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# Internal Oversight Service Evaluation Office

## Mid-term review of the UNESCO Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan (2016-2021)



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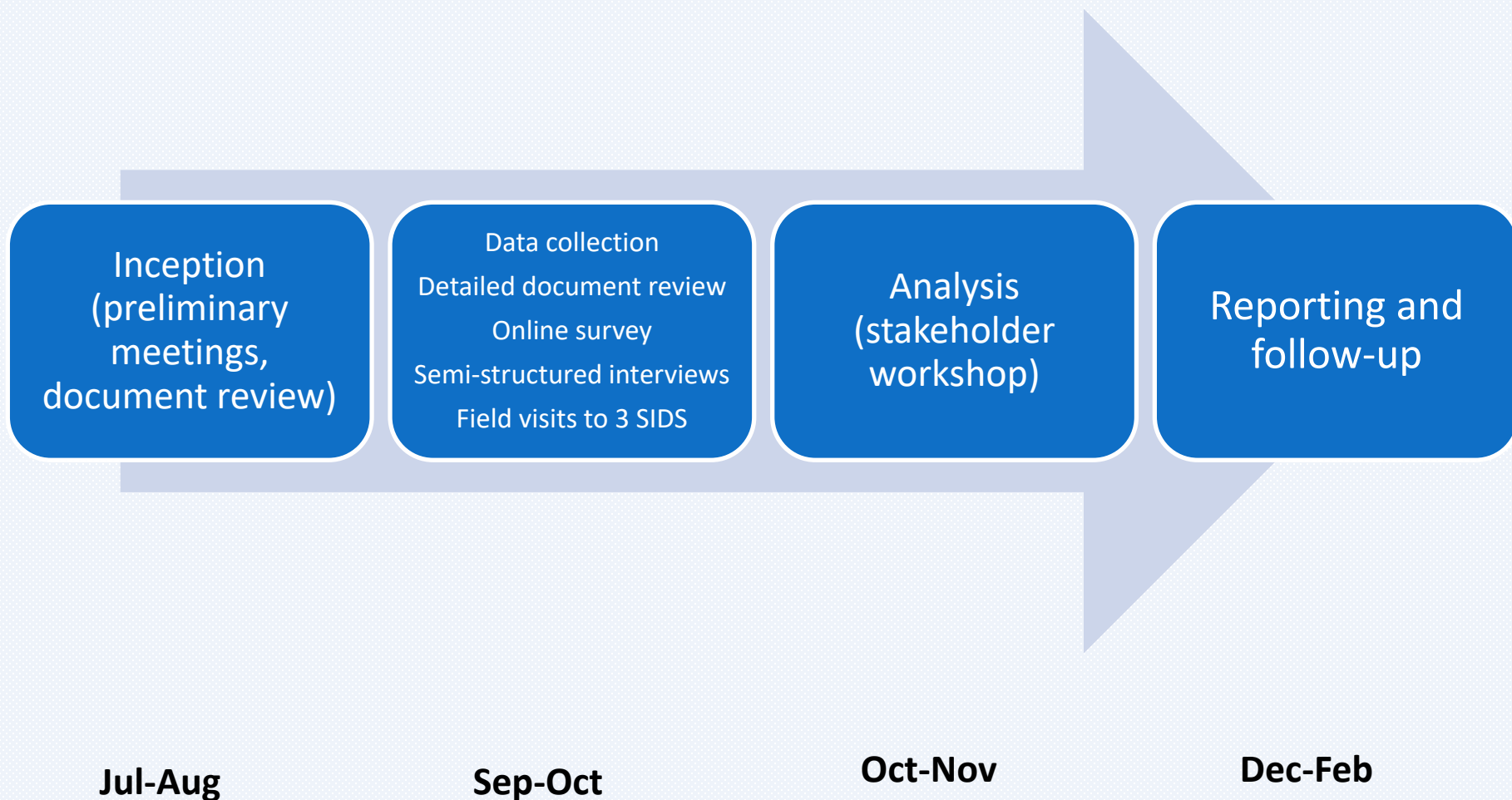
206<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCO Executive Board

