frank discussion on sexual and reproductive health (mindset) • Balancing act of Samoa's conservative Christian values and the implementation of SRHR
Lessons learned	
17.C.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? * Reallocate resources to respond to population changes over the coming decade, including ageing of the population.
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring	
18.C.	<div> <div> Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Please check as many as apply. </div> <div> X Capacity-building X Advocacy and awareness raising X Resource mobilization X Engagement with high-level politicians X Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation X Public-private partnerships X Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please elaborate): </div> </div>
19.C.	<div> <div> Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Please check as many as apply to your country. </div> <div> X Capacity-building – data collection X Capacity-building – data analysis X Lack of monitoring frameworks X Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians X Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. X Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation X Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please elaborate): </div> </div>

D. Education

Overall policy environment

1.D.	<p>Are any priority actions for education included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>i. Pathway for the Development of Samoa Link: https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pathway-for-the-Development-of-Samoa.pdf</p> <p>ii.</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan i. Pathway for the Development of Samoa- 2021-2026 (5 years)</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area i. Pathway for the Development of Samoa: pages 9 and 10</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>i. Universal access to complete, free and compulsory high quality education ii. Early Childhood education iii. Transition from school into the labour force</p> <p>(d) its impact i. Pathway for the Development of Samoa-Education remains a key driver for national economic prosperity, and it also offers the means of combating inequalities and helping people to realise their full potential.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
2.D.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “education” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>i. Education Amendment Act ii. National Safe Schools Policy</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>i. Education Amendment Act - implemented in 2019 ii. National Safe Schools Policy- in effect in 2017</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>i. Education Amendment Act-stipulates that all students at the age of four must attend an Early Childhood Education (ECE) Centre. ii. National Safe Schools Policy 2017- aims to tackle discrimination against pregnant girls and provides legal protections from expulsion</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <p>ii. The National Safe Schools Policy 2017- attempts to curb the dropout rates of pregnant girls and teenage mothers.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Achievements and good practices

3.D.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of education in the country since 2013?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment of the Inclusive Education Unit at the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture and the Inclusive Education (IE) Policy for Students Living with Disability 2015 provide a framework for improving educational opportunities for children with disabilities. The ratification of the UN Convention on the Persons with Disabilities in 2016- mainstreaming of CRPD through policies to ensure their inclusiveness in all sectors, including education
4.D.	Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing education programmes that other countries may find useful?

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for education, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.D.	Lack of human resources dedicated to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase the number of teachers while also upskilling them
6.D.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Need to mobilize dedicated funding to address targeted vulnerabilities- namely in the areas of nutrition, health, wellbeing, ICT and technologies, encompassing all our basic needs for learning
7.D.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on education	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. directive to upskill teachers
8.D.	Lack of data on education, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress being made by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics
9.D.	Lack of overall political support related to education	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.D.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improvement of cross-sectoral coordination with the Pathway of the Development of Samoa and the education policies
11.D.	Lack of international support related to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

12.D.	Lack of development partner coordination related to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samoa underwent national pre-consultations across the country for the Global Transforming Education summit to ensure the right to education is matched with means of education development and that the development partner collaborate effectively. Overall there is a sector coordination body that has cross-sectoral representation including NGOs
13.D.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of education	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.D.	A bottom-up approach to education not followed (e.g., involvement of persons with lowest access to education, etc.)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.D.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. Measles outbreak 2019
16.D.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of education programmes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declining quality of education outcomes in terms of literacy, numeracy and also in the STEM subjects with overall sharp declines in literacy for Samoan, English and Numeracy across all levels between 2012 and 2017 Declining completion rates for primary schools and transition rates from primary to secondary and secondary to tertiary 				
Lessons learned					
17.D.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of education not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The measles and COVID19 pandemic disrupted the school year for the students but provided an opportunity to better test and invest in the use of ICT to allow the students to continue with their education. There was investment in the delivery of school lessons online and the use of e-learning materials. 				
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring					

18.D.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for education. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.D.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for education. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

