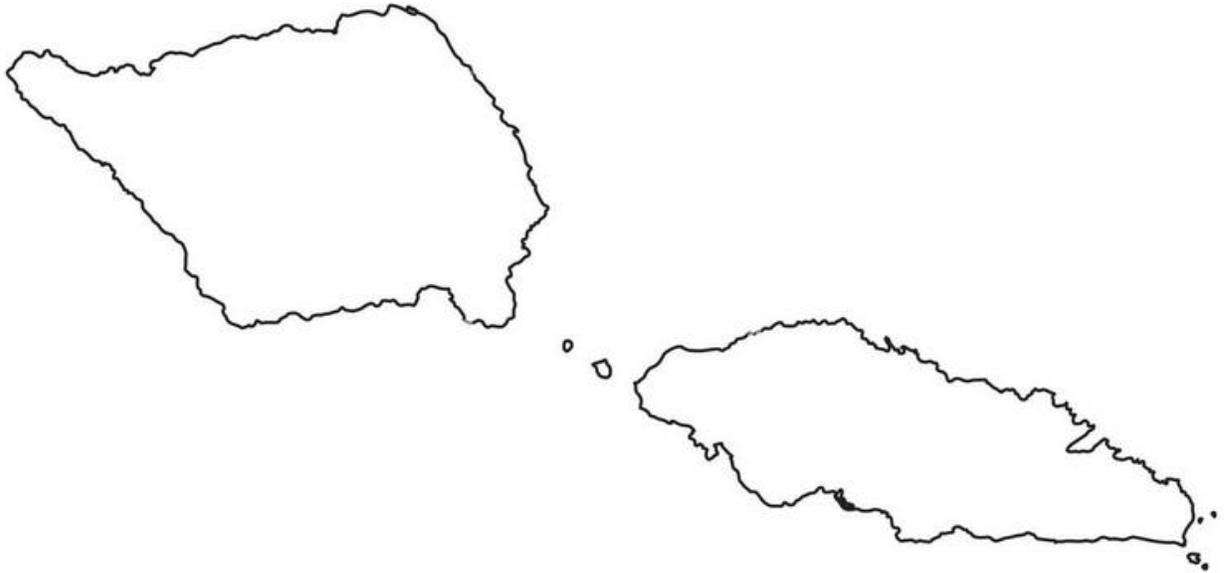


ALLIANCE



Samoa

Progress towards SDG Target 8.7

2024



Progress on SDG Target 8.7

You are invited to share the progress of Samoa in achieving SDG Target 8.7 between **January 2024 and December 2024**. Your answers will be used in the annual progress report 2024.

This questionnaire includes both open- and close-ended questions. All submitted questionnaires will be reviewed by the SDG 8.7 Monitoring Working Group. The final progress reports will be uploaded on < [Alliance 8.7 \(alliance87.org\)](https://alliance87.org)>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Secretariat <info@alliance87.org>.

** Required*

Annual progress on roadmap priorities

Let's look at i) your national priorities to eliminate child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery, and ii) the next steps outlined in your Pathfinder Country Report from last year.

Editing notes: Please just report progress that is relevant and aligned to the Roadmap. The progress should be from the reporting period between January 2024 and December 2024. Focus should be on results rather than processes. If progress has been made towards a specific result, even if the result has not been achieved yet, it should be clearly stated. For example, a submission such as “training on child labour for government representatives” would not suffice and require further information, such as the dates of the training and number of participants.

**If you provided more than 3 roadmap priorities in the last Report, all your roadmap priorities will show up in this section.*

1. Since January 2024, what progress has been made to your #1 national roadmap priority * **“Strengthen Legal and Policy Framework”**?