10 April 2019

# Purpose of this review

- **Requested by EXB (201 EX/5 Part I-A & 201 EX/Decision 5.I.A (7))**
- **Assess progress achieved to date**
- **Determine potential improvements for the remaining implementation period of the Action Plan**

# Mid-term review time-line (2018-2019)





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# Relevance

## Key findings

**SIDS AP is highly relevant to the needs of SIDS Member States as its broad scope includes a range of offers useful in diverse contexts**

**SIDS AP is relevant to objectives of the 2030 Agenda and echoes objectives of Paris Climate Agreement, Sendai Framework for DRR, but its alignment to UNESCO's global priorities not explicit**

**SIDS Member States have high expectations with regard to intersectoral synergies, yet internal coherence a challenge for UNESCO**

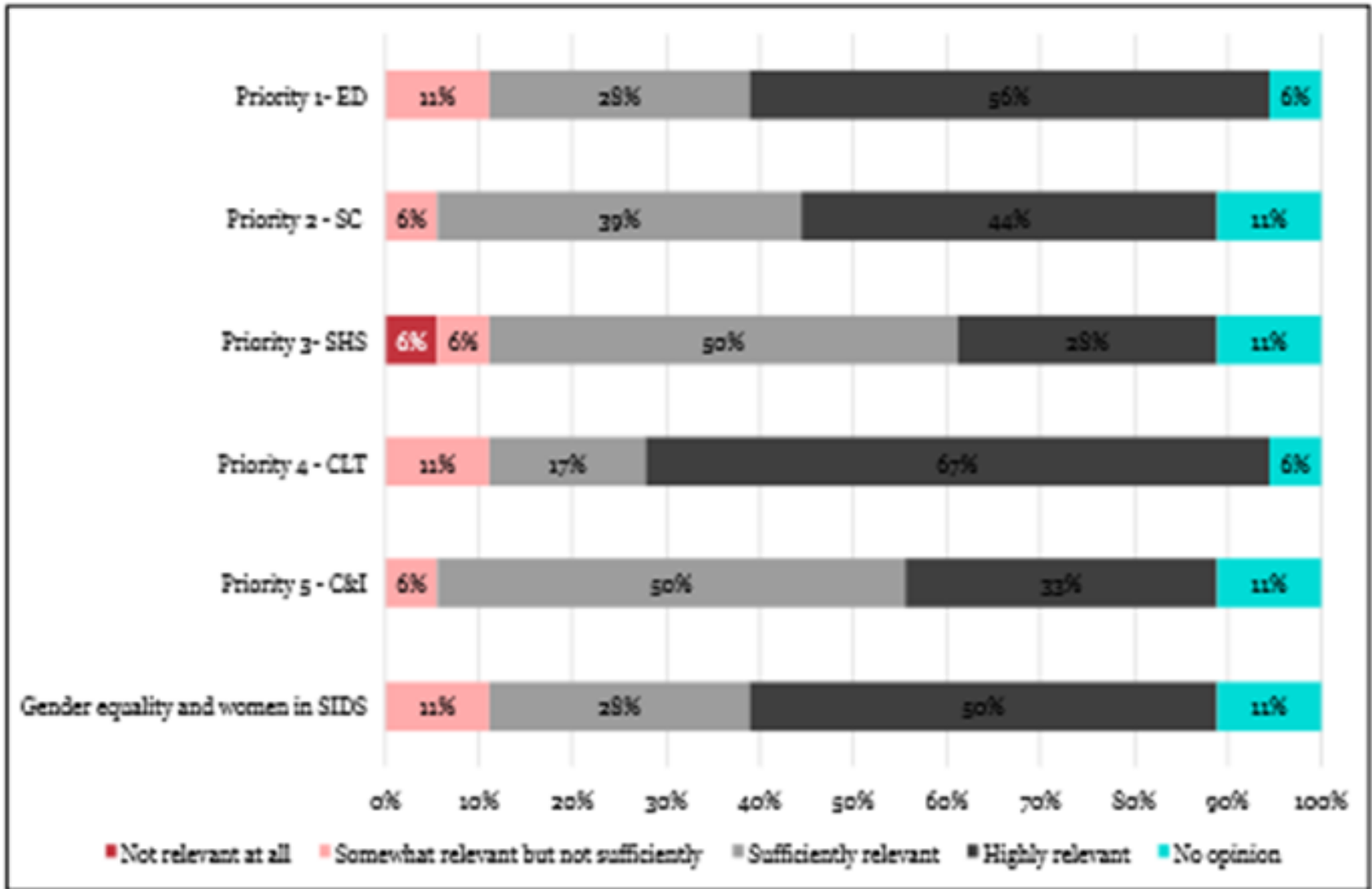


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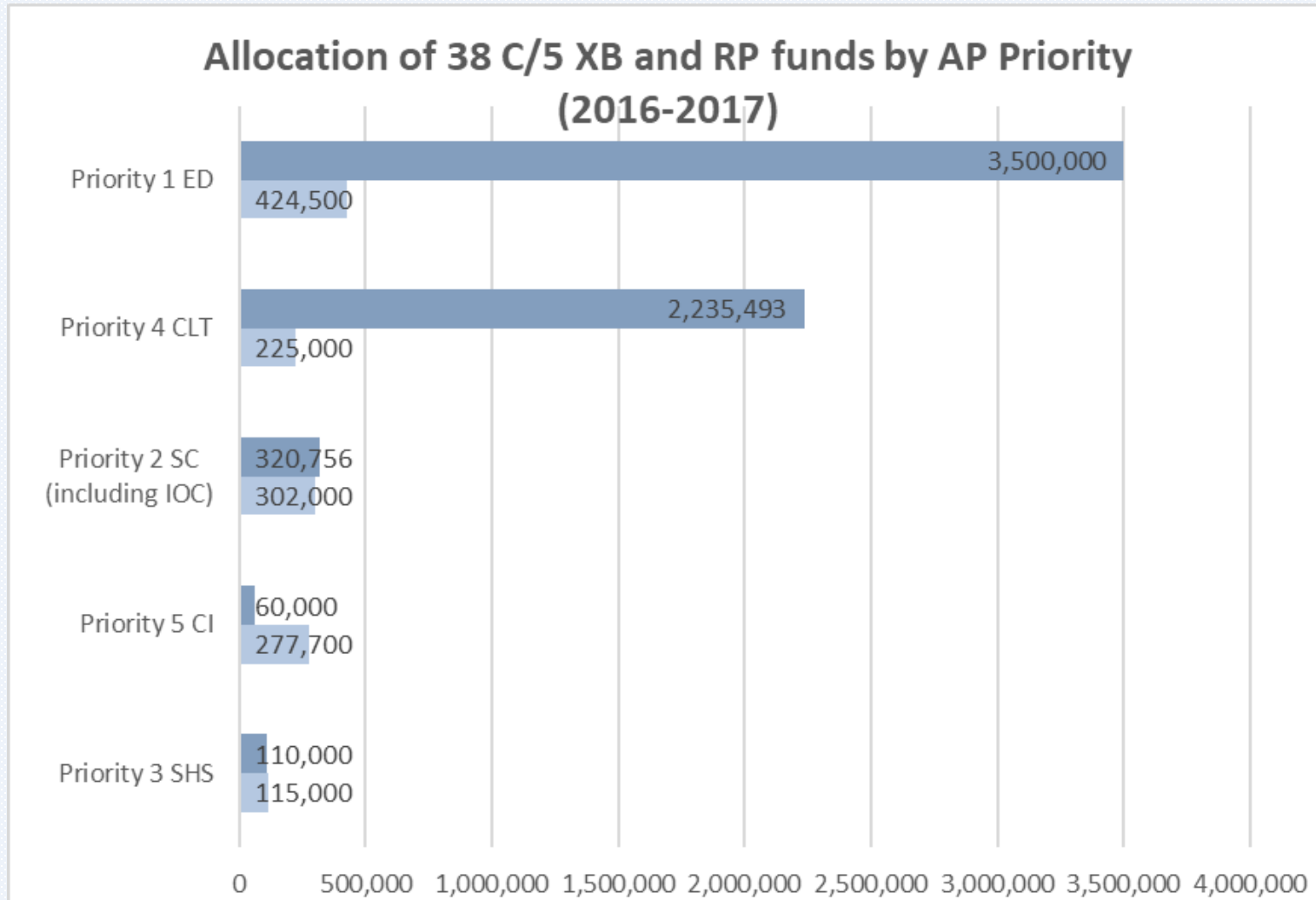
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# Perceived relevance of priority areas