E. Gender equality and women's empowerment

Overall policy environment

1.E.	<p>Are any priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If "yes", please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pathway for the Development of Samoa https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pathway-for-the-Development-of-Samoa.pdf ● National Policy on Gender Equality and Rights of Women and Girls Link : https://drive.google.com/file/d/119k8U1m5G1_GxrpE_1z7cTp_KJZu_Yhbl/view ● National Policy on Family Safety <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PDS- 2021/22-2025/26 ● National Policy on Gender Equality and Rights of Women and Girls- 2021-2030 ● National Policy on Family Safety 2021-2031 <p>(c) page number that references this action area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PDS (pg 10) KPA 4: People empowerment ● National Policy on Gender Equality- Pages 2 , 18, 33, 10, 24, 25 <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prevention of Gender based violence ● Gender mainstreaming- inclusion of men and boys (monitoring, implementation and evaluation) ● Socio-economic support ● Establish and implement legal and institutional frameworks <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Pathway for the Development of Samoa is committed to the 2030 Agenda, through the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls to be pursued across all sectors of government and all levels of governance by all partners including development partners. ● The National Policy on Gender Equality identifies increased access of law and justice for women and girls, especially those facing multiple and intersecting barriers and forms of discrimination as a key priority area ● The National Policy on Family Safety Act 2021-2031 has 3 key strategy areas: prevention, early intervention and response system. The outcome areas include reducing violence against women, children and persons with disabilities, elderly people and 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X</p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
------	--	---

	other vulnerable groups as well as coordinating an efficient interagency response framework.	
2.E.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Gender equality and women’s empowerment” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentencing Act <p>link: https://www.mjca.gov.ws/achasoso/2021/05/Sentencing-Act-2016.pdf.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy on Family Safety: Elimination of Family Violence • Samoa Interagency Services Guide (IESG) to Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection (2021) <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 - Sentencing Act • time frame: 2021-2031- National Policy on Family Safety: Elimination of Family Violence 2021-2031 • Year of implementation: 2021- Samoa Interagency Services Guide <p>(c) its main elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentencing Act- Penalties for crimes motivated by hostility • National Policy on Family Safety: Elimination of Family Violence- creating an enabling environment to reduce Gender-based Violence (GBV) • IESG- to ensure that care and response services for survivors of violence are safe and meet quality standards. <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentencing Act: increased the penalties for crimes motivated by hostility based on gender identity or sexual orientation. • National Policy on Family Safety- the first standalone national policy addressing family violence (the most prevalent form of GBV in Samoa) • IESG- better response, referral and coordination of gender-based violence services with the release of their new protocol to guide the referral pathway between survivors and multi-sector service providers. 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<i>Achievements and good practices</i>		

3.E.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment in the country since 2013?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District Development Plans were collaboratively developed by the community involving all stakeholders including women and youth. The development plans are the basis for current and future development in the villages and districts enabling coherent support by the government and all stakeholders. As of January 2020, 48 out of 49 districts have district development plans • The National Public Inquiry into Family Violence in Samoa commissioned by the National Human Rights Institution, was a landmark public dialogue and platform in Samoa to speak about family violence. The dialogue added momentum to existing conversations on the core values and principles of <i>fa'asamoa- the Samoan culture or way of life</i>. The key recommendations from the inquiry led to initiatives such as the 2017 'Safer Families, Stronger Communities Policy and Strategy and Plan of Action'. • Samoa was the first country in the Pacific region to receive an official visit by the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and Practice in August 2017. • The Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) plays a critical role in the promotion and implementation of national and targeted programmes to protect and support victims of violence and abuse. They work closely with the Ministry of Police and Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration and with funding and in-kind support from the government, development partners, the private sector and the community; the SVSG provides the only national shelter that houses women and children victims of violence and sexual abuse. SVSG also has village representatives that build the support network on this important service. They also implement the "Nofotane Project" which aims to improve the economic empowerment of women and to increase women's participation in domestic and community matters. This project has reached over 5,000 women across Samoa <p>Source: Samoa Second National Voluntary Review: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26429Samoa_Samos2ndVNR2020reduced.pdf</p>
4.E.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing gender equality and women's empowerment programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on improving inclusiveness through village governance and accountability and improving inclusion of vulnerable groups especially for women and persons with disabilities.