Please find below the table that provides progress on each action point for the Number 1 national roadmap priority for Samoa from the period of January 2024 until December 2024:

No.	Priorities	No.	Action Point	Progress
1.0	Strengthened Legal and Policy Framework	1.1	Finalize and pass the Child Care and Protection Bill (CCPB)	The CCP Bill has been on hold for over a decade now. As a result, the responsible agency, the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD) has recently commenced on re-conducting public consultations. This will allow the Ministry to have updated comments from relevant stakeholders and ensure the Bill addresses its purpose accurately. This will also include amendment made to section 51 of the Labour and Employment Relations Act 2023 on the Minimum Age and further conditions for employment of children in the private sector.
		1.2	Develop and consult on the Labour and Employment Relation Regulations and prescribe a list of safe and light work and hazardous work.	The Labour and Employment Relation Regulations was endorsed by Cabinet on 17 October 2024. Awaiting the Head of State to assesnt the Regulations expected to be done by January 2025. The Regulations include provisions on prescribed list of light and hazardous works.
			Child Sensitive/Responsive Inspectors Training	No trainings conducted as of yet.
		1.3	Develop an employer's guideline for the employment of Children in line with the Amendments to LERA 2013, education, child protection and including informal sector i.e. street vendors, agriculture, fisheries etc.	The Employee-Employer Guidelines on amendments of the Labour and Employment Relations Act was endorsed by the Samoa National Tripartite Forum. It was launched on the 26 August 2024, available in both English and Samoan languages.
		1.4	Conduct a feasibility study on establishing an office of the Children's Commissioner to advocate for children, protect children's rights in addition to safeguarding the interests of children	Relevant stakeholders including MWCSD has already held talks with the UNICEF and ILO on possible assistances regarding this particular study. No implementation work has been done in 2024.

			particularly the vulnerable such as street child vendors.	
		1.5	Mainstream child labour and protection across relevant Social Protection interventions e.g. social insurance, assistance and labour market.	There are existing social protection schemes particularly for Children, however, the Social Protection Framework developed is administered under the Ministry of Finance to assist other Government agencies on their related policy developments for further SP which will further protect the rights of children especially in employment.

2. Since January 2024, what progress has been made to your #2 national roadmap priority *

“Strengthen Community Engagement with Families and Children Identified as Engaged in Hazardous Street Vending/Vulnerable”?

No.	Priorities	No.	Action Point	Progress
2.0	Strengthen Community Engagement with Families and Children Identified as Engaged in Hazardous Street Vending/Vulnerable.	2.1	Integrate a vulnerability based approach across programs funded under the District Development Programs (DDP) i.e. inclusion of families/children involved in hazardous street vending.	<p>Submission was made to DDP taskforce to make necessary changes to their guidelines enduring inclusion of vendors and their families. There are also programs which the MWCS D is working towards ensuring families of children vending are provided with support for basic needs such as food vouchers and other assistances.</p> <p>Clarification of these programs in accordance with our Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCS D):</p> <p>The Ministry does not operate a scheme for distributing food financial assistance, however existing support system under Development Programme (D programme, districts can identify vulnerable families using a vulnerability assessment tool. Assistance is therefore provided</p>

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This Will provide as suggested in the next report.

May report.
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				<p>established governance and community mechanisms, not as a blanket or one-off scheme, but through verified and accountable processes.</p> <p>The two Ministries are looking at targeting a research initiative for the Ministries and the Child Labour Taskforce members to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the number, age, and geographic distribution of children involved in vending activities; 2. Understand the household vulnerabilities and socio-economic factors driving these practices; and 3. Use findings to develop a structured national support programme and proposal to address the root causes sustainably. 4. To enforce existing laws and regulations to ensure that children are in school during school hours, as it is central to both education rights and the prevention of child labour.
		2.2	<p>Workshop with Parents of Street Vendors - Focus on Responsible parenting and importance of education</p> <p>Design program content with MESC and MOH (Family planning/planned parenthood)</p>	<p>This initiative is in progress. A quick update that the ILO is awaiting an expert who plans to be in the ILO Mission to be conducted in February 2025 to conduct workshops in partnership to conduct with the Samoa Victim Group.</p> <p>This activity is postponed to progress in 2025.</p>

			Short videos demonstrating the reality and challenges of Child Vendors	To seek assistance from the ILO and UNICEF in the development of this task.
		2.3	Media campaign on street vendors emphasizing importance of education and support at the community level Key messages developed and positioned around Apia and Salelologa (Billboards, vehicles and Businesses)	To progress in 2025/2026. To progress in 2025/2026.
		2.4	Pilot Preliminary Certificate TVET Training for Parents - Area/subject to be determined	To progress in 2025/2026.
		2.5	Pilot seed funding scheme for business start-up/upscaling existing income earning activities.	To progress in 2025/2026.