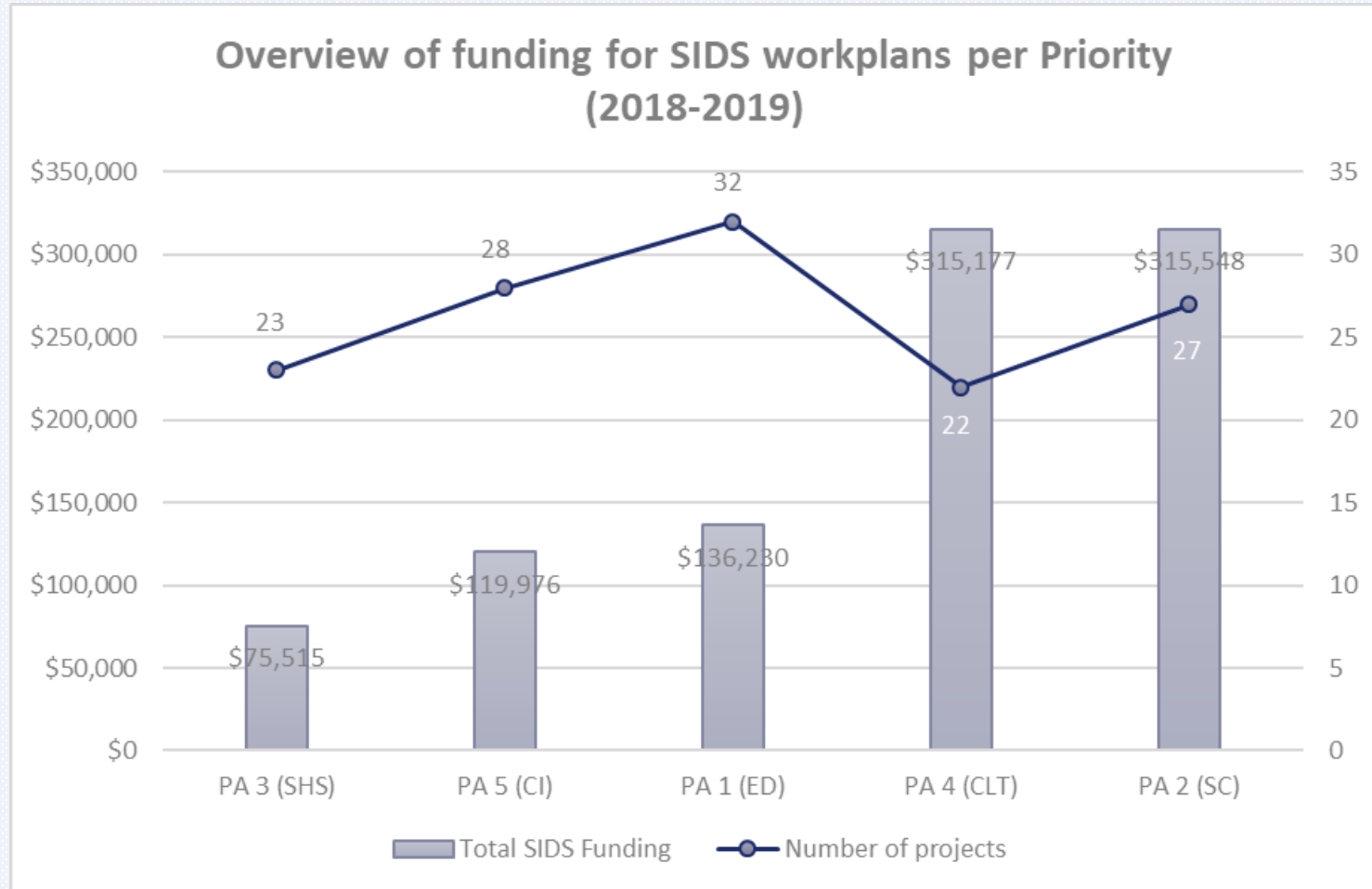


Source: On-line survey results among SIDS National Commissions

# Allocation for SIDS (38 C/5)



# Efficiency: Many projects, little funding (39 C/5)





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# Effectiveness & Value-Added

## Key findings

**Good progress towards defined objectives is achieved on projects under the SIDS Action Plan**

**While stakeholders recognize the value of projects under the SIDS AP, the added value of the AP in achieving these successes seems limited**

**The measurement of the effectiveness of the AP is hampered by the absence of a designated M&E framework**



# SIDS AP key achievements (Year 1)

Action Plan priority area	Sector	Key achievement (example)
1: <i>Enhancing island capacities to achieve <b>sustainable development through education</b></i>	ED	SIDS capacities strengthened to develop and implement policies and plans within a lifelong learning framework, with policy reviews completed in Saint Kitts and Nevis and a policy review for Bahamas launched
2: <i>Enhancing SIDS' <b>resilience towards environmental, ocean, freshwater and natural resources sustainability</b></i>	SC / IOC	16 SIDS in the Caribbean, 12 in the Pacific and 5 in the Indian Ocean have Tsunami Warning Focal Points and 1 SIDS in the Caribbean and 5 in the Indian Ocean have established National Tsunami Warning Centres
3: <i>Supporting SIDS in the management of <b>social transformations</b> and the promotion of <b>social inclusion and social justice</b></i>	SHS	Supported the formulation, review and implementation of youth-related policies and legislation, with the participation of youth at different levels in Cabo Verde, Cuba, Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste, Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis
4: <i>Preserving Tangible and Intangible <b>Cultural Heritage</b> and Promoting Culture for Island Sustainable Development</i>	CLT	3 SIDS ratified the 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage and two SIDS adapted their national law
5: <i>Increasing connectivity, <b>information management</b> and <b>knowledge sharing</b></i>	CI	Local actors in Member States fostered media development through the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)



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# Sustainability

## Key findings

**Sustainability of the benefits of activities implemented under the SIDS AP is challenged by many factors, including weak institutional memory**