Challenges					
In implementing priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]					
Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.E.	Lack of human resources dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.E.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.E.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.E.	Lack of data on gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samoa Bureau of Statistics and UN partners collaboration to identify and collect sex disaggregated data including the collecting of some of the needed data on domestic and intimate partner violence for the first time in the DHS-MICS 2019 survey.
9.E.	Lack of overall political support related to gender equality and women's empowerment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.E.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to gender equality and women's empowerment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.E.	Lack of international support related to gender equality and women's empowerment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.E.	Lack of development partner coordination related to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing dialogue with development partners to ensure aid is needs driven.
13.E.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of gender equality and women's empowerment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.E.	A bottom-up approach to gender equality and women's empowerment not followed (e.g., involvement of women, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

15.E.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	X	If "2" or "3", please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. Measles Outbreak 2019 COVID 19
16.E.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment programmes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key challenges include insufficient collection and availability of sex-aggregated data to monitor progress towards policies, plans and programs. 				

Lessons learned		
17.E.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>	
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring		
18.E.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment. Please check as many as apply.	X Capacity-building <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising X Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians X Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation X Public-private partnerships X Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.E.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment. Please check as many as apply to your country.	X Capacity-building – data collection X Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks X Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. X Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation X Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

F. Adolescents and young people

Overall policy environment

1.F.	<p>Are any priority actions for adolescents and young people included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathway for the Development of Samoa https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pathway-for-the-Development-of-Samoa.pdf <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan 2021/22-2025/26</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (pg 10): KPA 4, (pg 13) KPA 6, (pg 15) KPA 9, (pg 16) KPA 10 • (pg 9) KPA 2 <p>(d) main elements of the action area KPAs 4,6,9,10 will help to improve access, build capability, improve efficiency, provide opportunities which can help to address issues of unemployment and youth engagement in wider community decision making.</p> <p>KPA 2 aspires that all people will have access to equal opportunities to health care services, which</p> <p>(d) its impact Improve access to opportunities</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
------	---	---

2.F.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Adolescents and young people” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(i) Community Development Sector Plan (CDSP) and National Youth Policy https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Community-Development-Sector-Plan-2021-2026.pdf</p> <p>(ii) Samoa National Employment Policy (SNEP) https://www.mcil.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SNEP-2021.22-2025.26_Final.pdf</p> <p>(iii) Health Sector plan https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Health-Sector-Plan-2020-2030.pdf</p> <p>(iv) National Policy on Community Economic Development https://www.mwcsd.gov.ws/assets/policy/National%20Policy%20on%20Community%20Economic%20Development%202021-2031.pdf</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(i) 2021-2026</p> <p>(ii) 2021/22- 2025/26</p> <p>(iii) 2020-20230</p> <p>(iv) 2021-2031</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CDSP looks at enhancing inclusive development, improving economic empowerment and social outcomes for communities. - The SNEP addresses youth employment by proposing strategies that have been geared towards better understanding and to address the issues faced by vulnerable groups (incl the youth) in accessing employment opportunities. - The Health Sector Plan addresses sexual reproductive health - The National Policy on Community Economic Development supports the Community Development Sector Plan by..... <p>(d) its impact</p> <p>Improve access and build capacity that will address some of the issues faced by the young people esp the youth.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
------	---	--

Achievements and good practices					
3.F.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of adolescents and young people in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Life Education Programme The FLE Curriculum Statement has been finalised by the FLE MSC (Multi Stakeholder Committee) and it is now with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture for their review and adoption. (further information) Samoa Youth Monograph 2020, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION: A Strategic Pathway to Accelerate Sexual and Reproductive Health Outcomes for Adolescents and Youth in Samoa https://pacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/sym_policy_brief_1_fle_web_19aug.pdf The District Development Plans were collaboratively developed by the community involving all stakeholders including women and youth. The development plans are the basis for current and future development in the villages and districts enabling coherent support by the government and all stakeholders. As of January 2020, 48 out of 49 districts have district development plans 				
4.F.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing adolescent and young people programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District Development plans has enforced better representation of youth in formulating and implementing the district development plans Samoa with the technical assistance of the International Labour Organization (ILO) conducted a Situational Analysis on Child Labour in 2017, with a follow up survey in 2022, which prompted the Samoa Child Labour Taskforce and Samoa National Tripartite Forum to request the development of a workplan . This year the Samoa National Workplan was formulated 				
Challenges					
<p>In implementing priority actions for adolescents and young people, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]</p>					
Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.F.	Lack of human resources dedicated to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wider engagement with stakeholders
6.F.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aid coordination on this important area
7.F.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater engagement