3. Since January 2024, what progress has been made to your #3 national roadmap priority “Enhance data collection and regular reporting systems”?*

No.	Priorities	No.	Action Point	Progress
3.0	Enhance data collection and regular reporting systems.	3.1	Adequately capture health, education, and economic activities of child vendors and their households for more comprehensive data sets to inform policies on children	To bring forward for discussion at the Child Labour Taskforce for their activities to complete in 2026.
		3.2	6 monthly reports submitted to Cabinet and the National Tripartite Forum through the Child Labour Taskforce.	<p>Updates were provided for just the National Tripartite Forum and Child Labour Taskforce. Updates to Cabinet will be provided when there is a need to.</p> <p>These updates included: 1. The endorsement of the Samoa National Action Plan (SNAP) 2024-2027 by the Child Labour</p>

				<p>Taskforce.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Finalisation of the Labour and Employment Relations Regulations 2024 which provides further conditions on the employment of children, in the formal sector.3. Successful and completed ratification of the ILO C187 and C190.4. The progress on the implementation of the SNAP after its launching.
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Progress on the identified next steps

In your 2023 annual report, the following next steps were identified for the period January 2024-December 2024.

**Questions 4-5-6 are applicable for countries reporting for the 1st time.*

**If you provided more than 3 next steps in the last Report, all your next steps will show up in this section.*

4. What's the status of your next step #1 ["..."]?

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

Comments:

5. What's the status of your next step #2 ["..."]?

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

Comments:

6. What's the status of your next step #3 ["..."]?

- not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

Comments:



7. For the period from January to December 2025, what are the priorities for your country to achieve the roadmap? *

For Priority 1, we will focus on:

- Revised Bill is submitted to the OAG for issuance of legal certificate.
- Submission to Cabinet for endorsement of the Bill.
- Submission to Legislative for first reading of the Bill.
- Conduct awareness programmes on the endorsed regulations in Upolu and Savaii.
- Technical support is secured and training is tailored to Samoa Structure (1-2 days)
- Training is rolled out with members of the taskforce and other relevant agencies.
- Outcomes report tabled with the Taskforce/SNTF.
- Guideline is drafted with Technical Support from the ILO.
- Guideline is presented to the Taskforce.
- Guideline is endorsed by the SNTF.
- Workshop with Tripartite Constituents is conducted on the guidelines.
- Presentation of the draft report to the Taskforce.
- Submit to SNTF for final endorsement/comments.
- Cabinet submission conveying recommendations from the study.

Priority 2:

- Request to MWCSO to require that reporting from Constituency Committees also include beneficiaries considered as vulnerable in terms of socio-economic status including those involved in child street vending.
- Identify cohorts using RAS (Rapid Assessment Survey) findings and/or MWCSO (Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development) data.
- Design & Implement program content with MEC and MOH (Family planning/planned parenthood) (MEC - Ministry of Education and Culture MOH - Ministry of Health)
- Multi-media campaign including short videos etc demonstrating the reality and challenges of Child Street Vendors – changing mindsets and generating support.
- Develop training module/program including trade(s)- duration, days and costing
- Pathfinder villages or other mechanism identified to pilot training
- Training is rolled out with outcomes report provided on the pilot
- Seek funding partner(s) UNESCAP/UN Women/other
- Develop criteria, guidelines and basic forms
- Leverage pilot constituencies selected for PCTVET (Certificate I in Preliminary Technical Vocational Education and Training) training to deliver the assistance



Priority 3:

- Submit request to SBS to refine census survey questions for persons 5+ and 15+ (Questions P25-P31).
- Labour Force Survey data on child labour and general employment of children is referenced in periodic reports to Cabinet
- M&E framework developed and revised for reporting on Alliance 8.7 implementation.
- Submission of update from Child Labour Taskforce to SNTF on a 6 monthly basis.
- Mid-term review report is submitted to the SNTF

8. Which challenges would you anticipate in this process?

There are a variety of challenges that we anticipate in this process. They are listed below:

- i. **Limited financial resources:** It is no secret that Samoa is a developing country with a relatively high dependency on support from donors in its project implementation. Therefore, sustaining long term funding for these priorities post donor support is alarming.
- ii. **Effective coordination between stakeholders:** Through the Child Labour Taskforce, we expect to achieve the targets outlined in the NAP. However, competing priorities from other members of the Taskforce will further delay initiatives required to be achieved for Samoa in the coming months. It is important to realise, this has been an ongoing challenge.
- iii. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Given that the initiatives in the NAP are implemented by different agencies in the government and relevant partners, gathering data for reporting will be time consuming and difficult to achieve in an expected timeframe. In addition, having in place a robust M&E system that is relevant to Samoa's context will be an expensive task.
- iv. **Limited Capacity:** Limited local capacities to carry forward the initiatives of the SNAP such as conducting of a feasibility study.
- v. **Limited staff:** As the focal point for Samoa, our staff who are responsible for the effective implementation and M&E of our Roadmap are only four labour inspectors plus the Focal Point (ACEO), therefore, we still need to hire more staff to assist other implementing partners for the smooth progress of their responsible activities.

9. Do you need more support in the implementation of your Roadmap? If so, please describe in which way and from whom.

- Yes
 - i. Probably the Financial and Technical Support from stakeholders such as ILO, UNICEF, UN Women, government ministries and any relevant stakeholders on each priority activity, where necessary.
 - ii. Further training opportunities for the implementing staff on measures and standards to be taken to assist us in achieving our planned activities.



Overall progress between January and December 2024

10. How would you rank your progress made on your roadmap priorities?

- no progress
- little progress
- some progress
- great progress

11. Considering the progress on your national priorities and next steps (you have reported) between January 2024 and December 2024 what would you like to highlight on your country's Pathfinder Country profile page on the Alliance 8.7 website and reports? *

Editing notes: Are all these highlights meaningful enough to be considered worth "highlighting"?

- [Launching of the Samoa National Action Plan 2024-2027.](#)

The main purpose of the Samoa National Action Plan (SNAP) is to provide a strategic roadmap for our country through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour as the focal point of the Child Labour (MCIL) as a leading Government Ministry and its stakeholders to address the issue of child labour through all the activities provided in the SNAP which were developed and finalised by the Ministry and its stakeholders and endorsed by the Child Labour Taskforce.

- [Ratification of C190 and C187](#)
- [Launching of our Employee-Employer guides on amendments of our principal labour Act](#)

12. Were there any other meaningful successes as a result of efforts made to achieve target 8.7? Please also consider aspects of SDG 8.7 that are not covered by your roadmap (i.e., child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery).

- Yes
- No
- not applicable

13. What were these meaningful successes?

[There are a few milestones we have achieved as a result of efforts made to achieve target 8.7:](#)

- [Launching of our Employee-Employer guides on amendments of our principal labour Act, specifically on section 51 on terms and conditions of employment of children in workplaces. Children's education must remain unaffected in terms of employment from 13-16 years old and to 18 years old.](#)
- [Ratification of the ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment which prohibits violence and harassment in workplaces, including children employed.](#)

- Ratification of ILO Convention 187 on Promotional OSH Framework which strengthen the OSH standards in all workplaces which cover children employed at the legal minimum age.
- Updated letter of intent for employment of children signed by employers who comply with section 51, during monitoring and evaluation through routine inspections complying with C181 on Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention.
- For the past 8 months, inspections covered 101 businesses and **no children were employed** under the minimum age as stipulated in the Minimum Age Convention (C138).
- Four (4) of our labour inspectors attended a Training on Identifying and referring victims of trafficking and labour exploitation in the context of the fishing industry conducted by ILO-IOM in Samoa, on 20-21 November 2024.

14. What challenges did you face when implementing your roadmap priorities and next steps? *

Below are the challenges we faced implementing our roadmap priorities:

- The lack of coordination amongst stakeholders in Child Labour Taskforce meetings due to competing priorities. Delayed discussion on the initiatives if an agency responsible are absent. This is due to the limited manpower across agencies.
- Reviewing the NAP to ensure there is no duplication of initiatives with work plans of the implementing agencies. Also, the time required to rope in the agencies into the implementation of the NAP, drags the timeline for initiatives.
- The realistic budgets whether they are enough to sustain the work of the SNAP in the long term.