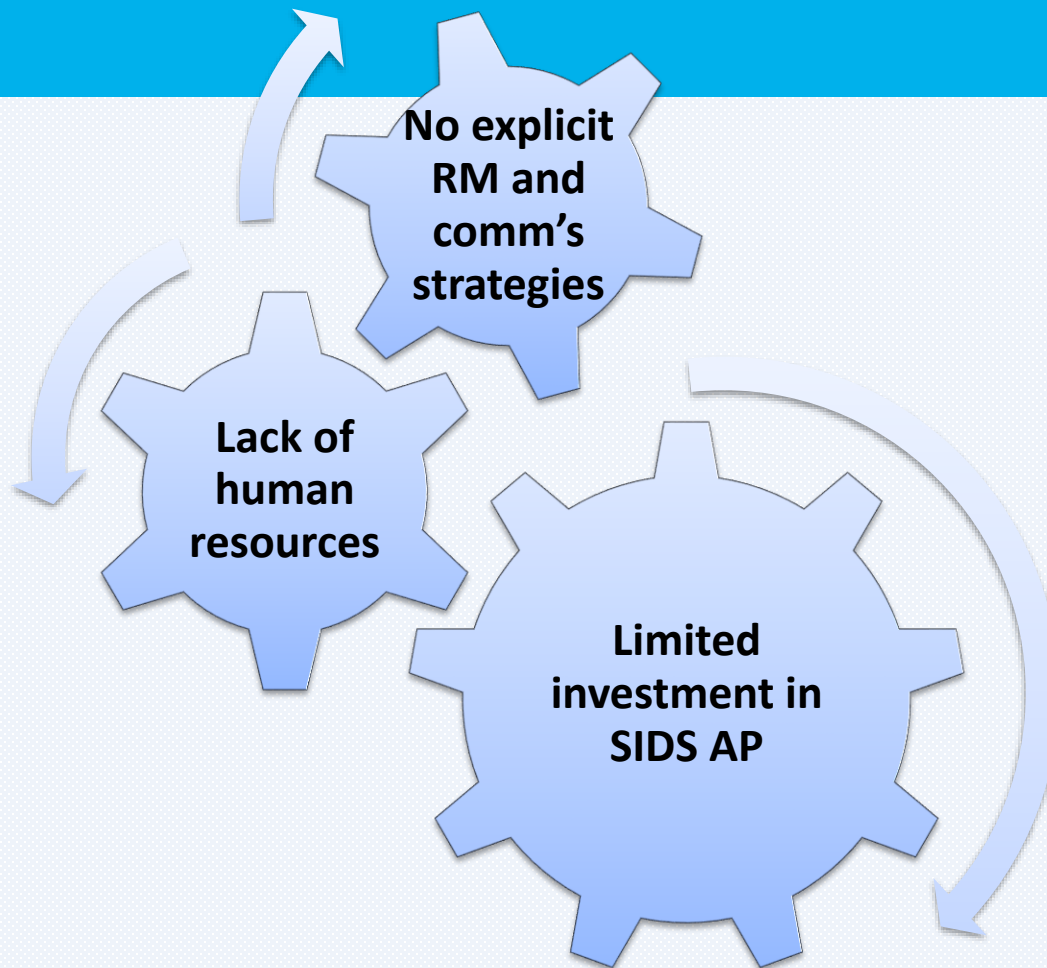
**Communication efforts on SIDS Action Plan have been insufficient (despite efforts: SIDS website, advocacy at UN and international levels, a brochure on the SIDS AP, etc.), including at the Field level, weakening prospects for scaling activities up**

**Improved communication could support resource mobilization efforts to maintain activity benefits**



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# Interlocking challenges



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# Conclusions & the way forward

- AP is a step in the right direction for supporting SIDS sustainable development
- However, insufficient resources limit its delivery and so it has not gained sufficient momentum to demonstrate its benefits
- The SIDS Unit and focal point network are a good start to overcome barriers to intersectoral cooperation,
- Need to think at larger scale: flagship intersectoral projects are needed, anchored in strategic transformation process
- UNESCO needs further support from its SIDS Member States to raise awareness on SIDS challenges and the need to address their vulnerability



# Conclusions and the way forward

## II

- Making the AP a success will require joint effort between UNESCO, its Member States and non-governmental actors to ensure necessary resources and adequate operational mechanisms
- With these combined efforts, a virtuous cycle for the AP can be induced, where data generation and success stories support communication strategies that improve visibility, which in turn support fund-raising
- As SIDS represent the frontline of global sustainable development, investment in the UNESCO's SIDS AP is of critical importance



**Thank you for your attention**