8.F.	Lack of data on adolescents and young people, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collection of data is always a challenge as a SIDS but we have made progress over the years . for example: Samoa Youth Monograph 2019
9.F.	Lack of overall political support related to adolescents and young people	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.F.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	interagency coordination remains a challenge for monitoring and implementation
11.F.	Lack of international support related to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.F.	Lack of development partner coordination related to adolescents and young people	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.F.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase in programmes linked with community education
14.F.	A bottom-up approach to adolescents and young people not followed (e.g., involvement of adolescents and young people, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater engagement at the community level - empowering the youth to be more involved.
15.F.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. Measles outbreak
16.F.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of adolescent and young people programmes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of jobs- leading to an increase in child vendors • Lack of appropriate schooling in rural and urban communities - minimum standards of service are not being met- no minimum standards for Early Childhood Education (ECE) or lack of resourcing including teacher training 				

Lessons learned

17.F.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of adolescents and young people not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth engagement at the grassroots/community level - allowing them to be involved in decision making • Encouragement and promoting of young people’s interests in ‘innovation, science and technology
-------	--

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring

18.F.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for adolescents and young people. Please check as many as apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.F.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for adolescents and young people. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

G. Ageing

Overall policy environment

1.G.	<p>Are any priority actions for ageing included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathway for the Development of Samoa https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pathway-for-the-Development-of-Samoa.pdf <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan 2021/22-2025-26</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area (pg 8) KPA 1</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area Ensure that there is equitable access to services and opportunities for those in hardship and poverty, including the elderly.</p> <p>(d) its impact Elderly to access support for services that can help them live comfortably.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
------	---	---

2.G.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Ageing” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(i) Community Development Sector Plan https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Community-Development-Sector-Plan-2021-2026.pdf</p> <p>(ii) Health Sector Plan https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Health-Sector-Plan-2020-2030.pdf</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(i) 2021-2026</p> <p>(ii) 2019/20- 2029/30</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring national coordination by putting in place mechanisms - Develop inclusive social protection and strengthen health systems <p>(d) its impact</p> <p>The Community Development Sector Plan enables the communities through their leaders to assist government carry out programmes that will enable the development within their communities.</p> <p>The Health Sector Plan issues arising from an ageing population that will require financial resources along with support and services to address health issues of an ageing population.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
Achievements and good practices		
3.G.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of ageing in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government is currently working on a Social Protection Framework which should address issues of vulnerable groups. • District Development Planning Programme ensures all the appropriate services are delivered to those in need within the communities. 	
4.G.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing programmes on ageing that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p>	
Challenges		
<p>In implementing priority actions for ageing, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?</p> <p>[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]</p>		

Challenges		1	2 X	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.G.	Lack of human resources dedicated to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy formulation for allocation of human resources dedicated to ageing
6.G.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Samoa Senior Citizens Benefit is in place and was recently increased
7.G.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Creation of capacity development opportunities
8.G.	Lack of data on ageing, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samoa's 2nd VNR revealed that there is insufficient disaggregated data on the elderly population.
9.G.	Lack of overall political support related to ageing	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.G.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Better interagency coordination
11.G.	Lack of international support related to ageing	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.G.	Lack of development partner coordination related to ageing	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.G.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.G.	A bottom-up approach to ageing not followed (e.g., involvement of older persons, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wider stakeholder involvement in consultations
15.G.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	If "2" or "3", please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. Measles outbreak 2019
16.G.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of programmes on ageing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At its 3rd Universal Periodic Review it was identified that one of Samoa's emerging issues that was highlighted was that there needs to be more dedicated attention given to policies and plans for the elderly. The Samoa Hardship and Poverty Report 2013/14, reinforces that the elderly is one of the vulnerable groups with 13.3% below the Basics Need Poverty Line (BNPL) The Health Sector Plan expresses that Samoa has an ageing population that will need more financial resources in order to address as the ageing also requires different services and skills in areas such as dementia, disability and palliative care. 				