15. How did you overcome the challenges? What are the lessons learned?

- Leveraging Partnerships: Strengthen collaboration with International Partners. Ensure that ILO are a part of the Child Labour Taskforce and actively involved in discussions of initiatives and the implementation plan.
- Establish Clear Communication Channels: Create formal structures such as taskforce or committees with regular meetings to facilitate communication between ministries and implementing partners.
- Will start discussions with our Finance Department on the inclusion of implementing the NAP as part of our Key Performance Indicators in every financial year so that there will be a specific budget to set aside on implementing possible activities under our Ministry's roles and functions towards the employment of children in the formal sector.

Lessons

- Implementing initiatives of the NAP effective requires a collective effort as no single ministry can do it alone. Thus, the more reason why coordination is important given that Samoa acquires very limited resources.
- Information is power when shared. This means that programmes are more impactful when all stakeholders are informed and working from the same data.
- If we do not have sufficient funding, we will not be able to sustain a project or initiative or even complete it successfully.



- The mind-set of the people is difficult to change especially in terms of addressing such issues within our culture. Sometimes, the blur between the responsibility as a child to care and obey their parents versus upholding the legal definition of child abuse. There is a blurred line there.

Assessment of achieved progress in the last months

16. Which of the following formal evaluation tools and/or other evidence were used to assess the progress of your national priorities? Please select all that apply.

- Surveys
- Case studies
- Focus group discussions
- Interviews
- Anecdotal evidence
- Information from third parties
- Not applicable
- Other, namely: _____

17. If applicable, please tell us more about the formal evaluation tools and/or other evidence that you used to assess the progress of your national priorities.

Editing notes: Please use your answers from the previous question, i.e. surveys, case studies, other. Please send also a link/least references of the reports, or any other way this can be verified. Were formal evaluation tools used or other types of evidence?

Example:

Surveys:

Case studies:

Survey:

Rapid Assessment of Child Vendors in Samoa 2022

Focus group discussion:

Samoa National Tripartite Forum and Child Labour Taskforce discussions. One on one sessions.

Topics were discussed such as:

1. Revise the existing national surveys which can capture further information and statistics relevant to assist in the elimination of child labour.
2. Seek assistance from the donor partners to develop new surveys focusing on the issue of child labour with a lesser time-frame such as 1-3 years instead of 5 years.



18. Please tell us the challenges you have encountered (if any) in gathering evidence to assess your progress

- Accessibility of information from stakeholders and the absenteeism of members of the taskforce from meetings.

19. Please specify the names of other stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, social partners, civil society organizations) and their involvement, if any, in assessing your progress. What was the level of involvement (information shared, consulted, involvement in implementation, validation of results)?

Example:

National statistical & ILO: Conducting a survey on Forced Labour in the agricultural value chains

- The National Child Labour Taskforce consists of members from the:
 - i. Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour (Chair, Secretary & Focal Point of PFC);
 - ii. Ministry of Police, Prisons and Correction Services;
 - iii. Ministry of Education and Culture;
 - iv. Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development;
 - v. National Council of Churches;
 - vi. Villages representative;
 - vii. Samoa Victim Support Group;
 - viii. Samoa Workers Congress;
 - ix. Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
 - x. ILO; and
 - xi. UNICEF

They meet on a quarterly basis, not counting special meetings according to priorities. With these meetings, we track the progress of their involvement and initiatives under a particular agency that is a member with information shared on implementations. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour validates such results by looking at evidences and relevant documents and tools.

Collaboration with international partners

20. Did you collaborate with any international partners? *

Please select all that apply.

Other Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder countries. See more [Pathfinders | Alliance 8.7 \(alliance87.org\)](https://alliance87.org).

ILO



- United Nations Agencies (other than ILO)
- International civil society organizations
- other, namely: UNICEF

21. Please specify the name and describe the collaboration with your international partners.

Example:

Other Alliance 8.7 countries: [...]

UN agencies: [...]

ILO: Financial and Technical Support. This is our only affiliate on the international level and now fairly new to be a pathfinder country for Alliance 8.7.

