

Samoa: Action for Sustainable Development



OWA Graduate, Iese Mataia and Assistant Resident Representative, Georgina Bonin © Tayla Sumner (WIBDI)

What are the bold actions being taken by the Government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Samoa?

Communal culture in Samoa builds on the role of warriors. Today new types of warriors, young women and men are unearthing culinary traditions and incorporating more sustainable techniques in the food production: they are better known as Organic Warriors. Developed by Women in Business Development Inc (WIBDI) as part of the SDG Fund joint programme in

collaboration with UNDP, the “Organic Warriors Academy” seeks to equip unemployed youth with the knowledge and skills to cultivate their land into a profitable business.

The training focuses on organic farming practices, but also incorporates units on business planning and budgeting so that every student graduates with a business plan already prepared.

“

This programme provides an opportunity for us youth to educate ourselves on how to become farmers and then use the skills wisely to help us out with our families and have a better future.

We all have different talents from God, and if we use it wisely, we will be blessed.

”

Iese Mata’ia

Participant from the first intake, and now an employee at Women in Business



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

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OWA students developing a vegetable batch as part of their demonstration activity © Tayla Sumner (WIBDI)

As of today, over 100 students have graduated from the academy, with some going on to work for Women in Business, and others starting the organic certification process so that they can enter the Farm-to-Table supply chain.

The Academy, now a week long intensive programme, has enjoyed more success now that it is situated in the village, with mothers and sons, or daughters and fathers participating and learning together.

Why do the above actions matter to the people in Samoa?

As more and more youth search for employment in the city in lieu

of working their land, WIBDI believes it is important to reinstall the value of sustainable farming to support livelihoods.

Furthermore, obtaining employment is difficult when youth have not finished secondary school, which is the case for many of the youth who have participated in the training.

The Organic Warriors Training gives youth members in the Samoan community a sense of hope and a new skill set.

The training focuses on organic farming practices and climate change, but also places a strong emphasis on business planning and budgeting.

What SDGs have been particularly advanced through the project?

The project advances:

Goal 4 Target 4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship;

Goal 17 Target 17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.



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