

PACIFIC STATISTICS
STRATEGY ACTION PLAN,
PHASE 1 (2011 - 2014)

MID-TERM INDEPENDENT
EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared for

AusAID

Australian Agency for International Development

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Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AUD	Australian Dollar
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BOP	Balance of Payments
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRC	Convention on Rights of the Child
CSPRO	Software package for censuses and surveys
DAC	Development Assistance Committee, OECD
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EMIS	Educational Management Information System
FEMM	Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GIS	Geographical Information System
HOPS	Heads of Planning and Statistics
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMDI	National Minimum Development Indicators
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National Statistics Office
NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development
NZMFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PARIS 21	An initiative by a consortium of international organisations to promote improved statistics in developing countries
PFTAC	Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
PICTs	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PopGIS	Population GIS
PRISM	Pacific Regional Information System
PSSC	Pacific Statistics Steering Committee
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
StatsNZ	Statistics New Zealand
TYPSS	Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UQ	University of Queensland
USP	University of the South Pacific

Aid Activity Summary

Aid Activity Name	Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan		
Aidworks initiative number	INJ209 Program to Strengthen Pacific Statistics		
Commencement date	3 February 2010	Completion date	31 December 2016
Total Australian \$	AUD11,009,087		
Total other \$	N/A		
Delivery organisation(s)	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Pacific Financial and Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) Statistics New Zealand PARIS21 United Nations (UN) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)		
Implementing Partner(s)	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade		
Country/Region	Pacific		
Primary Sector	Governance		

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Executive Summary

The purpose of the evaluation mission is to prepare a Mid-Term Independent Evaluation Report of implementation of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS). The findings of the review will inform national, regional and international stakeholders, initially through Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC), on progress of implementing Phase 1 of the Pacific Statistics Action Plan 2011-2014, along with scope and focal areas of future activities under the Action Plan. Implementation of the TYPSS has been evaluated against the criteria defined in AusAID's Evaluation Guidelines being: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability as well as monitoring and learning, and gender equality. The team has undertaken document reviews and used semi-structured interviews in its evaluation.

Relevance: The TYPSS has contributed to higher level objectives of the Pacific Plan, Millennium Development Goal (MDG) tracking and the reporting requirements of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). Relevance would be further improved with the development of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS's) which outline key country and international reporting requirements.

Effectiveness: The TYPSS has been effective with some variation across the objectives. The evaluation team received widespread praise about achievements under TYPSS.

- Objective 1 supports PICTS to undertake key statistical collections as scheduled. Census and survey plans have been prepared and pre-enumeration activities completed. All countries interviewed indicated sufficient capacity as provided by TA providers now existed for most aspects of data collection. Some gaps in technical capacity were outlined such as in the use of specialised software. A related concern was expressed about the turnover of skilled staff.
- Objective 2 activities help PICTS to produce an agreed core set of statistics across key sectors. The National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) dataset is being used and improvements in the quality of economic and vital statistics noted. Emerging issues include gender, climate change, food security and environmental risk management even as the dataset appears to have too many indicators for some country collection capacities. Education Management Information System (EMIS) software and limited capacity to improve education statistics were highlighted as constraints.
- Objective 3 focuses on PICTS having their own capacity or accessing regional capacity to undertake agreed core and some specialist's statistical functions. Skills audits are to be completed for most countries by PSSC 6 and are required for the development of long-term training and professional development plans. A regional pool of national staff with specialist statistical skills has been evolving, although work demands in larger National Statistics Offices (NSOs) influence the degree to which this form of cooperation can take place.
- Objective 4, promotes national, regional and international users having increased access to user-friendly statistical information systems and databases. The Pacific Regional Information System (PRISM) has been upgraded and evidence of use tracked using Google Analytics. PopGIS, a geographic information system, and associated training still require further development. Data use training and

advocacy were identified by interviewees as key areas for focus in the next phase of the TYPSS Action Plan.

- **Objective 5.** New and innovative statistical tools and systems have been introduced. Use of GPS (geographic positioning system) technology, automated data capture (scanning) and PDA (portable digital assistant) has been tested. Vanuatu has utilised a fit-for-purpose household survey prototype, while regional sign-off on a standardised Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) is scheduled for later in 2013.
- **Objective 6.** Only one PICT has completed a NSDS plan. Interviewees noted that statistics are often available in-country but not readily accessible and communicated between agencies. NSDS plan development and focus of TYPSS on system-wide issues would help address this issue. PSSC meetings have generated valuable data and provided a forum for TYPSS implementation discussion, although the monitoring and evaluation framework is noted as requiring improvement.

Efficiency: TYPSS Phase 1 has generated considerable achievement given the degree of technical support. Much of the achievement has been associated with collections, along with improvements in economic and vital statistics. Future effort needs to target data analysis, advocacy and results communication. Improved coordination is required. NSOs and SPC expressed concern to the evaluation team and in PSSC meetings about the timing of technical assistance. Working groups and committees need to include a broad range of providers and national agencies.

Impact and Sustainability: The evaluation team found significant evidence of positive impact. The World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator has increased since 2010 for Pacific countries, while it has decreased across the East Asia and Pacific region as a whole. TYPSS has increased certainty in regard to funding for major surveys reducing transaction costs. Continued donor funding of the program on a rolling basis would sustain this efficiency.

Monitoring and evaluation: The M&E framework has in part effectively measured progress towards meeting objectives. A reporting template that explicitly states inputs, outputs and outcomes by country/objective is required. Activities need to be time-bound and include indicators which can measure progress. Following recommendations from PSSC 5, a real-time online calendar is required in order to better monitor and communicate TYPSS activities.

Gender: There should be an improved longer term gender balance on the PSSC. Activities such as the Australian government's \$320 million Pacific Gender Initiative and MDG reporting require gender statistics. The NMDI has greatly improved access to gender indicators. Basic data use training could further assist in providing this information.

Key Findings and Recommendations Specific findings and recommendations are summarised below and described in the recommendations section that concludes the report. They include:

- **Substantial Achievement.** The TYPSS has facilitated considerable output, particularly in the area of developing country capacity for collections, vital registration, economics data and development of their own national websites

accessible also through PRISM. NSOs and major technical assistance providers need to be commended for this achievement. The objectives of TYPSS remain relevant.

- **Limited National Statistical Plan Development.** Countries must clearly identify the need for and better schedule technical assistance. National statistical development strategies (NSDS) are critical for NSOs to assess reporting requirements and provide a road map for system-wide statistical development. NSDS development should be a high priority for TYPSS.
- **More Focus on Data Analysis and Demand for Official Statistics.** Much of the technical assistance has focussed on collections and data processing. More attention should be paid to support processes for analysis and dissemination. Data analysis, managerial and communication skills development require greater attention in the next phase of TYPSS. The development of accredited programs with teaching institutions is currently underway and should be further explored.
- **Improved M&E Framework.** The reporting framework and template should be enhanced to capture inputs by country/objective, along with outputs and results/outcomes. Reporting should be against time-bound action plans. Indicators measuring outcomes such as training should also be reported in the TYPSS M&E framework. Resources allocated to each objective and country needs to be specified for strategic monitoring of expenditures.
- **PSSC Requires Strengthening.** The terms of reference (ToR) of the PSSC should be reviewed to coincide with the upcoming HOPS meeting in order to strengthen its role in operations, reporting and coordination. A part-time coordinator should be engaged to assist with M&E data compilation, PSSC reporting and agenda-setting, and sustaining a real-time calendar of regional statistics activities. Guidelines need to be prepared for standards endorsement and the operation of technical working groups. Communications support should be provided to PSSC representatives.
- **Independent Phase 2 design.** The overall design and objectives of the TYPSS are appropriate. An independent design team should be commissioned by the PSSC to design the follow-on activities of TYPSS for all TA providers under existing objectives for consideration by the PSSC. Activities should be scheduled with agreed deliverables and timeframes. Indicators for tracking outputs and outcomes need to be specified in an M&E framework, which will be reported at each PSSC. Donors should provide predictable longer term financing for follow-on phases of the TYPSS to assist with staff retention and planned implementation.

Evaluation Criteria Ratings

Evaluation Criteria	Rating (1-6)	Explanation
Relevance	5	Survey collections and the maintenance of key economic, health, vital registration and education databases are key functions of government. 'Upgrading and extending country and regional statistical information systems and databases across all sectors' to support public policy is a major Pacific Plan Strategic Objective, 12.4 making TYPSS highly relevant to Pacific countries and donors. Sound design of the first phase followed benchmarking and implementation plan development studies.
Effectiveness	5	Effectiveness was found to be high. Progress towards Objectives 1 and 2 - which include undertaking statistical collections as scheduled and producing an agreed core set of statistics across key sectors was found to be substantial during mission consultations and reflected in statistical capacity indicators produced by the World Bank. All countries interviewed indicated sufficient capacity now existed for most aspects of data collection.
Efficiency	5	TYPSS has been delivered efficiently, with most activities being implemented as stated in the plan. Coordination appears to be satisfactory, although improved scheduling would be valuable. Working groups and committees need to include a broad range of providers, data users and national agencies. Greater emphasis on data analysis and dissemination was nominated by numerous stakeholders as a key focus for the next phase of TYPSS
Sustainability	4	Sustainability in the strict financial sense is not achievable due to the large expenditures associated with collections and technical assistance inputs. TYPSS has increased certainty in regard to funding for major collections, reducing transaction costs. Continued donor funding of the program on a rolling basis would sustain this efficiency. Increasing demand for statistics, through improved data analysis and advocacy would encourage governments to further support national statistical services.
Gender Equality	3	TYPSS could do more to advance gender equality in the region. Output data, such as the gender of training participants should be provided by all TA providers, along with more analysis of survey results from a gender viewpoint. Such analysis could assist with commitments to the Pacific Plan.
Analysis & Learning	5	TYPSS evolved from benchmarking and regional statistical strategy implementation plans. Implementation has been responsive to feedback from forums. The structure and content of PSSC meetings, for example, is evolving to better manage and coordinate the regional program.
Monitoring & Evaluation	4	The M&E framework has provided input and output level data, although reporting should quantify inputs and outputs for each country and objective. More outcome indicators should be adopted. A part-time coordinator should be engaged to assist with M&E data compilation and sustaining a real-time calendar of regional statistics activities.

