

report

to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).¹ The main purpose of the monitoring is to assess any signs of deterioration in the development progress of the graduating country and bring it to the attention of the Council as early as possible.

Currently, Samoa is the only country earmarked for graduation by the General Assembly (GA). Equatorial Guinea was recommended for graduation by the Committee in 2009. The recommendation was endorsed by the Council in July 2009 but not yet taken note of by the GA. In expectation that the GA takes note of the recommendation, the CDP Secretariat included the country in its monitoring exercise.

To the extent permitted by available data, the monitoring includes updated data used in the criteria for determining LDC status – GNI per capita, human asset index (HAI) and economic vulnerability index (EVI), which underlined the CDP recommendation of graduation.² However, as most components of the HAI and EVI indices capture long term structural features, these indicators do not register significant variations in the the

threshold to minimize the possibility short term reversals in status. Thus, the GNI per capita threshold for graduation is 20 per cent higher than the inclusion threshold. For HAI and EVI, the graduation thresholds are 10 per cent higher than the respective inclusion thresholds. Moreover, indices used for the inclusion in and graduation from the LDC category are based on component variables that are considered to be stable, with reliable data quality and availability. Thirdly, besides estimates for GNI, HAI and EVI, the CDP also relies on two critical assessments: a vulnerability analysis by UNDP and a

Table 1: Samoa, Gross national income per capita

	2110	2410	2570	2930	2840
	12.83	14.22	6.64	14.01	3.07
	875	905	935	975	995

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators Database, accessed 23 February 2011.

The relatively strong and robust economic growth (see table 2),

The tsunami had

major health concern in Samoa. Literacy rate of 15-24 years old is reported as falling, but the decline has been linked to changes in the definition of literacy rather than a real decline in capabilities. There has been recent progress towards the goal of achieving universal primary education (with an increase in the net enrolment rate from 85 per cent in 2005 to 96 per cent in 2009), whereas secondary education remains an area of concern as drop out and repetition rates are high. UNESCO reports a slight decline in the gross enrolment rate of secondary education, from 80 in 1999 to 76 in 2009.¹³

The progress made by Samoa in achieving its sustainable development goals is further evidenced by the high and increasing access rates to basic services, which stand at 93.5 per cent in case of basic sanitation¹⁴, 97.3 per cent in case of improved water sources¹⁵ and 98 per cent in case of electricity¹⁶. At the same time, declining marine resources due to unsustainable fishing practices, continuing land degradation and deforestation, waste management and loss of biodiversity and ecosystems services are concerns for achieving environmental sustainability. Samoa is not only threatened by geophysical disasters such as the 2009 tsunami, but also by prone to other natural disasters such as cyclones, making disaster risk reduction a priority. Risks due to climate change have also been identified as major risk factor for sustainable development.

Conclusion: Samoa was severely hit by the tsunami in September 2009, which caused large human and economic losses. At the time of the Tsunami, Samoa was recovering from the negative impacts of the global financial and economic crisis of 2008/2009. Whereas growth has returned, rebuilding of the economy, in particular the vital tourism sector, requires continuing attention by the Government and the international community. The relatively high level of human capital in Samoa should prove to be an important asset in this regard. The extended graduation period will allow Samoa and its partners to intensify the efforts to effectively prepare for the graduation from the LDC category in January 2014.

¹³ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, stats.uis.unesco.org accessed on 23 February 2011.

¹⁴ See Government of Samoa (2010). *Millennium Development Goals. Second Progress Report 2010*.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Government of Samoa (2008). *Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2008-2012*.