Lessons learned

17.G.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of ageing not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> Care for the aged is an inbuilt part of our customs and traditions – most families care for the aged until they pass without putting them in institutionalised care. However circumstances are fast changing with less and less family members available for caregiving coupled with migration on temporary worker schemes,
-------	---

<i>Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring</i>		
18.G.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for ageing. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.G.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for ageing. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

H. International migration

Overall policy environment

1.H.	<p>Are any priority actions for international migration included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link Pathway for the Development of Samoa</p> <p>Link: https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pathway-for-the-Development-of-Samoa.pdf</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan 2022-2026</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area Pages 11, 7 and 16</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area Skilled workforce and increased labour mobility</p> <p>(d) its impact People empowerment is central to human development, which can be realised through a highly educated and skilled workforce. A vibrant labour mobility environment provides the eligible population with a crucial source of income, new experiences and skills that will ultimately benefit their families and develop their respective communities.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
------	---	---

2.H.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “International migration” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Citizenship by Investment Act (ii) Labour and Employment Relations Amendment Bill (ii) Review of policies on Labour mobility programs/schemes <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 2015 (ii) 2022 (iii) current <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(i) The Citizenship by Investment Act enables accessibility to Samoan citizenship through investment into the Samoan economy by possible investors and their immediate family contingent on a specified and quantifiable investment in Samoa.</p> <p>(ii) The Amendment Bill proposes the prohibition by employers of discrimination against employees or applicants to positions on the basis of race, ethnicity, colour, gender, religion, political opinion, sexual orientation, social origin, marital status, pregnancy, family responsibilities, real or perceived HIV status, disability and participation in the activities of a trade union. Furthermore, it proposes to introduce a grievances mechanism by way of a Grievance Board.</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <p>Foreign Investors gain citizenship which enables them to access and enjoy the liberties of a Samoan national and return Samoa benefits from the investment that these people are able to bring into the Samoa economy.</p> <p>The Amendment Bill on the other hand, protects the rights of migrant workers while they are working and living in Samoa.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
------	--	---

Achievements and lessons learned					
3.H.	Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of international migration in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samoa acceded to the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime in 2014 Policy framework for seasonal work and labour mobility programs 				
4.H.	Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing international migration programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				
Challenges					
In implementing priority actions for international migration, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]					
Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? <i>please elaborate:</i>	
5.H.	Lack of human resources dedicated to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shifting of focus on international migration-particularly the mobility schemes
6.H.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	More partnerships to seek opportunities
7.H.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.H.	Lack of data on international migration, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Looking at addressing the issue of no reliable data on labour supply or unemployment
9.H.	Lack of overall political support related to international migration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.H.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to international migration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.H.	Lack of international support related to international migration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.H.	Lack of development partner coordination related to international migration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.H.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of international migration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.H.	A bottom-up approach to international migration not followed (e.g., involvement of international migrants, etc.)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

15.H.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc.
16.H.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of international migration programmes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brain Drain : Loss of skilled labour force through the quota - moving overseas for better income opportunities as well as the seasonal workers schemes Reliance on labour may also be relatively unsustainable/unreliable as it relies on the continuing participation of host countries 				
17.H.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of international migration not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> benefits of remittances could also be multiplied through proper cultivation of financial literacy training and investment by workers Insistence on the return of workers at the end of seasonal/labour mobility programs 				
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring					
18.H.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):			
19.H.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):			

I. Urbanization and internal migration

Overall policy environment		
1.I.	<p>Are any priority actions for urbanization and internal migration included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pathway for the Development of Samoa (PDS) <p>https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pathway-for-the-Development-of-Samoa.pdf</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>2021/22- 2025/26</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(pg 26) KPA 21</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>The main theme for the PDS is to empower communities, build their resilience and inspire growth.</p> <p>Under KPA 21, which is the consolidating of infrastructure management, this will address the safety and resilience of infrastructure and settlements (incl urban and town areas) enhanced through proper planning</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <p>Empowering communities means they will be better prepared to cope with disruptions/threats.</p> <p>Furthermore, building better communities will encourage inclusive growth and shared prosperity.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

2.I.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Urbanization and internal migration” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(i) Community Development Sector Plan https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Community-Development-Sector-Plan-2021-2026.pdf</p> <p>(ii) National Policy on Community Economic Development https://www.mwcsd.gov.ws/assets/policy/National%20Policy%20on%20Community%20Economic%20Development%202021-2031.pdf</p> <p>(iii) Planning and Urban Management Act Link: https://www.mnre.gov.ws/mnre-redesign/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Planning-and-Urban-Management-Act-2004.pdf</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(i) 2021-2026</p> <p>(ii) 2021-2031</p> <p>(iii) 2004</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>The Community Development Sector Plan brings together the diverse work of Samoa’s sectors into one document as a guide for the framework for the development of the community.</p> <p>The National Policy on Community Economic Development is designed to facilitate economic progress for communities ensuring access to market facilities as well as enhance business capabilities.</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <p>Empowering the community will encourage development and progress. This will help to improve facilities and infrastructure of districts and villages and will encourage people to invest where they live.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<i>Achievements and good practices</i>		

