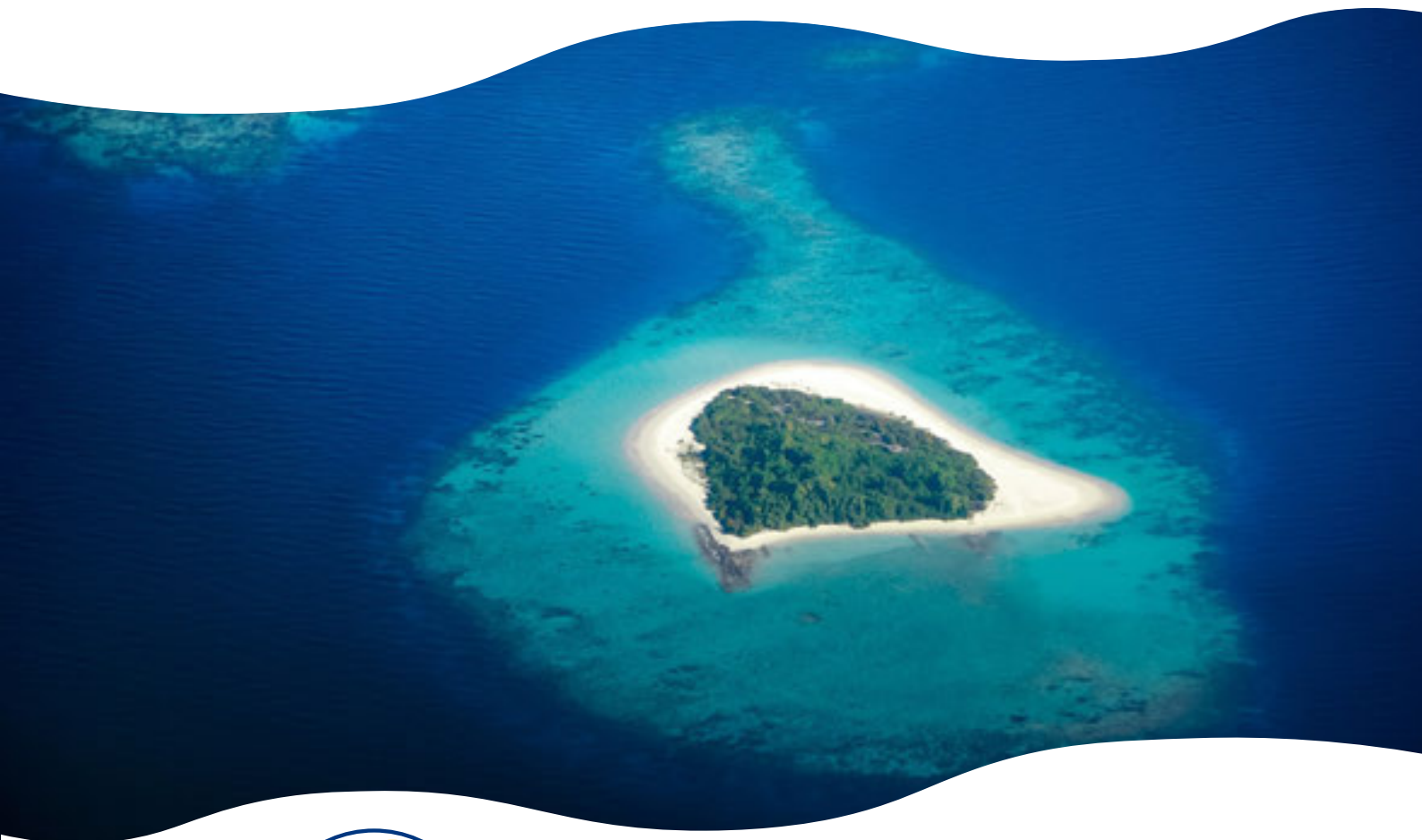




Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures 2021



Small Island Developing States
DGFF2021



UNITED NATIONS



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A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of the following territories has not yet been agreed or determined: Abyei area, Aksai Chin, Arunachal Pradesh, Bi'r Tawil, Hala'ib Triangle, Ilemi Triangle, Jammu and Kashmir, Kuril Islands, Paracel Islands, Scarborough Shoal, Senkaku Islands and Spratly Islands.