Rating scale:

Satisfactory		Less than satisfactory	
6	Very high quality	3	Less than adequate quality
5	Good quality	2	Poor quality
4	Adequate quality	1	Very poor quality

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Introduction

Activity Background

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) jointly commissioned the benchmarking study *Strengthening Statistical Services through Regional Approaches: A Benchmark Study and Way Forward*¹ in 2007. The study recommended an expansion of the regional SPC and Pacific Financial and Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) statistics programs², reformed governance structures for regional organisations and contracting-out of statistical assistance to non-regional providers³. Report recommendations were endorsed by the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) and SPC's Biannual Ministerial Conference in October 2009. A follow-on study was undertaken to develop an implementation plan for key report recommendations. The plan prescribed a ten year implementation period - over three phases - and is correspondingly referred to as the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS).

TYPSS was subsequently endorsed by the Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) meeting in July 2010, along with establishment the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) to monitor and guide the implementation of the strategy. It is scheduled to run from 2011-2020, with a first phase of implementation from 2011-2014. Key intended outcomes include that PICTS are undertaking key statistical collections as scheduled, PICTS are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors, PICTS have their own capacity or are accessing regional capacity to undertake agreed core and some specialists statistical functions, there is improved data accessibility and utilization, new and innovative statistical tools and systems are introduced and national and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively. At the 4th PSSC meeting it was agreed that a mid-term review of the Phase 1 Action Plan would be useful to examine how activities were progressing. As AusAID-funded regional programs constitute the vast majority of the activities under the action plan, AusAID with SPC, agreed to lead the mid-term review.

Evaluation Objectives and Questions

The objective of the activity is to conduct a review of the implementation of activities under the Phase 1 Action Plan and to prepare an independent report. Key questions to be addressed include whether TYPSS objectives remain relevant, assess progress to date, determine how well TYPSS is aligned with strategic priorities of key development partners, identify emerging statistical issues which need to be addressed, assess whether

¹ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (2009) *Strengthening Statistical Services through Regional Approaches: A Benchmark Study and Way Forward*

² Primarily as regional experts to provide technical assistance and training, and where appropriate, capacity supplementation.

³ Terms of Reference for Mid-term Review of the Pacific Statistics Action Plan Phase I (2011-2014), 08/01/13

the current monitoring and evaluation framework is adequate, examine whether the PSSC is providing the governance required to effectively monitor and guide implementation, determine the degree of coordination between various implementing partners, and evaluate sustainability.

The evaluation follows AusAID standard reporting requirements by providing an assessment against the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability, monitoring and evaluation, learning and analysis, and gender equality. Ratings against criteria are provided using a rating scale of 1 to 6. The findings of the review will inform the PSSC in relation to the nature, scope and focal areas of future activities under the Action Plan. It will also inform donors about future support for these activities.

Evaluation Methodology

The team utilised document review and stakeholder interviews. The process of gathering information and views from stakeholders was based on semi-structured interviews. Specifically, in undertaking the evaluation, the team (1) reviewed available and relevant documentation; (2) developed an evaluation plan, submitted to AusAID and SPC for approval prior to the in-country missions; (3) liaised and consulted with SPC staff in Noumea and AusAID staff in Canberra, Apia and Suva; and (4) undertook four in-country visits to Fiji, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Samoa to conduct interviews with training recipients and stakeholders (see Annex). The views of those interviewed during consultations, along with information contained in reviewed literature were used to evaluate TYPSS. The countries visited or consulted focussed on those represented on the PSSC, and the review team acknowledge it is difficult to assess how different the findings of the report might have been if some non-PSSC countries had been visited. Efforts were made to arrange telephone conferences for NSOs⁴ outside of countries visited.

Evaluation Team

The evaluation team consisted of:

- **Dr Ross McLeod (Team Leader)** is an evaluation economist with 20 years' experience evaluating projects across numerous countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. He has been responsible for the management of, and has participated in, a range of evaluation projects for agencies such as UNAIDS, the Asian Development Bank, GAVI and the World Bank.
- **Mr Tomas Africa (Statistics Specialist)** was the former Philippine Government Statistician and Civil Registrar General, with nearly 40 years experience in compiling, analysing, and advocating for the use of statistics in national, regional and international development planning and policy formulation. Recently he has

⁴ An unsuccessful attempt was made to consult with Micronesia NSOs – Nauru, Kiribati, Palau, Marshall Islands through a teleconference on 12 April 2013. The review team had no basis to make any assessment on how the TYPSS are progressing in these and other countries with no elected member in the PSSC.

designed and implemented national statistical strategies supported by UNDP, World Bank, ADB, PARIS21 and the OECD.

Evaluation Findings

Relevance

Relevance is scored as satisfactory. Overall TYPSS is well aligned with the Pacific Plan and country needs for statistical reporting. The shift to results-based management by major donors has increased the need for comprehensive socio economic data. A greater focus on data analysis and dissemination in the next phase would maintain TYPSS relevance.

PICTs require economic statistics in the form of national accounts, balance of payments (BoP), consumer price index (CPI), production and trade volumes, along with socioeconomic data from population and agricultural census collections, household income and expenditure surveys, health related surveys and vital registration systems. Cook and Paunga (2010) noted that due to relative economic strength, small populations and the isolation of PICTs; some lack the institutional capacity to provide all official statistics without some mix of development partner contributions and regional collaboration. Discussions with stakeholders during country missions indicated that TYPSS implementation has generally aligned itself to these partner countries' demands for technical assistance to support national statistical demands and international reporting requirements.

Pacific Plan

The Pacific Plan (2005) is a key regional strategy for Pacific cooperation. It stresses the need for improved transparency, accountability, equity and efficiency in the management and use of resources in the Pacific. Objective 12.4 of the plan is to 'Upgrade and extend country and regional statistical information systems and databases across all sectors', which includes country and regional statistical information systems and databases being upgraded. All objectives of TYPSS feed into this objective through collection, database, capacity, common tools and regional coordination being enhanced through regional cooperation. A key output for regional statistics is the National Minimum Development Indicator Dataset (NMDI)⁵. NSOs need to balance national, regional and international reporting requirements. Balancing these demands should be articulated in strategic plans. National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) as advocated by Paris21⁶ provide a country road map for national statistical system development, however, only Samoa has developed a NSDS, while PNG is at the design stage. Design is about to begin in Vanuatu and Tonga, and the Solomon Islands is among those next in line.

⁵ The NMDI database contains all population-based MDG indicators

⁶ The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century

Donor Priorities and Coordination

Donors in the region have shifted towards the results-based management of development assistance, and have adopted, along with PICTs, the MDGs as development targets. Tracking the results of development assistance requires timely, accurate and comprehensive statistical reporting systems. This focus is evident in the Australian government commissioned Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness in November 2010. A key priority for the program identified during the review is efficiently delivering aid tailored to individual country circumstances and with ‘concrete evidence of what works best on the ground to produce results’. Since 2008 the Australian government has signed Partnerships for Development with 11 Pacific island countries to jointly achieve defined results.⁷ Others donors in the region have a similar results emphasis and need for statistics. For example, the Asian Development Bank⁸ is also pursuing an aid effectiveness agenda. Donor coordination within TYPSS appears to have been satisfactory. Evidence of donor cooperation is apparent at PSSC meetings and following interviews conducted during the review mission. Key elements of the Paris Declaration involve eliminating duplication of effort and harmonising donor activities for cost and development effectiveness. Efforts to develop a NMDI dataset and enhance national level statistical capacity are activities which support the Paris Declaration.

TYPSS Design

TYPSS identified national reporting requirements, operational stability, regional collaboration, harmonisation, uplift in value from existing statistics, management of common statistical systems and tools, Pacific-wide professional development for statisticians and specialist support as key thematic areas for regional technical assistance. These themes underpin the six strategic objectives and 22 associated activities of TYPSS. The action plan supports survey collections and disseminations, core sets of statistics across key sectors, institutional capacity, common tools and introducing new technology and regional statistics governance.

The review team was provided with positive overall feedback on the structure of TYPSS and its’ objectives are considered by the review to remain relevant. The need to shift the focus of resources from collections to data analysis and dissemination in the next phase was highlighted by interviewees. This evolution was also forecast in the Pacific Island Regional Statistics Implementation Plan. The planned focus of the 2015-2017 phase was to be completing region-wide statistical systems and tools; establishing a regional statistics centre; advancing policy agency relationships and further improving economic accounts. An independent design specialist should be contracted by major donors to work with countries and all TA providers to develop, cost and schedule follow-on phase activities for PSSC endorsement.

⁷ AusAID 2012. An Effective Aid Program for Australia Making a real difference—Delivering real results. Updated June 2012

⁸ www.adb.org/aid-effectiveness

Table 1: TYPSS Objectives and TA Providers

Technical Assistance Providers	SPC	PFTAC	ABS	Stats NZ	UN	UQ
Objective 1: PICTS are undertaking key statistical collections as scheduled						
Census planning and completion						
Survey planning and completion						
Objective 2: PICTS are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors						
National Minimum Development Indicators						
Economic Statistics						
Vital Statistics						
Health Statistics						
Education Statistics						
Improved Statistical Products						
Objective 3: PICTS have capacity or are accessing regional capacity to undertake agreed core and some specialists statistical functions						
NSS staff have core and specialist skills						
Regional pool with specialist statistical skills						
Objective 4. Improve Data accessibility and Utilization						
Increased access to systems and databases						
Increased utilization of national and regional statistics						
Objective 5: New and innovative statistical tools and systems have been introduced						
Common Tools, Approaches, Technology						
Objective 6: National and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively						
Established national statistical advisory committees						
Approved statistical master plan or NSDS						
Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) oversight						

SPC, PFTAC, Stats NZ, the United Nations, UQ and ABS are currently major providers of technical assistance (TA). Table 1 illustrates major areas of support provided by each agency. Areas of assistance overlap are potentially most problematic in economic indicators and institutional capacity development. The review team was informed support is most often allocated geographically to avoid duplication. Coordination among providers has generally been satisfactory, although stakeholders indicated to the review team that coordination needs to be improved.

At PSSC 4 SPC noted common coordination breakdowns it faced included counterparts being absent from countries for scheduled input of technical teams, key participants not being able to attend meetings due to multiple commitments and other agencies adversely impacting implementation schedules. Web hosting of a regularly updated regional statistical calendar, more detailed planning in PSSC meeting and improved communications between agencies would help to address coordination issues.