3.I.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of urbanization and internal migration in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District Development Plans were collaboratively developed by the community involving all stakeholders including women and youth. The development plans are the basis for current and future development in the villages and districts enabling coherent support by the government and all stakeholders. As of January 2020, 48 out of 49 districts have district development plans • Decentralisation of retail and wholesale businesses such that services are available throughout the country and not just the urban areas •
4.I.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing urbanization and internal migration programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of promoting sustainable land and coastal planning, and enhancing resilience of the urban and rural areas in SIDS cannot be over emphasized.

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for urbanization and internal migration, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.I.	Lack of human resources dedicated to urbanization and internal migration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.I.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.I.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.I.	Lack of data on urbanization and internal migration, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.I.	Lack of overall political support related to urbanization and internal migration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.I.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to urbanization and internal migration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.I.	Lack of international support related to urbanization and internal migration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.I.	Lack of development partner coordination related to urbanization and internal migration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

13.I.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of urbanization and internal migration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.I.	A bottom-up approach to urbanization and internal migration not followed (e.g., involvement of urban migrants, etc.)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.I.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc Measles outbreak 2019.
16.I.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of urbanization and internal migration programmes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The threat and impact of extreme weather events like cyclones and tsunamis (move from coastal areas to inland areas) 				
Lessons learned					
17.I.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of urbanization and internal migration not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning regulations and standards make up a critical component of sustainable urban development planning. 				
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring					
18.I.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for urbanization and internal migration. Please check as many as apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> x Capacity-building <input type="checkbox"/> x Advocacy and awareness raising <input type="checkbox"/> x Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please elaborate):			
19.I.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for urbanization and internal migration. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input type="checkbox"/> x Capacity-building – data collection <input type="checkbox"/> x Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> x Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> x Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please elaborate):			

J. Population and sustainable development

Overall policy environment

1.J.	<p>Are any priority actions for population and sustainable development included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>Pathway of Development for Samoa (PDS)</p> <p>Link:https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pathway-for-the-Development-of-Samoa.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samoa Climate Change Policy <p>Link:https://cdn.climatepolicyradar.org/navigator/WSM/2020/samoa-climate-change-policy-2020-2030_7230c222caf824d4d407bbe1edbf384.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Environment Sector Plan (NESP) <p>Link: https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/National%20Environment%20Sector%20Plan%20%28NESP%29%202017-2021.pdf</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PDS: 2021-2026 Samoa Climate Change Policy 2020-2030 NESP 2017-2021 <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCP - Pages 10, 18, 19, 22 and 25 NESP- Pages 22, 17, 21 <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>NESP is to provide the blueprint for the sustainable management and development of natural resources in Samoa, and the protection and conservation of the country's environment</p> <p>Pathway for the Development of Samoa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KSO 4 : Secured Environment and Climate Change - KPA 16: Effective Environmental Protection and Management Frameworks. - KPA 7- Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture Productivity: Food security <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of climate change adaptation, resilience and disaster risk management capabilities across the country. NESP - addressing the direct impact on the sustainability of the natural environment, national infrastructure and social services like education and health. 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
------	--	---

2.J.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Population and sustainable development” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website</p> <p>Samoa Climate Change Policy link</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>2020-2030</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>Samoa Climate Change Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination on climate change adaptation and mitigation activities between different institutions and levels of government and supports Samoa to meet its international obligations <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further measures to be taken to improve mainstreaming of climate resilience and disaster risk management, drawing on extensive risk mapping and identified activities in the CIM plans. • Overall umbrella climate change policy framework providing guidance to government, communities and the private sector on national governance arrangements and actions to enhance effective and ambitious climate action. 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<i>Achievements and good practices</i>				
3.J.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of population and sustainable development in the country since 2013?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samoa remains committed to implementing the Paris Agreement and its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC pledge of generating 100% of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2025. • Samoa completed two Voluntary National Reviews 			
4.J.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing population and sustainable development programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG mainstreaming is an ongoing process hence the importance of the SDG taskforce 			
<i>Challenges</i>				
<p>In implementing priority actions for population and sustainable development, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?</p> <p>[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]</p>				
Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:

5.J.	Lack of human resources dedicated to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting an integrated approach to resources - proper planning dealing with population needs at all levels
6.J.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy formulation to allocation sufficient financial resources
7.J.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhancing people's understanding of issues pertaining to Samoa's characteristics of its population
8.J.	Lack of data on population and sustainable development, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress on better data collection to ensure the monitoring of policy objectives
9.J.	Lack of overall political support related to population and sustainable development	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.J.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to population and sustainable development	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.J.	Lack of international support related to population and sustainable development	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.J.	Lack of development partner coordination related to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effective engagement to identify our needs related to population and sustainable development
13.J.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased public awareness of Samoa's risk to climate change and improved technical projections of future disasters to better enable partners to support the prevention, preparedness response and recovery from disasters.
14.J.	A bottom-up approach to population and sustainable development not followed (e.g., involvement of those most affected, or most marginalized populations, etc.)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.J.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	If "2" or "3", please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. Measles outbreak 2019

16.J.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of population and sustainable development programmes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Samoa's population is growing and thus the expansion of its economy. Both will increase the demand for and pressure on natural resources ● Increased pollution due to ill-planned local development ● Waste generation including plastics and impacts on the ocean ● Forest clearance
Lessons learned		
17.J.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of population and sustainable development not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The need to promote sustainability while at the same time maintaining consistency with national existing planning and development regimes. The pressures on limited resources can be relieved through proper planning, dealing with population needs at all levels.
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring		
18.J.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for population and sustainable development. Please check as many as apply.	X Capacity-building X Advocacy and awareness raising X Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation X Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.J.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for population and sustainable development. Please check as many as apply to your country.	X Capacity-building – data collection X Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. X Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation X Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

K. Data and statistics

Overall policy environment		
1.K.	<p>Are any priority actions for data and statistics included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>Pathway for the Development of Samoa</p> <p>Link: https://www.mof.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pathway-for-the-Development-of-Samoa.pdf</p> <p>National Statistics Development Strategy</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>2021-2026</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>Page 24</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>Improvement of data collection and analysis</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <p>for strengthening the policy and planning environment</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
2.K.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Data and statistics” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(d) its impact</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
Achievements and good practices		

3.K.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of data and statistics in the country since 2013?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sector by sector focus in the Pathway for the Development of Samoa reinforces the shift of Samoa to a more centralised statistical system, included in this is the joint involvement in the direction of the statistical sources and the recognition of the Samoa Bureau of Statistics in statistical integration, covering design, collection and estimation • Completion of two Population and Housing Censuses, two Household, Income and Expenditure Surveys, two Demographic Health Surveys and two Labour Force Surveys. These surveys have provided a wealth of information critical for monitoring of the national development plan, sector plans including the SDGs and other global and regional commitments. • The latest census for Samoa in 2022 used for the first time the Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) method was used to collect the information compared to the Paper and Pencil Interview method used in the previous census. It is also the first time the population has been tabulated based on the new distribution of political districts and villages used in the national election by the Office of the Electoral Commission in April 2021. • In 2020, Samoa was elected for the first time to become a member of the Statistical Commission. Samoa's voice was crucial to ensure the realities, challenges and efforts on data collection in the Pacific and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are recognized by the United Nations. Samoa was represented by the late Ali'imua Mafafu T. Faasalaina.
4.K.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing data and statistics programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection and effective engagement are some of the first steps to ensuring that the most vulnerable people are not left behind.

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for data and statistics, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.K. Lack of human resources dedicated to data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffing levels increased from 77 to 89
6.K. Lack of financial resources dedicated to data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding for Samoa Bureau of Statistics increased from SAT 4.2 million in 2015 to SAT 4.6 million in 2019.
7.K. Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.K. Lack of information for tracking of progress on data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Progress on delivery of timely and accurate national statistics to meet reporting obligations and inform appointments.
9.K. Lack of overall political support related to data and statistics	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

10.K.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to data and statistics	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.K.	Lack of international support related to data and statistics	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.K.	Lack of development partner coordination related to data and statistics	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.K.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	The statistics collected for the first time through Samoa Bureau of Statistics surveys are an important step forward for Samoa's efforts on the issues of violence
14.K.	A bottom-up approach to data and statistics not followed (e.g., involvement of those collecting, disseminating and analysing data and statistics.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.K.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	If "2" or "3", please also name the disaster (s), emergency etc.
16.K.	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of data and statistics programmes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of data and reliable model projections • Developing an analytical capability across all Ministries • Complexity of interagency agreements increases exponentially with the number of partners, as does the difficulty in agreement on shared goals and accountability. 				