UNICEF: The UNICEF is also a member of our National Child Labour Taskforce which we also seek assistance from towards this issue of child labour and they mainly work together with the ILO on possible funding/technical assistances.

22. Have you supported any sub-regional/regional/global initiatives, including South-South initiatives, on the elimination of child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery? *

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

23. Please tell us more about the sub-regional/regional/global initiatives you've supported.

Collaboration with domestic partners

24. Did you collaborate with any domestic partners? *

Please select all that apply.

- Private sector
- Employers' organizations
- Workers' organizations
- Local civil society organizations
- Ministries within your government

Survivor organisations and networks

25. Please specify the name and describe the collaboration with your domestic partners.

Example:

National statistical office: [...]

Ministries: [...]

Samoa established the Samoa National Tripartite Forum (SNTF) in 2013 under its Labour and Employment Relations Act 2013. For information, SNTF is the high level decision making body in Samoa that consult and make decisions in ensuring the terms and conditions of employment are improved considering perspectives from both sides of employers and employees in a mutual agreement.

Within this Forum, there are 12 members and they are:

- i. 4 representing the government;
- ii. 4 representing workers associations; and
- iii. 4 representing employers associations.

Government:

- i. Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, the
- ii. Samoa National Provident Fund,
- iii. Accident Compensation Corporation and
- iv. Public Service Commission.

Employers:

- i. Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- ii. Samoa Hospitality and Hotel Association;
- iii. Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters; and
- iv. Women in Business Development Incorporated.

Employees:

- i. Samoa Workers Congress;



- ii. Public Servants Association;
- iii. Samoa Seafarers and Maritime Association; and
- iv. Samoa Nurses Association.

There are also observer members from the:

- i. Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- ii. Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development;
- iii. Ministry of Finance (Labour and Employment Export Program); and
- iv. International Labour Organisation.

Since its establishment, the SNTF meet on a quarterly basis within a financial year. The SNTF is also the umbrella body for the taskforces such as the Child Labour Taskforce, National Occupational and Safety Taskforce and the Samoa National Employment Policy Taskforce.

In particular to Child Labour Taskforce, a variety of agenda is discussed intensely in such meetings and the Child Labour Taskforce that is directly involved in achieving the initiatives of the NAP report to the SNTF. The collaboration of the SNTF members are highly respected and mutual and almost all labour matters are resolved amicably. Their relationship is built on coordination, shared goals and implementation of economic and social development of our country.

26. Compared to last year, do you think there was increased collaboration with domestic stakeholders? *

Yes

No

Please describe: _____

27. Please tell us what has improved in your collaboration with your domestic collaborator(s) and efforts.

Example:

We have strengthened our cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior by introducing new laws to combat human trafficking.

- The Incremental increase of Minimum Wage from \$3.00 to \$4.00
- Endorsement of the Regulation 2025
- Launching of the Pathfinder Country Roadmap of the Government of Samoa



- We have strengthened cooperation with the employers' organisation, workers' organisation and other ministries through the Child Labour Taskforce by attending meetings held and sharing of information from their respective organisation relevant to the action plan.
- The Cabinet has their best interest in this task and they are also monitoring the progress of this work by requiring the most representig Ministries to provide regular updates on the progress of actions under their particular mandates.

28. Was the pathfinder process considered useful? *

Yes

No

29. If yes: How would you describe the impact of the Pathfinder Process in your country?

- The Pathfinder Process has had a significant impact on strengthening the application and promotion of International Labour Standards (ILS) in my country. As a structured and collaborative initiative led by ILO, the process has helped identify specific challenges in implementing ratified conventions and provided targeted support to overcome them
- It has been a guideline for the Child Labour Taskforce in my Country while working together to tackle the risen challenges in relation to child labour, where specified indicators were set enabling Samoa to measure its progress along the way.

Future prospects

30. Is there a need to revise your country's roadmap priorities? *

Yes

No

If you answered "yes" to this question, specify the nature of the change you wish to apply to your roadmap priorities: _____

There are activities which we have not completed in its target year, therefore, will postpone these incomplete activities to the next year until we complete and fulfuill our targets before the end of this NAP.

31. What needs to be updated? Please select all that apply.

Need to update the priorities

Need to update roadmap goals/targets

Other, namely: _____



Thank you!