The optimal allocation of resources and technical assistance between countries was examined in the 2009 benchmarking study. It was noted that traditional technical assistance could be provided to larger NSOs in the Pacific, but ‘capacity supplementation’ may be provided to the very smallest. In the absence of skills audits it is not possible to prescribe optimal assistance allocation among countries. Greater transparency is required as to the financial expenditure associated with capacity development in each country. This is discussed in the monitoring and evaluation section.

The overall structure of TYPSS and its prioritisation of sectors were considered to be relevant by most stakeholders interviewed by the review team. Economic and vital statistics were the key agreed core set of statistics targeted for technical assistance during the early stages (2011-2012) of TYPSS implementation. From 2013 increased attention was forecast for the development of education and health statistics. New thematic areas - such as gender, climate change, food security, disaster risk, disability, and environmental-economic accounting were raised during stakeholder interviews as requiring consideration in TYPSS. The review team agree that many of these areas need to be considered, and should be done so as part of each individual country’s NSDS priority setting.

Effectiveness

Effectiveness is scored as being satisfactory. It was found to vary across objectives, but is highest for collections and the development of core indicator objectives. World Bank statistical capacity indicators for timeliness of statistical collections and statistical methodology have improved in the Pacific by a much greater extent when compared to the East Asia Pacific Region as a whole.

Substantial progress has been achieved through the collaborative efforts of National Statistics Offices (NSOs), governments, SPC’s Statistics Development Division, PFTAC,

ABS, Stats NZ, the United Nations and other international technical partners and donors. The review team was provided with many examples of how objectives had been met by training and technical assistance.

Objective 1: PICTS Are Undertaking Key Statistical Collections as Scheduled

The objectives for key outputs include that census, HIES and DHS plans and budgets are prepared within 12 and 18 months prior to scheduled collection date, and that outputs are completed and disseminated within 12 to 18 months after completion of enumeration. Dates for report release and plan development need to be head-lined in monitoring and evaluation reporting so the attainment of objectives can be readily determined. Progress is summarised in Appendix C, Table C1, and is considered by the review team to be satisfactory.

In the case of census-related activities, the review team were provided many examples of how census plans and budgets were being prepared prior to scheduled census collections. For example, SPC has fielded missions to the Cook Islands for scanning of population census questionnaire and to Samoa for scanning of population census questionnaires and linking to GPS. SPC also provided assistance for census outputs to be completed and disseminated after completion of enumeration. In the Marshall Islands (RMI) assistance was provided in collaboration with national counterparts to undertake analysis and prepare the report of the 2011 RMI population and housing census, including tables, graphs and an executive summary.

SPC assistance was provided in 2012 to Nauru and Tonga to help with data processing for the census. Data processing support was also provided for the Tuvalu pilot census, to Samoa for CSPRO data editing and compilation of thematic census tables and charts, to FSM for updating census chapters and NMDI; and to Kiribati to help with social and household chapters of Kiribati Census 2010. UNFPA have been providing census data collection and analysis support to the Solomon Islands, FSM, RMI, Kiribati, Vanuatu, and Nauru, along with assistance with census monographs to Fiji (social and urban atlas), Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, FSM, RMI, and Nauru.

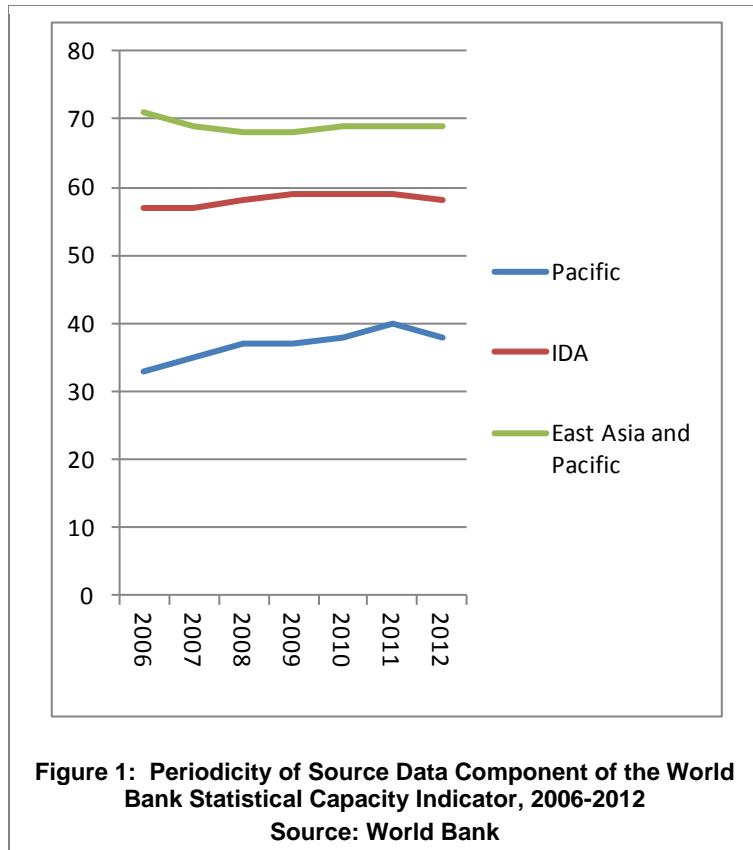
SPC has assisted with HIES and DHS survey plans and budgets, training of field staff/supervisors and data processing. Examples include assistance provided to Fiji in DHS questionnaire consultation and logistic preparations. DHS training was provided in Tonga, including field-testing of new DHS questionnaire modules; finalisation of Nauru HIES plan and draft questionnaires, and in the FSM, a HIES national planning workshop was facilitated along with production of the survey plan. Assistance was also provided to Solomon Islands with HIES questionnaire design and data entry systems. The survey is currently ongoing. At PSSC Meeting 5, SPC noted the increase in demands from some countries for basic census and survey support. Skills audits need to be completed for all countries to identify remaining capacity gaps, as many countries interviewed during the review felt they had sufficient capacity in this area.

UNDP have assisted with HIES in Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Tonga, while UNFPA have assisted with DHS in Samoa, Kiribati, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, Violence Against Women (VAW) studies in Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands, and Family Health and Safety Studies (FHSS) in FSM, RMI, Nauru, Cook Islands and Palau. UNICEF has supported MICS/DHS in Vanuatu and the ILO a national labour force survey in Fiji. WHO have supported STEPs Surveys in FSM, RMI, Tonga, Fiji, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Palau, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tokelau, PNG and Nauru.

The first objective of the TYPSS supports these collections being conducted in a timely manner⁹. The World Bank Statistical Capacity Index tracks progress countries are making in providing timely source data. Periodicity of population and agricultural censuses, poverty and health related surveys, and completeness of vital registration system coverage are captured in the index.

Figure 1 illustrates that periodicity of source data has been improving in the Pacific for some time. Periodicity for an average of Pacific countries (outlined in the Annex) is 1.5 units greater

across the TYPSS implementation years of 2012 and 2011, when compared to the previous two years before TYPSS. The increase is also 1 unit more than the increase for the East Asia and Pacific region as a whole. The International Development Association (IDA) is the part of the World Bank that assists the world's 82 poorest countries through providing concessional loans. The average source data periodicity increase over this period for all IDA countries is less than that recorded for the Pacific. The indicator has decreased in value for all IDA countries over this time.



⁹ Population censuses are generally conducted every 10 years, while household income and expenditure surveys (HIESs) and demographic and health surveys (DHSs) should be undertaken on a five year cycle. High collection costs in the Pacific generally prevent collection cycles of this frequency being achieved. The collection schedule for Pacific countries collated by SPC is provided in Annex E. It demonstrates the numbers of surveys are increasing.

Objective 2: PICTS Are Producing the Agreed Core Set of Statistics across Key Sectors

This objective entails the development of National Minimum Development Indicator (NMDI) dataset, production of economic, vital registration, health and education statistics and statistical products.

National Minimum Development Indicator

At PSSC Meeting 4, SPC noted that a full set of all NMDIs were sent to countries for review. The NMDI database has been released on PRISM and includes all population-based Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Further enhancement has been explored, with visits by a transport economist to Noumea and an agricultural economist visiting Tonga, Samoa and Solomon Islands. MDG tables were finalised in collaboration with PIFS for tracking reporting.

Economic Statistics

A great deal of effort by NSOs, SPC, PFTAC, Stats NZ and the ABS has targeted improving statistical processes to ensure ready access to quality and timely statistics. Ten countries have developed plans to improve regular collection and dissemination of key economic statistics by 2012. The indicator for Output 2-2.1.2 'TA/training to countries to produce priority economic statistics identified in these plans' (Table Table C2, Appendix C) is that 8 PICS are producing key economic statistics identified by these plans, from administrative databases by the end of 2014. Progress against the indicator would be easier to track if 'key indicators' were defined. For example the World Bank capacity index assesses whether the latest BoP manuals are in use (Table C3), or the base years for CPI and national accountant calculations are using years within a certain range (Tables C4-5). These types of indicators should be used for TYPSS reporting for each of the TA providers.

The ABS and IMF delivered a joint seminar on Government Finance Statistics to Pacific Island Countries. The course was facilitated by experts from the IMF, ABS and the South African Reserve Bank. A total of 33 participants attended the workshop from NSOs, Departments of Treasury and Finance and Central Banks from 14 PICs. On-going GFS activities are being conducted and include countries such as Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu amongst others. Activities primarily relate to tracking public sector revenue, expenditure and debt, reporting to IMF and coherence to current international GFS standards. Regular production of Balance of Payment (BoP) statistics has been a focus of PFTAC assistance. Examples include assistance to the Cook Islands to improve methodology, Fiji for transition to the new manual, and Kiribati and Tuvalu with updating estimates. The IMF's regional BOP project has also commenced. SPC have assisted in FSM, Palau, Vanuatu, Niue, Samoa and American Samoa with international trade statistics, while Stats NZ is supporting PC Trade.

The ABS is leading the Pacific International Comparison Program (ICP) program with the World Bank. The ICP seeks to compare price levels and real Gross Domestic Product

(GDP) globally. A data validation workshop was held in Fiji in March 2012 and 20 PICTs have provided data to the program together with New Zealand and Australia. The program is due for completion this year. The key outcomes of the program were to be increased capability of price collectors and ability to transfer skills to CPI collections, increased quality and coverage of price collections in Pacific Island Countries, and increased capacity of NSOs to collect provincial price data. A second objective of the program is to use the Pacific ICP as a means for building capacity for Consumer Price Index (CPI) estimation. The ABS hosted a CPI work attachment program in June 2012, with attendees from Fiji, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands. SPC organised a regional workshop on price statistics for all PICTs, conducted peer reviews of consumer price indices in Fiji and American Samoa, helped rebase the Kiribati Consumer Price Index and is currently supporting a similar process in Papua New Guinea.