Lessons learned

17.K.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of data and statistics not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of the use of existing country processes, systems and institutions in support of contextualisation • The important focus on inclusiveness and securing citizens' rights to development thus ensuring no one is left behind-strengthens the work including synergies on Human rights and integration of SDGs into the Pathway for the Development of Samoa • Statistical investment requirements for the Government have become more focused and informed- development agencies expectations.
-------	---

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring

18.K.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for data and statistics. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.K.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for data and statistics. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

IV. Summary questions

Extraneous influences			
<i>Has the COVID-19 pandemic, or other national emergencies, disasters, or crises, resulted in:</i>			
2.1	Building in more resilience when developing population programmes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No	Development partners and agencies increase in donor aid. For instance: 'Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Development Response, World Bank \$US 23.7 million to boost support for its recovery
2.2	Increased prioritization (or mainstreaming) of population issues in policymaking?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No	If "yes" or "somewhat", please elaborate:
2.3	Diversion of funds or resources from population programmes to support other programmes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If "yes" or "somewhat", please elaborate:
Priority areas for further action			
2.4	Please rank the priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development from highest to lowest priority in the country at the current point in time. Please use '1' as the highest priority and '11' the lowest priority.	4 Poverty eradication and employment 3 Health 6 Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights 2 Education 1 Gender equality and women's empowerment 7 Adolescents and young people 11 Ageing 8 International migration 9 Urbanization and internal migration 10 Population and sustainable development 5 Data and statistics	
Additional comments			
2.5	<p>Are there any topics that are not covered in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development that have become critically significant in the country since 2013? For example: food security, climate change or digital transformation? <i>please elaborate:</i></p> <p>Food security – looking at transformational food systems to ensure food security Climate change is an existential threat to the Pacific – it remains the priority issue for all Pacific countries – climate changes is integrated across all sectoral development plans Digital transformation in Samoa has already begun, through the process of using digital technologies to create new — or modify existing — business processes, culture, and customer experiences to meet changing business and market requirements.</p>		

2.6	<p>Are there any other lessons learned, achievements, challenges or needs that can be shared in regard to priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development that have not already been addressed in this survey?</p> <p><i>please elaborate:</i></p> <p>There is a need for Samoa to ensure that it meets all the commitments identified in its Population policy hence this calls for a Review so that there is alignment to the national development policies and strategies</p>
-----	---

V. Overall achievements/challenges in population and development

The Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference will be held from 16 to 18 November 2023. The intergovernmental meeting will coincide with the 60-year commemoration of the first Asian Population Conference, which was held from 10 to 20 December 1963 in New Delhi, India, the 30-year regional review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. It will also mark the half-way point in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

With the above in mind, please share the country's biggest achievement and challenge in the area of population and development:

3.1	Over the last 60 years (since the first Population Conference) a. Achievement <i>please elaborate:</i> b. Challenge <i>please elaborate:</i>
3.2	Over the last 30 years (since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action) a. Achievement The partnership between the national government, in particular the Ministry of Community and Social Development, the Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration and the village councils was critical to addressing community based social problems that are the root of gender-inequalities b. Challenge Need for ongoing strengthening of the coordinated countrywide approach.
3.3	Over the last 7 years since adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development a. Achievement Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals to National Context Samoa has localized SDG targets through proper integration into sector plans that can be effectively managed by the current M & E framework developed known as Samoa Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework which promotes ownership and coherence. We have recently developed a tool as an integration resource: SADATA- supports localisation and reflects human rights approach towards the implementation of the SDGs which can be used to complement other tools such as the UNESCAP Generic Tool for Policy Data Integration, locally developed frameworks and region wide and subregional roadmaps and networks. i. b. Challenge The centrality of timely and accurate national statistics in monitoring and clear definition of roles with regards to collation and validation of data.

THANK YOU!