

# Health partnerships with small islands

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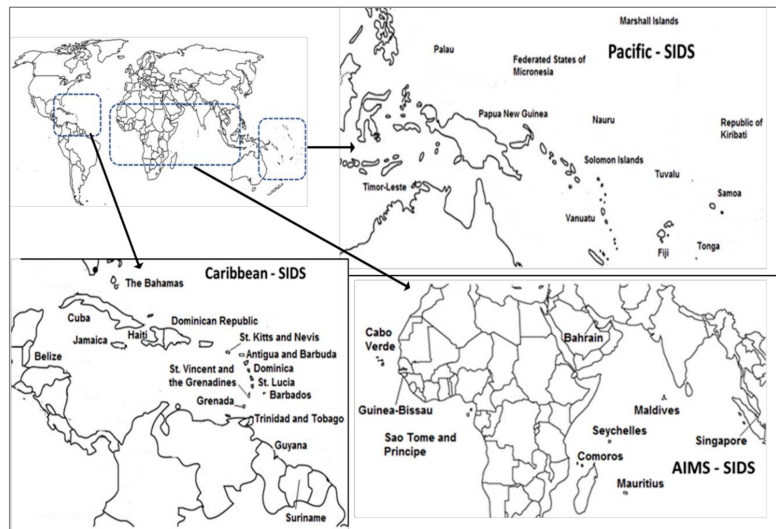
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## Leveraging the 2023 UN-SIDS Bridgetown Declaration

### INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The term Small Island Developing States (SIDS) refers to a UN group of **39 members states** – one in five - and **18 non-sovereign territories**. SIDS account for 73.5 million residents, i.e., 1% of the world population.



### OPPORTUNITIES

SIDS are focusing on a *whole-of-island* health approach with the 2023 *Bridgetown Declaration*, and invite the international community to join in.[1]

A *Voluntary Health Trust Fund for SIDS* was approved at the 76th World Health Assembly (2023) to collect contributions from state and non-state actors.

### CHALLENGES

International health expertise on small islands remains scarce and limited, if not insular or compartmentalised through *post-colonial ties*.[2] For example, island health is a subject that is not taught in most partner universities. Priorities set by partners often misalign with local health priorities.[3]

Today, health systems in SIDS rely on adaptation in the *absence of scale*,[4] amid overexposure to *commercial determinants of health*.[5,6]

### OPEN CALL

We believe in better academic health research and training with SIDS, e.g., *joint seminars, publications, teaching and long-term commitments*.

We encourage academics interested in small island health to play an active role in establishing equitable academic partnerships to help overcome insularity.

### REFERENCES

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