National account support is provided by PFTAC, with TA provided in all PFTAC's member countries. SPC have assisted in Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu and conducted a training session for Palau. SPC has assisted Fiji rebase its constant price GDP and development of supply and use tables for the national accounts. PFTAC have also assisted the Cook Islands to develop an initial draft series of quarterly GDP estimates, Fiji with current and constant prices, Kiribati for peer review, Samoa with the 2009 Business Activity Survey, Solomon Islands with updating estimates and Vanuatu to peer review estimates. Stats NZ are assisting Tokelau, Niue and the Cook Islands with economic statistics.

Civil Registration/Vital (CRVS) and Health Statistics

CRVS development has been conducted through the Brisbane Accord Group¹⁰ (BAG) which was established in 2010 to facilitate a more strategic approach to partner investments and to ensure that countries received targeted support. Targeting has been achieved through the grouping of countries into four categories based on statistical development need. Missions have been conducted by SPC as part of the BAG consortium to Tuvalu, Niue, Cook Islands, Nauru and Tokelau. Training for doctors in certification under ICD 10; coding and statistical analysis techniques for routine data has been provided. Planning meetings have been conducted in Samoa and PNG, along with sub-regional workshops in Guam and in Kiribati. The ABS and UQ agreed to jointly fund a position to progress civil registration and an ABS out-posted officer was working on projects assessing civil registration and vital statistics standards. UNFPA has provided support to CRVS HIS in RMI, and support to CRVs workshops in the North Pacific, PNG, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Kiribati.

¹⁰ Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), World Health Organization (WHO), University of Queensland (UQ), Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA), Pacific Senior Health Officials Network (PSHON), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Pacific Health Information Network (PHIN), Fiji National University (FNU), Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

All stakeholders interviewed were very positive about the achievements of these activities in improving CRVS. A key objective of TYPSS is that 9 PICS will have functioning civil registration systems by the end of 2014 and improved use of routinely collected data sources on vital statistics. In early 2013 ten countries were developing their own CRVS improvement plans with specific actions and a similar number are engaged in medical certification training with their doctors. Two countries were implementing policy changes to adopt the WHO International Cause-of-Death Certificate and one country is producing a comprehensive vital statistics report. The review team understand current funding to the Health Information Systems Knowledge Hub at the University of Queensland which is supporting BAG is near to ending. Given the success of the initiative, donors should explore means of sustaining this program.

The Health statistics target in the TYPSS M&E framework is that a situational assessment (gap analysis) and development of appropriate actions plans for all PICS would be conducted by the end of 2012. Health information system development training courses have been conducted and BAG has developed a proposal for further development of CRVS. United Nations agencies have been active under this output. For example, UNICEF have conducted HIV & AIDS Vulnerability Mapping exercises in Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, a situation analysis for malnutrition levels in Kiribati and Solomon Islands, EPI coverage surveys in Vanuatu and Samoa; and maternal mortality rate validations in FSM, Nauru, Tuvalu and RMI.

Education Statistics

SPC funded a regional workshop for Pacific Heads of Education Systems and Statisticians of Education Management Information Systems in 2012. A concept note has been developed for design of a regional support mechanism for EMIS and short term assistance has been provided to Samoa and the Solomon Islands to develop proposals for EMIS assistance. SPC and PIC Ministries of Education have developed a module with specific education questions as part of its regular Household Survey program. Assistance has been provided for subpopulation projections to assist with enrolment indicators. SPC has trained Ministry of Education staff in the use of MORTPAK to develop national and sub-national population projections for use in the calculation of education indicators. UNICEF have undertaken an Early Childhood Education National Situation Analysis in Vanuatu, an Early Grade Literacy baseline study in Tuvalu and established the Tuvalu Education Management Information System.

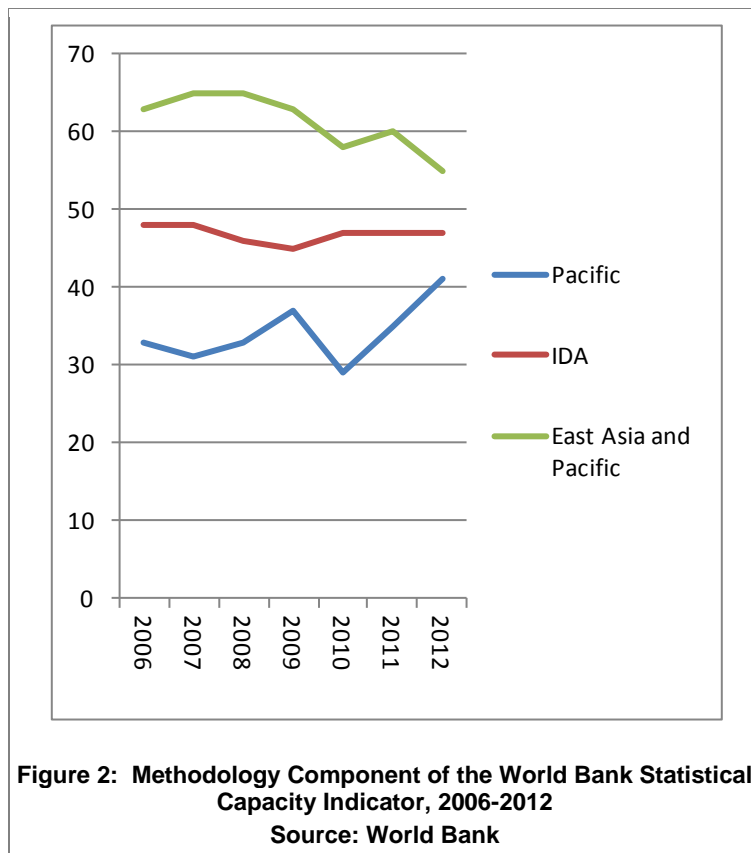
Statistical Products

SPC is supporting annual reporting by PICTS on indicators relating to NMDI, MDG, Pacific Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose (PacCOICOP) that will act as standard for household consumption expenditure in national accounts and HIES. General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) support has been provided by IMF/STA with input from PFTAC. Consultation has been undertaken with the PIFS MDG Tracking Adviser and UNDP Poverty Specialist to reconcile and validate MDG Indicators for the 2012 Pacific MDG Tracking Report. A seminar on GDDS was conducted by the IMF in Samoa and was attended by representatives from Palau, Samoa,

Timor-Leste and Tuvalu. UNDP have conducted National MDG Monitoring and Planning in Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Tuvalu, FSM, Samoa and the Cook Islands. UNFPA have prepared national family planning reports in FSM, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and RMI. UNICEF have prepared reports relating to Pacific Children with Disabilities, Health Baseline surveys in Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, a study on children living away from parents in the Pacific, child poverty and disparities studies in Solomon Islands and Kiribati, education baseline surveys in Kiribati and Vanuatu, a study on Climate Change and children in the Pacific, an assessment of water safety in the context of climate change in Vanuatu and compiled an equity atlas of social indicators for children in RMI, Tuvalu and FSM. WHO has conducted pandemic influenza surveillance in all PICTs, ILO child labour surveys, UN Habitat analysis of urban profiling, and UNAIDS supported UNGASS 2010 Progress Reporting for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Nauru, FSM, RMI, Palau, Tonga and universal access reports.

The review team found progress on this objective to be significant as evidenced in the methodology component of the World Bank statistical capacity index which has improved since the commencement of TYPSS. Progress is evident in Figure 2. The average Pacific value for this component has increased by 5 units over 2012 and 2011, compared to the two years before TYPSS. In comparison, a decrease of 3 units for East Asia and Pacific was recorded and the index has remained steady for all IDA countries.

The methodology component of the statistical capacity measures a country's ability to adhere to internationally recommended standards and methods. Countries are evaluated against a set of criteria such as use of an updated national accounts base year, use of the latest BOP manual, external debt reporting status, subscription to IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard, and enrolment data reporting to UNESCO (World Bank, 2013). Although all of the improvement cannot be attributed to TYPSS, many cases of technical support assisting in the production of these statistics were provided to the review team suggesting the strategy has had a large impact.



Objective 3: PICTS Have Their Own Capacity or Are Accessing Regional Capacity to Undertake Agreed Core and Some Specialist Statistical Functions

The first output of this objective is that NSOs have staff with skills to undertake core and specialist statistical functions appropriate for the size of country. It includes the undertaking of skills audits for NSOs. At PSSC Meeting 4, SPC reported that a skills audit has been completed for 14 of 15 NSOs in 2011, although analysis had been delayed due to difficulty in finding a short-term consultant with necessary expertise to assist with analysis. At PSSC 5, SPC noted that there has been no progress made due to heavy SDP work commitments and delayed activities in countries.

The review team understand skills audits have been completed for all countries except PNG and will be presented to PSSC 6. The review team consider the preparation of skills audits as being vital in determining regional technical assistance needs. Based on skill audits, longer term training and professional development and accreditation needs can be mapped. The terms of reference for the Technical Working Group (TWG) on statistical training and formation had not yet been formalized because it depends on the results of the skills audit. The audit will help identify where skills to undertake statistical functions are insufficient. Where possible training should be accredited, or followed up with some form of evaluation. A possible means of achieving this is through increasing the scope of the USP statistics program. At PSSC 5 it was noted that restructuring of the USP official statistics program was under study. UNFPA has been supporting strengthening official statistics curriculum at USP.

The region is developing a pool of national staff with specialist statistical skills which are being sent to NSO's lacking such skills under the South-South Cooperation Program and other arrangements. Examples include Vanuatu statisticians helping the Cook Islands and Solomon Islands with scanning for the census, and Samoa assisting Tuvalu with field management support census field work and Niue in the compilation of their national accounts. PFTAC Report to PSSC Meeting 4 noted that Samoa hosted two staff on attachment from Vanuatu, seeking to learn from Samoa's experience of compiling QNA.

The ABS mentoring program has been designed to build leadership capacity of Pacific Government Statisticians in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Fiji. Planned outcomes of the program included strengthened legislation, increased organisational readiness for NSDS review and improved communication between stakeholders. All NSOs in the regional appear to have considerable reporting requirements, relative to their size. The scope for South-South cooperation needs to be considered in light of work demands of larger NSOs. The terms of reference for the South-South Cooperation Program rightly identify the need to use skills where they are most needed, but should include a requirement for NSO and expert exit reports to list outputs against TYPSS objectives and for SPC to present summary achievements and plans to the PSSC at each meeting.