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Foreword

The 2021 edition of the *UNCTAD Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures* is dedicated to Island Developing States (IDS) as their contributions and vulnerabilities will be key aspects of the discussions during our upcoming UNCTAD 15 Conference hosted by Barbados.

This focus is further warranted as 2020 was a particularly challenging year for IDS. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many IDS experienced a larger decline in GDP than other developing countries. In addition of being a public health threat, the crisis and its related international travel restrictions and social distancing measures affected the lifeblood for many small island economies: tourism.

While IDS are a diverse group of countries, they share many socioeconomic and environmental challenges. IDS are highly vulnerable to external economic and financial shocks, at least 35 per cent more than other developing countries. The small size of their economies leaves little room for diversification and the creation of economies of scale. Many IDS are also heavily dependent on international trade, especially the import of manufactured goods. Their commodity dependence and overreliance on a few export destinations render them vulnerable to global price fluctuations and changes in aggregate demand.

In 2014, the international community agreed on a clear vision for the sustainable development of small islands, embodied in the IDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. However, much action is needed to implement the SAMOA Pathway's priorities on debt sustainability, concessional financing, investment, trade, and climate change adaptation. Thus far, much of the disaster response has been on a short-term emergency basis, rather than long-run development planning. This challenges the development prospects of IDS.

This report offers a unique statistical approach to IDS by combining a wide variety of statistical information to examine IDS from the perspectives of trade, the economy, the environment and society. The report also illustrates UNCTAD's long history and expertise in supporting IDS in their development aspirations.

I hope that the report will serve as a useful statistical and analytical tool for the IDS themselves and for all those interested in understanding these islands.

Isabelle Durant
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

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SIDS in context



Introduction

Welcome to the 2021 edition of the UNCTAD Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures. This edition is dedicated to small island developing States or SIDS. The report is part of UNCTAD's analytical work to measure the challenges of SIDS related to economic smallness, their productive capacities, geographical remoteness and transport costs, environmental and climate vulnerabilities as well as the role of social and human development in SIDS.

In this report we begin with the official list of SIDS designated by the UN-OHRLS (2021) for the LDCs, LLDCs and the SIDS. From a statistical perspective, presenting and analyzing SIDS is not a straightforward task – there is no universally agreed definition of what constitutes a SIDS and as a consequence there are a number of SIDS classifications (see [What makes a SIDS a SIDS](#)).

UN Members (38)

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Bahamas
3. Bahrain
4. Barbados
5. Belize
6. Cabo Verde
7. Comoros
8. Cuba
9. Dominica
10. Dominican Republic
11. Fiji
12. Grenada
13. Guinea-Bissau
14. Guyana
15. Haiti
16. Jamaica
17. Kiribati
18. Maldives
19. Marshall Islands
20. Federated States of Micronesia
21. Mauritius
22. Nauru
23. Palau
24. Papua New Guinea
25. Samoa
26. São Tomé and Príncipe
27. Singapore
28. St. Kitts and Nevis
29. St. Lucia
30. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
31. Seychelles
32. Solomon Islands
33. Suriname
34. Timor-Leste

Non-UN Members/Associate Members of the Regional Commissions (20)

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2. Anguilla
3. Aruba
4. Bermuda
5. British Virgin Islands
6. Cayman Islands
7. Commonwealth of Northern Marianas
8. Cook Islands
9. Curacao
10. French Polynesia
11. Guadeloupe
12. Guam
13. Martinique
14. Montserrat
15. New Caledonia
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17. Puerto Rico
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