

2022 Questionnaire for the UN System SDG Implementation Database

“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”

Q2: How has your organization supported Member States to accelerate their recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda? How has your organization cooperated with other UN system organizations in these efforts to achieve coherence and synergies?

ITU has been able to support Member States through the digital transformation wheel that the ITU has developed using available indicators both within ITU and the UN system. Such an approach has enabled our membership to focus on areas of improvement and develop better plans towards achieving digital transformation and inclusion across different industry vertices.

The ITU Smart Islands programme adopts an innovative approach to deliver connectivity and digital services to unconnected and underserved communities. It aims to transform rural and coastal communities, improving their livelihood and well-being by connecting them to a range of digitally enabled services. It is designed to address the socio-economic challenges faced by communities through digital transformation at community level with emphasis on vulnerable populations (women, youth, and persons with disabilities) to leave no one behind. It has four pillars of (i) improving broadband connectivity (ii) making broadband affordable (iii) enhancing digital skills and (iv) providing digital services, to impact people's lives based on their local priorities.

Smart Villages and Smart Islands adopt a whole-of-government approach at community level strategically aligning the resources of all stakeholders (government, industry, development agencies, civil society, academia among others), and holistic response to SDG-related needs. It also enhances the ability of governments and communities to augment COVID recovery efforts towards a post COVID digital future, where no one is left behind. Following the ongoing pilot implementations in Niger (Smart Village) and Vanuatu (Smart Islands), a Smart Village project is currently operational in Pakistan. ITU has further received expressions of interest from Fiji, Kiribati, the Maldives, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

To establish and promote this new holistic and inclusive approach, ITU is working with UN agencies (UNCDF, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO, UNOPS, UNODC, UNOHCHR), the Joint SDG Fund, other partners (Asian Development Bank, Government of Australia - DITRDCA), national governments, the private sector (Huawei) and other stakeholders while continuing to explore partnerships for financing with development partners, other private sector, and other international and national agencies.

Two Joint SDG Fund programmes that have digital policies, capacity building and Smart Islands components have also been developed together with UN agencies in Pacific Islands countries. See details below.

Please select up to three **high-impact initiatives**, especially those that address interlinkages among the SDGs:
Information that will be collected for each initiative include:

Name: United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) – Thematic Group on “Lessons Learned From Building Urban Economic Resilience at City Level During and After COVID-19”

Relevant SDGs (select all relevant goals): SDG3, SDG9, SDG11, SDG12, SDG17

Partners: (please list all partners): ITU, UNECE, UN-HABITAT, Convention on Biological Diversity, ECLAC, FAO, UNDP, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNESCO, UNEP, UNEP Finance Initiative, UNFCCC, UNIDO, UN Office for Partnerships, UNU-EGOV, UN-Women, WMO, UNWTO.

Member States benefiting from the initiative: All 193 Member States of ITU

Description (max 150 words): United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) is an open initiative, supported by 18 United Nations agencies and programmes. It serves as a global platform for discussions on facilitating smart city transitions worldwide. One of the Thematic Groups under the U4SSC umbrella tackles the topic of economic resilience after COVID-19. This Thematic Group explores how emerging technologies in the urban realm can be used to tackle the pandemic while strengthening urban resilience capacity to minimize economic risks to society in the event of similar crises in the future.

Website: <https://u4ssc.itu.int/economic-resilience/>

Name: ITU/WHO Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence for Health (FG-AI4H)

Relevant SDGs (select all relevant goals); SDG3

Partners: (please list all partners): ITU and WHO

Member States benefiting from the initiative: 193 ITU Member States

Description (max 150 words): FG-AI4H aims to establish a standardized assessment framework for the evaluation of AI-based methods for health, diagnosis, triage or treatment decisions.

Website: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/ai4h/Pages/default.aspx>

Name: U4SSC Key Performance Indicators

Relevant SDGs (select all relevant goals); All SDGs

Partners: (please list all partners): ITU, UNECE, UN-HABITAT, Convention on Biological Diversity, ECLAC, FAO, UNDP, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNESCO, UNEP, UNEP Finance Initiative, UNFCCC, UNIDO, UN Office for Partnerships, UNU-EGOV, UN-Women, WMO and UNWTO.

Member States benefiting from the initiative: 193 ITU Member States

Description (max 150 words): The United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC)'s Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are a crucial tool that cities can leverage to trace their journey towards becoming smart and sustainable, while ensuring that they achieve SDG targets. The U4SSC KPIs encompass SDGs targets and indicators. Over 150 cities worldwide have implemented these KPIs.

Website: <https://u4ssc.itu.int/u4ssc-kpi/>

Name: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

Relevant SDGs (select all relevant goals): All SDGs

Partners: (please list all partners): ITU, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNDP, FAO, ILO, ITC, UNDESA, UNEP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNODC, UPU, UN Women, UN Tech Bank for LDCs, UNU, WFP, WHO, WIPO, WMO, UN Regional Commissions as well as various stakeholders (Governments, Civil Societies, Private Sectors, Academia, Technical Organizations, etc.)

Member States benefiting from the initiative: All 193 Member States of ITU and stakeholders globally

Description (max 150 words): WSIS is a UN process, which provides a global framework for harnessing the tremendous power of ICTs through the holding of the annual [WSIS Forum](#) and its special initiatives, the [WSIS Stocktaking](#), and the [WSIS Prizes](#). The WSIS Forum is the world's largest annual gathering of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Development community and is co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Lines facilitators and other UN organizations. The Forum is a global UN multi-stakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing the SDGs.

Website: www.wsis.org

Name: Accelerating SDG achievement through digital transformation to strengthen community resilience in Micronesia

Relevant SDGs (select all relevant goals): 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 4.2; 5.b; 8.3; 9.c; 16.6; 16.10; and 17.8

Partners: (please list all partners): ITU (Lead), FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNODC

Member States benefiting from the initiative: Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, and Kiribati

Description (max 150 words):

Website: <https://jointsdgfund.org/fr/node/1246>

Name: Advancing the SDGs by Improving livelihoods and resilience via economic diversification and digital transformation

Relevant SDGs (select all relevant goals): 5.b; 8.2; 8.3; 8.5; 8.8; 9.2; 9.3; 9.5 (b); 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; and 14.7

Partners: (please list all partners): ILO (Lead), ITU, UNESCO, UNODC, UNOPS, OHCHR

Member States benefiting from the initiative: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Tuvalu

Description (max 150 words): The Pacific region averages one natural disaster per year, hindering economic growth and derailing countries' progress toward the SDGs. In addition, their economies rely heavily on tourism and agricultural exports which have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and other natural disasters, leaving many workers unemployed or working fewer hours. This JP will support SDG acceleration by building community resilience and fostering economic diversification in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The JP will combine transformational upstream policy and regulatory interventions with downstream catalytic capacity-building programmes to strengthen resilience of communities through economic diversification in key sectors by creating an enabling environment for communities to adapt in the digital era.

Website:

<https://www.jointsdgfund.org/programme/advancing-sdgs-improving-livelihoods-social-protection-human-rights-and-resilience>

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