Objective 4: National, Regional and International Users Have Increased Access to User-friendly Statistical Information Systems and Databases across Key Sectors

PRISM has been redesigned and associated training provided to enhance data accessibility. Activities undertaken by SPC include template selection and basic training in article creation and online document management. Development of SPC PopGIS has progressed with the test installer compiled, key functionalities implemented, and access to online census data for several test countries. Open access coding has not been achieved. Key developments for increasing utilization of national and regional statistics included seminars in making micro-data more accessible and establishment of a working group to develop guidelines for micro-data usage.

Statistical advocacy strategies and materials to mainstream evidence-based decision making into the public domain have not been developed, and statistical advocacy training to key data user groups have not been implemented outside of still limited PARIS 21 activities. These activities have the objectives of advocating the NSDS approach, as well as creating demand for statistics more generally. A small pool of statisticians has been trained to become better communicators and champions. For example, in June 2012, ABS facilitated a workshop in Vanuatu to support the VNSO in strengthening their role in leading statistics in their country.

The ABS also delivered the workshop ‘Statistics for Evidence Based Policy’ in Fiji and Vanuatu. The workshop aimed to strengthen links between producers and users of official statistics. Senior-level official statisticians and key data users attended and learnt how to use results of the most recent round of Population and Housing Censuses and Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) in evidence-informed policy and decision making. Stats NZ have run a data analysis course in Tonga with the assistance of the Victorian University.

The review team were provided examples of data analysis training, such as the SPC short course¹¹ which targets middle level staff who work with statistical data and is run in association with HIES collections. UNFPA has supported regional training workshops on census data analysis, an EFA Info Regional workshop and dissemination and training on census data dissemination software REDATAM. UNDP has supported HIES and MDG analysis. UNESCAP have supported SIAP Training courses (various PICTs) and conducting a making data meaningful-improving the dissemination, communication and use of statistics workshop in Fiji.

Data user workshops have been conducted after the completion of major statistical collections. For example, Vanuatu reported at PSSC Meeting 4, that two census monographs (on gender and youth) were produced with the assistance from UNFPA, and

¹¹ Covers types of data, frequency distributions, tabulation, measures of location and variation, interpretation and report writing

VNSO would publish brochures and booklets for dissemination at all levels through different government and NGOs organisation. Samoa also reported media briefings following the census. Countries have called for greater assistance in data analysis and interaction with users. For example, at PSSC Meeting 5, FSM called for a workshop focusing on communicating statistics and influencing decision makers. Given the demand for data analysis and advocacy expressed to the review team (and during PSSC meetings) an unmet demand for technical assistance in this area is currently evident. Greater emphasis should be placed on providing courses of the above nature, along with enhancing TA provider staff capacity through on-the-job support.

As already noted, several stakeholders pointed to the importance of providing analysis on issues such as gender, climate change, food security and risk management. These interlink across statistical issues, among others, on poverty/vulnerability, agriculture/ land tenure, nutrition, and environment. Data analysis training could be provided for the calculation of key indicators for these issues. It would be guided by priorities set out in NSDS, collections (as in the case of SPC and ABS supporting HIES analysis), the skills audit to identify key gaps, major initiatives (for example AusAID gender program) and thematic studies (United Nations monographs and analyses).

Objective 5: New and Innovative Statistical Tools and Systems Have Been Introduced

A new multi-indicator household survey prototype was successfully developed by SPC with financial support from the World Bank Trust Fund for statistical capacity building technical input, where requested, from the Bank's International Household Survey Programme. Known as Vanuatu Multi Development Indicator Hybrid survey, it was successfully tested in 2012-2013 with ongoing SPC technical support, with data currently being reviewed before being analysed later this year. Hybrid survey enumerator training, development of data entry systems and software, and reference materials have been conducted and made available. The prototype combines key HIES and DHS themes, and is implemented over a twelve month period - requiring smaller number of interviewer teams.

SPC has submitted standardised HIES Income/Expenditure forms to the World Bank's International Household Survey Network (IHSN) for review and comments have been received. The HIES Technical Working Group (TWG) has completed a review on standardization of the HIES questionnaire and final sign-off is to be obtained at the HOPS meetings in 2013. The common HIES questionnaire has been used in the Solomon Islands, Nauru and FSM, with some parts also included in Vanuatu Hybrid survey. AusAID noted, at PSSC 4, that the PSSC has a policy of constituting formal peer reviews of all new activity designs such as HIES methodologies to obtain independent advice on these proposals. The exact nature of PSSC formal review processes is unclear to the review team. The PSSC should develop guidelines for endorsing common definitions and standards and operation of technical working groups.

The ABS is collaborating with SPC on the development of a best-practice Pacific Business Register Manual. The manual will be based on the operations of the Fiji Islands

Bureau of Statistics Business Register Unit. New technology has been extended – primarily with the assistance of SPC, for improved data collection and dissemination. GPS adoption has been successful in Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. These countries now have an established geo-referenced database of GPS location of dwellings. Vanuatu, Solomon Island, Cook Islands and Samoa have adopted automated data capture as part of surveys and in some scanning of arrival/departure cards. An evaluation of PDA suitability was undertaken as part of the 2012 Tuvalu census.

Objective 6: National and Regional Statistics Governance is Functioning Effectively

Technical support has been provided to governments and administrations to support leadership development. ABS ran the Leading a National Statistical Office Workshop in 2011. Ten NSOs were representatives with a total of 17 participants. The ABS has trialled a leadership mentoring program with the senior statisticians from Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands NSOs. A number of PICTs have a statistical master plan, but only Samoa has an NSDS. The NSDS process has the aims of establishing mechanisms for consultation with all the main statistical stakeholders and setting out an agreed statement of what governments and other stakeholders want from the statistical system at some point in the future. The review team is of the view that the constraints to PARIS 21 endorsement of current road maps need to be resolved, and NSDS rolled out across the region. SPC has supported roll-out with missions to Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Tonga. FSM has also expressed interest in NSDS development.

HOPS proposed the establishment of a Pacific Statistical Steering Committee (PSSC) in July 2010, to monitor TYPSS implementation and direct regional statistical activities and developments. The PSSC is advising on, and monitoring, the implementation of TYPSS. It meets every 6 months and reports to the HOPS. Representation and membership roles were defined in terms of reference. Its composition has been structured with 2 NSO representatives being selected from each of the 3 Pacific islands sub-regions together with representatives from the technical and financial partners (TFPs), with a 60:40 ratio to allow the country NSOs to have more voice in the steering the progress of the TYPSS. TFPs designate their own representatives, such as the UNDAF M&E TWG [UNFPA] representing the UN specialised agencies and ABS and Stats NZ alternating.

The need to better balance operational and development discussion during meetings, have a more detailed mapping of agenda in advance of the PSSC meeting, better define the link to HOPs and Pacific Ministers and have an independent secretariat were issues raised to the review team. Stakeholder had differing perspectives as to whether the TYPSS should concentrate solely on monitoring TYPSS implementation, or whether a broader development agenda should be considered during PSSC deliberations. The review team are of the view that the 2013 HOPS meeting provides an opportunity for reviewing the original terms of reference for the PSSC to take account for such issues, amongst others.

Concern was also raised that PSSC consultation with their constituents is not adequate, some PSSC members are not prepared adequately for meetings and communication with,

and reporting back to designated stakeholders could be more effective. The review team recommend that some communications budget be provided to PSSC members to improve consultation, where appropriate. Effort should be made by PSSC members to use regional and other forums to discuss TYPSS issues with their constituents. It is also recommended that a part time coordinator be appointed to help PSSC members follow up with constituents, help track TYPSS resource allocation and outputs; along with providing a real-time calendar of statistical capacity development activities in the region. This recommendation is outlined in the ‘efficiency’ section

Under its current terms of reference the PSSC is responsible for ‘endorsing common definitions and standards that will underpin a greater harmonization of statistical processes’. The procedures for such endorsement were not clear to the review team, with the example of formal peer review of HIES methodology being provided earlier in the report. The review team recommend that procedural guidelines for peer review, technical working group operations, and endorsement of regional standards be formalised. The PSSC is also responsible for the ‘establishment and development of a framework to achieve the implementation and regular monitoring of TYPSS’. A framework was developed for regular monitoring of TYPSS. This framework could be improved, as progress against targets could be better outlined, along with resource allocation across member countries. This issue is discussed in the monitoring and evaluation section of the report.

Efficiency

Efficiency is scored as being satisfactory and is discussed in terms of a regional approach and coordination. Coordination could be improved with the appointment of a part time coordinator to support the PSSC.

Evidence suggests that efficiencies are achievable through the regional delivery of products and services. Examples of efficiencies associated with TYPSS include the provision of regionally based workshops in leadership and data analysis, the publication of regional statistics in NMDI and the pooling of costs and experience involved in survey and administrative database training. Common questionnaire designs and standardisation of economic statistical compilation allow for regional and international comparison. Prescribing the optimal approach to regional delivery of statistical assistance requires definition of the differing capacity development demands of each country, which is requires skills audits and NSDS development¹². These outputs need to be delivered (or used) as a priority for the remainder of this phase and in the second. Regional assistance can be allocated to each country based on the priority gaps identified in each national strategic plan.

¹² NSDS development was to focus on PNG, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands in Phase (2011-2014). PNG: currently at design stage, Samoa: implementing, Fiji: deferred to 2014, Tonga: Joint Paris21/SPC NSDS design mission, 24-28 June 2013, Vanuatu Joint Paris21/SPC NSDS design mission, 17- 21 June 2013.

Most stakeholders indicated to the review team that there has been considerable achievement over the first phase of the TYPSS. Determining whether the strategy is being implemented in a timely fashion is difficult as many TA provider activities were not included in the M&E framework. The review team recommend that the follow-on phase should be designed with all TA providers being consulted and any proposed activities are mapped with explicit time lines. Current activities are also not reported against specific dates in some instances. For example, planning, collection and report publication dates need to be specified for all surveys and census activities.

Coordination issues were raised during PSSC meetings. The PSSC provides a forum for mapping on-going and future statistical activities. This could be further improved. SPC are posting a calendar of statistical events on its PRISM website, along with a calendar of national statistical activities. The calendar could be updated on a more regular basis and broader coverage of regional activities presented to the PSSC. SPC currently provide the secretariat for the TYPSS. Given the considerable time coordination requires, it is recommended by the review team that the PSSC draft TORs for a part time coordinator position to assist with coordination, official statistics requests from international agencies and provide assistance in preparing PSSC reports. Aside from coordination, many stakeholders felt M&E reporting should not be undertaken by a TA provider, but rather an independent secretariat, or someone reporting directly to the PSSC. Preparation of TYPSS M&E reporting should be included as a major activity under the terms of reference for the part time coordinator who should report directly to the PSSC chairperson.

Impact

Currently most monitoring and reporting has focussed on TYPSS input and output tracking with limited definition of indicators for outcome or impact measurement. Evidence of use of TYPSS outputs is evident in Google Analytics visitor data. It is apparent that more than two thousand visitors accessed NMDI and six thousand for PRISM between September and April 2013. Most visitors seem to be from donor countries, which could be expected given that the NMDI dataset captures MDG progress.

Table 2: NMDI and PRISM Website Visits, Sep 23, 2012 - Apr 26, 2013

Country	NMDI		Country	PRISM	
	Visits	%		Visits	%
New Caledonia	660	25.77%	United States	1338	16.74%
Australia	482	18.82%	Australia	1261	15.77%
Fiji	328	12.81%	Fiji	933	11.67%
New Zealand	255	9.96%	New Caledonia	750	9.38%
Philippines	216	8.43%	New Zealand	578	7.23%
United States	149	5.82%	Philippines	437	5.47%
Samoa	50	1.95%	United Kingdom	285	3.56%

Japan	44	1.72%	Germany	254	3.18%
United Kingdom	33	1.29%	Brazil	148	1.85%
France	30	1.17%	France	141	1.76%

Source: SPC

Other outcomes noted by the review team include key collections for the region having been identified which governments and donors support on a regular basis; the realization/ awareness of NSOs to coordinate with other agencies in the production of vital statistics; and a realization was expressed to the review team that data has to be converted to information and be used in evidence-based policy

The World Bank Country Statistical Capacity Indicator provides an indication of NSO capacity, and any possible improvements. Two assessment (method and periodicity of source data) areas of the indicator have already been provided in the evaluation report. The final dimension measures the timeliness of data being transformed into statistical indicators such as poverty, child and maternal health, HIV/AIDS, primary completion, gender equality, access to water and GDP growth (World Bank, 2013).

The overall score is provided in Figure 3 for the region.

Whereas overall capacity is declining in East Asia and the Pacific as a whole, along with IDA countries - overall capacity had greatly improved in the Pacific.

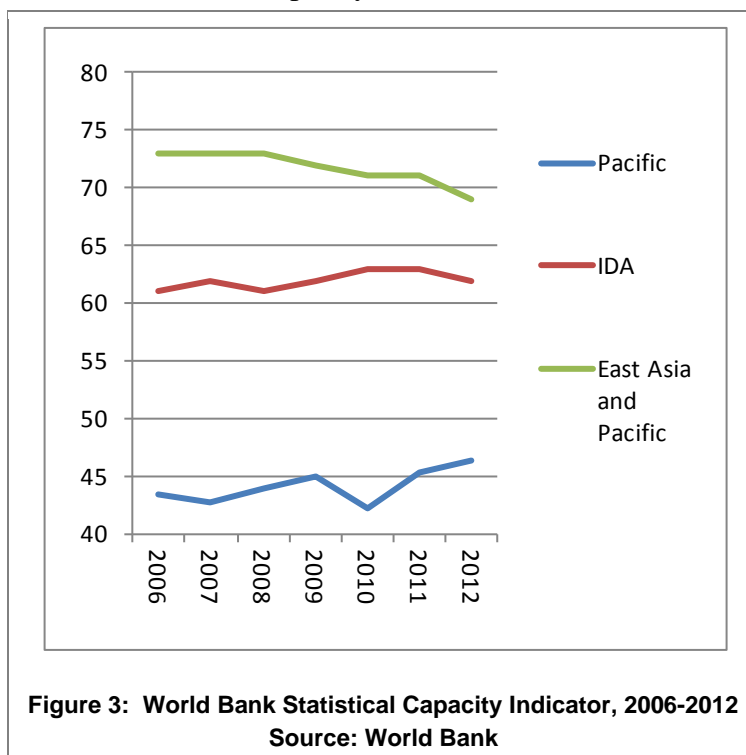


Figure 3: World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator, 2006-2012
Source: World Bank

Sustainability

Sustainability is rated satisfactory. In a strict financial sense sustainability is not feasible without further donor funding. PICT national governments are increasingly funding collections and predictable funding has likely decreased the transactions costs of statistical operations.

Sustainability from a financial perspective is probably not realistic as collections and capacity development are lumpy investments that smaller PICTS could not completely

self finance. TYPSS has provided a more reliable source of survey finance and technical assistance which has more than likely reduced the transaction costs for NSOs. Continued donor funding of the program on a rolling basis would sustain this efficiency. Governments are increasingly funding, or intending to fund, statistical services. Examples have been provided to the PSSC. They include FSM funding HIES mainly from national budgets, the costs of the increased sample size of the Fiji DHS planned to be sourced from government and the DHS in Tonga using national funds. However there has been little change in resources for ongoing and regularly compiled statistics, especially on the economic side (trade, CPI, national accounts, etc). Increases have been sought at FEMM for many years but only in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu has there been progress, increasing the gap between large and small NSOs. The NSDS design creates sustainability of demand as well as political support and commitment for statistics as it is integrated into national development policy processes and context, taking account of regional and international commitments.

Gender Equality

Gender equality is rated as less than satisfactory. TYPSS has generated gender related data through the NMDI, but could do more to generate gender statistics. The PSSC should have an improved gender balance and all TA providers report training participation by numbers of men and women.

Pacific Island Country Leaders have committed to implementing gender responsive government programs and policies¹³ which includes to ‘support the production and use of sex disaggregated data and gender analysis to inform government policies and programs’. The development of the NMDI has made sex-disaggregated data far more accessible, particularly in the areas of education, and women’s participation in the labour force and in politics. Data training in the disaggregation of gender statistics and calculation of key indicators should be integrated into data analysis courses.

The allocation of regional technical assistance to enhance gender statistics capacity should ideally be determined through NSDS and skills audit processes; and endorsed by the PSSC. The gender balance of the PSSC was also drawn to the attention of the review team. The scope for improving gender balance is limited in the short term as most senior NSO managers are male. Statistics training programs that are inclusive of both men and women could address this imbalance in the longer term. Numbers of men and women participating in the various training activities of TYPSS should be routinely reported by all TA providers at PSSC meetings.

¹³ Annex 1 of the Forum Communiqué, 43rd Pacific Islands Forum, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2012/forum-leaders-gender-equality-declaration-celebrated.html>.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation is rated as satisfactory. The M&E framework has provided some input and output level data, although reporting should quantify outputs and inputs where possible, along with financial commitments. Outcome and impact indicators should be used more widely in TYPSS reporting.

Discussion at PSSC 4 raised concern that the current TYPSS reporting structure and format does not give an indication of ‘how we are collectively tracking in terms of TYPSS implementation; provide a proper evaluation of our performance; and contain indicators with which we can measure progress across the various objectives’. The review team are of the view that monitoring and evaluation (M&E) could be further improved for all providers of technical assistance and countries.

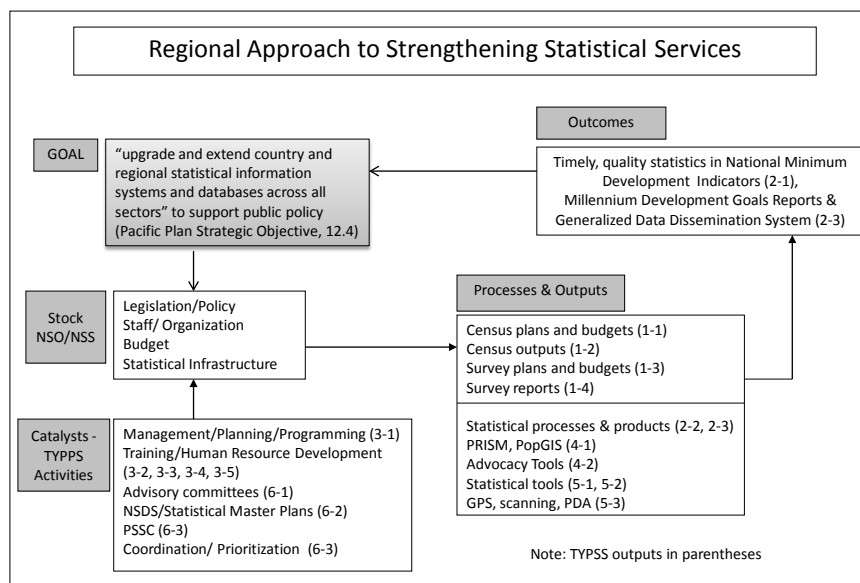


Figure 4: TYPSS Contribution to NSO Stock, Outputs and Outcomes

M&E is complicated for a program such as TYPSS, as multiple agencies are involved and regional technical assistance activities - which in themselves have input and outputs - are in turn used to generate outputs and outcome for national and regional statistical systems. The alignment of TYPSS outputs as catalysts, supporting NSO processes and outputs, along with NSO outcomes is provided in Figure 4. TYPP activities support human resource training, which aim to enhance the staff and organisation capacity of

NSOs - generating outputs such as survey and census data that are used for national and international statistical reporting. TYPSS activities are evident at each point of the statistical supply and demand chain involving multiple countries and TA providers.

Measurement to date has largely concentrated on individual providers (SPC, PFTAC, ABS) and countries describing TYPSS outputs and inputs. SPC have quantified inputs in terms of staff time committed in each country, along with output and outcome achievements. Reporting could be further improved by strategic monitoring of financial expenditure to each country by objective. This could be done using a bottom up approach where key cost elements are specified for each country / objective using staff time, meeting and travel and hosting expenditures, or using a 'top down' approach where total expenditures are allocated to each country and objective based on % total staff time utilised in each country and objective.

Inputs and outputs should be reported by TYPSS objectives at PSSC meetings by all TA providers and in documentation by both TA providers and countries. The numbers of staff trained (by sex), or outputs such as legislation drafted, should also be reported. An agreed list should be developed for all providers and countries. Possible quantifiable outcome indicators could be derived from elements of the World Bank Capacity Index (listed in the Annex) and also include, amongst others: (1) legislation – laws passed, number of countries with statistical laws updated to current realities (2) capacity - number and proportion of NSO staff classified by academic level attainment and years of experience, staff attaining accreditation, survey evaluation of training courses; and (3) demand for statistics creation - user needs and satisfaction surveys, size of budget for statistical activities and share to total government budget, number of functioning inter-agency technical working groups in the NSS, number of operating National Statistical Councils in the Pacific, reference to statistics in national policy, plans and budget documents, reference to nationally and regionally produced statistics by regional and international stakeholders¹⁴ and share of own-country funding for key censuses and surveys.

Analysis and Learning

Analysis and Learning is rated as satisfactory. TYPSS was based on benchmarking and implementation plan studies. Participants have responded well to suggestions at PSSC meetings.

The TYPSS program design was based upon TA provider experience over many years and a series of studies. Suggestions to improve reporting have been adopted and agencies have generally cooperated to deliver technical assistance where their comparative advantage is evident. Several processes/resources can be established for Phase 2 by the PSSC to increase learning. Examples include implementing and reporting to the PSSC

¹⁴ Included in current M&E framework

post-TA or training feedback and evaluation from country recipients, as well as providers, a knowledge management depository for TA materials and methods accessible by NSOs and stakeholders; and an online pool of Pacific NSO experts for South-South cooperation exchange. Initially, the PSSC can solicit nominations for Pacific NSO experts to be included in the pool. For as long as there are no more than 2 negative votes from the members, these experts can be included in a dedicated password-protected section in PRISM or an appropriate website that Pacific stakeholders usually access. Experts will also have access to the database so that they can update their qualifications, and accomplishments. The online pool would be a living database, which can remain current based on the interest and motivations of its users.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusions

The mid-term review findings in relation to evaluation criteria include:

- **Relevance.** The TYPSS is well aligned with the Pacific Plan and higher level objectives of donors promoting results-based management. The Pacific Plan Objective 12.4 supports an ‘upgrade and extend country and regional statistical information systems and databases across all sectors’ to support public policy. Program design was found to satisfactory, along with coordination of development activities. Much of the effort in the first phase has targeted survey collection, which given the paucity of data in the region was appropriate.
- **Effectiveness.** There has been a highly commendable level of achievement across all objectives of the TYPSS. Effectiveness is most notable in survey collections and agreed core set of statistics objectives of the plan. Outputs such as supporting census, DHS and HIES collection has improved the periodicity of these surveys, improvements in national accounts, BoP, trade statistics, and CPI rebasing are evident. NMDI datasets and PRISM have been launched.
- **Efficiency.** The regional approach adopted by TYPSS is efficient as economies of scale have been achieved in the delivery of training programs across small states; information technology investment has benefited numerous countries and donors, and regional harmonisation of survey designs and the calculation of indicators permits regional and international comparison of socio economic statistics. The TYPSS most likely represents good value for money; however, the allocation of costs to specific objectives and countries is not routinely reported to the PSSC.
- **Impact.** The World Bank statistical capacity index can be used to evaluate statistics collection periodicity, source data and methodology. These features of NSOs have increased to a greater degree in the Pacific, than the East Asia Region as a whole, or for the average of 80 World Bank IDA countries.
- **Monitoring and evaluation.** Inputs and outputs should be reported on a more quantitative basis, especially financial inputs by country and objective. Further quantitative data relating to outcome are required to determine whether TYPSS objectives and the overarching goal are being attained. Evaluation of the benefits from technical assistance and training should be routinely conducted.

- **Gender.** Women are not well represented in the PSSC, and it is unclear from materials presented to the PSSC as to whether all training courses have an appropriate gender balance. All TA providers should routinely provide this data to PSSC meetings. The NMDI dataset has greatly improved the availability of gender disaggregated data in the region. Data training in gender statistics and calculation of key indicators should be integrated into data analysis courses.
- **Analysis and Learning.** The TYPSS was based on sound design studies. Technical assistance providers have shown a willingness to modify reporting in the light of feedback. Learning could be further improved by reporting to the PSSC post-TA or training feedback and evaluation, establishing a knowledge management depository for TA materials; and creating an online pool of Pacific NSO experts for South-South cooperation exchange.

Recommendations for future support

Lessons and recommendations of the review team for future support include:

- ***Lesson 1. TYPSS has generated considerable capacity development.*** Implementation of a program such as TYPSS, which contains numerous objectives, many countries and a number of TA providers, is a complex undertaking. The improvement in capacity which was commented upon to the review mission and has been measured using the World Bank capacity index is a substantial achievement and should be commended.
- ***Lesson 2. TYPSS structure remains relevant.*** The six objectives of TYPSS's and priority of economic, vital, education and health statistics remain relevant to statistical capacity development in the Pacific. The overall structure of the program was positively viewed by those interviewed during the review mission
- ***Recommendation 1. TYPSS overall structure and objectives should be maintained.*** The overall structure of TYPSS and its prioritisation of sectors remain relevant. The addition of new thematic areas - such as gender, climate change, food security, disaster risk, disability, and environmental- economic accounting should be considered as part of each individual country's NSDS priority setting.
- ***Lesson 3. TYPSS focus has been on survey collections and core statistics.*** Much of the effort in the first phase of the program has centred on census, DHS and HIES collections, along with core statistics. This focus is appropriate as there was a paucity of data in the region. With improved capacity in NSO collection capacity, less emphasis could be placed on Objective 1.
- ***Recommendation 2. PSSC should endorse an increased TYPSS focus on capacity to generate demand for official statistics.*** The planned focus of the 2015-2017 phase was to complete region-wide statistical systems, which includes fostering demand for official statistics through improved advocacy and communication. Greater emphasis should be placed on these activities in TYPSS.

- **Recommendation 3. PSSC should endorse an increased TYPSS focus on data analysis and dissemination.** With increasing availability of data there is greater need to improve the skills of national statisticians in data analysis and dissemination. ABS, StatsNZ (Victoria University) UN and SPC have experience in data analysis and dissemination training and mentoring which should be provided across the region. Completion of the skills audit will provide guidance for longer term training needs. Where possible, training should be accredited with the cooperation of training institutions such as USP.
- **Lesson 4. Limited National Statistical Plan Development.** NSDS development was an objective of the TYPSS first phase with one country so far developing a plan. The NSDS process is more inclusive than traditional NSO-centric statistical master plan development and provides a means for national stakeholders to articulate and prioritise statistical needs.
- **Recommendation 4. The PSSC should identify NSDS development as a major priority.** Countries must clearly identify the need for better scheduling timing and scale of required intensity assistance. National statistical development strategies (NSDS) are critical for NSOs to assess reporting requirements and provide a road map for statistical system development
- **Lesson 5. Limited Quantitative M&E Reporting.** Measurement to date has largely concentrated on individual providers (SPC, PFTAC, UN, ABS) and countries describing TYPSS outputs and inputs. SPC have defined and quantified inputs in terms of staff time committed in each country, along with output (description of activities) and some outcome achievements. Greater reporting of progress is required from countries.
- **Recommendation 5. All TA Providers and countries should improve M&E reporting.** The reporting framework and template should be enhanced to quantify inputs by country/objective, and allow for strategic monitoring of expenditures by country/program, along with outputs and results/outcomes. Reporting should be against time-bound action plans. The first priority for measuring outcomes is associated with tracking the benefits of training and technical assistance. Training assessment and surveys of participants should be used to determine the outcomes of these activities.
- **Lesson 6. The PSSC could more adequately report progress, endorse standards and coordinate activities.** The PSSC has provided a valuable forum for countries, providers and donors to discuss TYPSS implementation. The forum could be improved with the presentation of more in-depth progress data. Coordination would be improved with the PSSC supporting a real-time activity calendar and a second phase with time-bound activities. Terms of reference for the PSSC are relatively broad and could be strengthened with guidelines for endorsement and technical work group functions.
- **Recommendation 6. PSSC engage a part time coordinator.** A part-time coordinator should be initially engaged to help collate country and TA provider

M&E data, assist with PSSC reporting and sustaining a real-time online calendar of regional statistics activities.

- **Recommendation 7. The PSSC should develop guidelines for endorsing definitions and standards, along with technical working group operations.** Objectives of the PSSC include ‘endorsing common definitions and standards that will underpin a greater harmonization of statistical processes’ [and] convening ‘technical working groups on particular topics involving experienced subject matter specialists’, however the nature of these processes are unclear to the review team.
- **Recommendation 8. Donors provide PSSC members with communications support.** PSSC members represent multiple countries and face difficulties in collating data for meetings as e-mails are often not answered. Communications funds should be provided so counterparts can be readily contacted and PSSC reporting improved.
- **Recommendation 9. The PSSC should review its TORs to coincide with the upcoming HOPs meeting in July 2013.** A review of the TORs, with increased members input, will allow members to decide the best role for the PSSC, the preferred method of operation, membership, and approach to the next phase of steering and monitoring TYPSS implementation.
- **Lesson 7. TYPSS Phase 1 design was sound and based on benchmarking and implementation studies.** The formulation of TYPSS was based on a number of program preparatory studies, and the experience of key technical assistance providers.
- **Recommendation 10. PSSC should endorse an Independent Phase 2 design.** An independent design team should be commissioned by the PSSC to design the follow-on activities of TYPSS for all TA providers. Activities should be aligned under current objectives and scheduled using Gantt charts on a quarterly timeframe. Indicators for tracking inputs, outputs and outcomes need to be quantifiable and specified in the M&E framework. The proposed design would be presented to the PSSC for endorsement.
- **Lesson 8. TYPSS has reduced the transactions costs associated with collections and continuity of funding helped sustain provider capacity.** Significant lumpy costs are associated with collections which PICTS cannot entirely finance. Securing funding for collections and technical assistance has been a time consuming exercise for NSOs which has been made more manageable with the longer term financing and predictability of TYPSS. Longer term financing has also increased capacity in technical agencies. An example is in civil registration and vital statistics area, where funding for the Health Information Systems Knowledge Hub at the University of Queensland is about to cease.
- **Recommendation 11. Donors should provide longer term rolling funding.** Longer term, more predictable funding – such as rolling budgets would assist planning and improve the longer term performance of the TYPSS.

- **Recommendation 12. Donors should sustain the civil registration and vital statistics program.** The capacity developed for vital statistics should be sustained through continued funding for BAG activities under the UQ Health Information Systems Knowledge Hub, with a stronger focus on developing an integrated health information system for the prevention and control of NCDs, amongst others.

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Annex A: Evaluation Plan

Main evaluation questions

Phase one implementation will be evaluated against the criteria defined in AusAID's Guidelines: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability as well as monitoring and evaluation, gender equality and analysis and learning. Key evaluation questions for National Statistical Offices (NSO), technical agencies (eg. SPC, ABS, PFTAC, United Nations), donors (eg. ADB, AusAID, World Bank, DFID, EU, IMF, and NZ MAFT, United Nations) and statistical users (eg. Ministries of Finance, Trade., ADB, AusAID, World Bank, DFID, EU, IMF, and NZ MAFT, United Nations).

Relevance¹⁵	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors¹⁶	User¹⁷
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the mid-way point of implementing Phase 1 of the Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan (2011 – 2014), do the six strategic objectives and 22 associated activities and outputs remain relevant to needs of Pacific Island countries and territories, and the region at large? 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the implementation contributed to higher level objectives of the aid program. For example, outlined in country plans, Pacific Partnerships for Development, the Pacific, Cairns Compact, Pacific Plan and other thematic strategies? 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are important changes in the Australian policy context that have relevance to future AusAID engagement in supporting statistics in the Pacific? 			X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has implementation aligned itself to partner countries' development plans, and strategies for national data collection and operational imperatives? If not, what changes need to be made to the activity or its objectives to ensure continued relevance? If the activity is more narrowly focused what are the implications for AusAID and Pacific stakeholders 	X			X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you think activities are meeting the needs of NSOs? 	X			X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have there been any changes in the Pacific policy context relevant to the implementation of the project? If yes: how would their inclusion impact on identified priorities 2011 – 2014? 	X	X	X	X

¹⁵ X indicates relevant stakeholder

¹⁶ eg. ADB, AusAID, World Bank, DFID, EU, IMF, UN and NZ MAFT

¹⁷ Other ministries – Finance, Trade, Investment and donors..

Relevance¹⁵	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors¹⁶	User¹⁷
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is (has there been) overlap between implementation of the plan and other organisations (e.g. United Nations)? How can duplication be avoided? 	X	X	X	

Effectiveness whether activities are meeting the needs of NSOs	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User¹⁸
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally, are objectives still relevant and achievable? If not, what changes should have been made to objectives to ensure they can be achieved? Were these objectives too broad? How could they be improved? Is there evidence that outputs are contributing to the intended objectives? 	X	X	X	X

¹⁸ Other ministries – Finance, Trade, Investment etc..

Effectiveness whether activities are meeting the needs of NSOs	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User ¹⁸
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Objective 1: PICTS are undertaking key statistical collections as scheduled</u> • 1.1. Census plans and budgets prepared within 12 and 18 months prior to scheduled census date, and all pre-enumeration activities are completed. Has TA and training been provided to Nauru and Tuvalu for census plans and budgets, along with provision of TA and training to various countries with key pre-enumeration activities. (cartography, household listing, pilot census, training of field staff, and setting up of data processing systems) • 1.2. Census outputs completed and disseminated within 12 to 18 months after completion of enumeration. Has TA and training in completing an accessible set of census tables, administrative and analytical reports been provided to Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Samoa, Cook Islands, and Tonga who have completed or are scheduled to undertake a census during 2011-2014,. • 1.3. Survey plans and budgets prepared 6 months prior to date agreed by country for survey, and all pre-enumeration activities are completed. Has DHS TA/training in survey design, operational plans and budgets, and with training of field staff and setting up of data processing systems been provided to Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu. Has HIES training in these same processes been provided for Solomon Islands, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, and Cook islands. • 1.4. Survey reports produced and disseminated within 6 to 12 months after completion of survey. Has TA been provided to Tonga (DHS), Fiji (DHS), FSM and Vanuatu to produce and disseminate analytical reports? Has HIES TA in these same processes been provided to Solomon Islands, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, and Cook islands? 	X	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has been particularly good and bad about the TA? How improved¹⁹ 	X	X	X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the major constraints on providing technical assistance and professional capacity development for population and housing censuses? Do you have suggestions to overcome constraints 	X	X	X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are statistical collections providing required data? What improvements could be made? For example, The NSOs might have organizational and resource constraints in providing the required data. 	X			X

¹⁹ Suggest asking these stakeholders too. The TAs might be affected by the level of absorptive capacities of the NSO

Effectiveness whether activities are meeting the needs of NSOs	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User ¹⁸
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Obj 2: PICTS are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors</u> • 2.1. Regional endorsement of National Minimum Development Indicator dataset. Have responses from member countries, relevant CROP agencies and key financial and technical partners been reviewed? • 2.2. Improved Statistical Processes to ensure ready access to quality and timely statistics. What databases and systems have been developed or upgraded? How is development aligned with the four key thematic/sectoral priorities? What is particularly good and bad about the TA and databases? How could they be improved? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2.2.1. Economic Statistics. What TA/training has been provided to countries to develop plans and set-up systems to improve regular collection and dissemination of key economic statistics? Note, absorptive capacity ○ 2.2.2. Vital Statistics. What TA/training has been provided to countries with weak / incomplete registration systems to produce reliable birth and death statistics? ○ 2.2.3. Health Statistics. What TA/training has been provided to countries to develop plans to improve regular collection and dissemination of health statistics? ○ 2.2.4. Education Statistics. What TA/training has been provided to countries to develop plans to improve regular collection and dissemination of education statistics? • 2.3. Improved Statistical Products – Annual report by PICTS on indicators relating to NMDI, MDG and GDDS. What TA/training has been provided to countries to assist with the regular collection, production, reporting of key statistics against agreed-upon frameworks? 	X	X	X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the major constraints on producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors? 	X	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the identified list of core statistics still the priority? Do you have suggestions about the most important statistical collection regularly undertaken by PICTS? 	X	X	X	X

Effectiveness whether activities are meeting the needs of NSOs	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User ¹⁸
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Obj 3: PICTS have their own capacity or are accessing regional capacity to undertake agreed core and some specialists statistical functions</u> • 3.1. NSS have staff with skills to undertake core and specialist statistical functions, commensurate with size of country and NSO. Has a skills audit been undertaken by NSO heads supported by SPC and PFTAC? Has a long-term training and professional development strategy been developed, in collaboration with PFTAC, ABS, Statistics NZ and USP to improve skills development? • 3.2. NSS have staff with skills to undertake core statistical functions. Have TA/Training programmes for Pacific island NSOs, been delivered through largely national (and on-line) training, including through <i>on-the-job training</i> during in-country technical assistance missions? • 3.3. Larger NSS have staff with skills to undertake specialist statistical functions. Have more specialized TA/Training programme been developed and delivered through sub-regional and regional arrangements (professional attachments, specialized academic courses, on-job training) targeting larger NSOs? • 3.4. The region has a pool of national staff with specialist statistical skills, which is being deployed to NSS lacking such skills. Have PFTAC and SPC identified and managed a pool of regional statistical experts (national accounts, BoP statistics, demographic analysis; census and survey planning/ management) to be deployed on demand to small island state NSOs? Have regular professional development opportunities been provided to this cadre? • 3.5. NSS have the organizational capacity (adequate staff numbers and management skills) to sustain ongoing statistical operations. Have skill audits undertaken by Heads of NSO been supported by SPC and PFTAC? Have regular management training of Government statisticians and senior NSO staff been conducted? 	X	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the major constraints on developing and accessing capacity to undertake statistical functions 	X	X		

Effectiveness (cont)	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User²⁰
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Obj 4: National, regional and international users have increased access to user-friendly statistical information systems and databases across key sectors.</u> • 4.1.1 Redesign of PRISM architecture, and associated TA/ training activities at national and sub-regional to enhance data accessibility. Have automated data uploads, interactive table-builder functionality, and web-based interactive regional mapping capability been developed? • 4.1.2 Redevelopment of SPC PopGIS and associated TA/training activities at national and sub-regional to enhance system efficiency and use. Has external programming support to develop open-source platform been contracted? Has web-application for larger countries with good connectivity been developed; and databases regularly updated? • 4.2. Increased utilization of national and regional statistics by data users. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4.2.1 Have statistical advocacy strategies and materials to mainstream importance of evidence- based decision making into public domain and conscience been developed? ○ 4.2.2. Has statistical advocacy training to key data user groups (including elected officials, senior public servants, media been delivered? ○ 4.2.3 Have statisticians been trained/educated to become better communicators and champions about their work? ○ 4.2.4 Have regular data user workshops been conducted after the completion of major statistical collections (censuses, household surveys)? 	X	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you feel has been the value of statistical advocacy strategies? If yes, can these be improved and how? 			X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the major constraints on increasing access to statistical information systems 	X	X	X	X

²⁰ Other ministries – Finance, Trade, Investment etc..

Effectiveness (cont)	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User²¹
<p><u>Obj 5: New and innovative statistical tools and systems have been introduced</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.1. New multi-indicator household survey prototype successfully developed and tested. Has a fit-for-purpose household survey prototype been developed and tested that is cheaper and can be more regularly conducted than conventional household surveys? • 5.2. Development and use of common tools for statistical collections. Has regional sign-off on use of core set of census questions been obtained? Has a common HIES questionnaire been developed and tested? • 5.3. Adoption of new technology for improved data collection and dissemination. Has TA/training in the use of GPS technology, automated data capture (scanning) and PDA (portable digital assistant) been conducted and tested for PICTs? 	X	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the major constraints on developing common tools for statistics 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How useful do you feel approaches such as GPS technology, automated data capture and PDAs for your circumstances? 	X	X		X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How useful do you feel a common HIES questionnaire is for your circumstances? 	X	X		X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Obj 6: National and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively</u> • 6.1. PICs have established national statistical advisory committees which advise on, and monitor statistical developments. Has technical support been provided to governments and administrations wishing to establish national statistical advisory committees? • 6.2. All PICs have approved statistical master plan or NSDS. Have statistical master plans for 5 PICTS (FSM, Nauru, Kiribati, Guam, CNMI) been finalised? Has collaboration with Paris21 occurred in developing NSDS for Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Solomon Islands? • 6.3. The Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) is advising on, and monitoring the implementation of the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy. Has an efficient technical secretariat been provided to Pacific Statistical Steering committee twice a year? 	X	X	X	X

²¹ Other ministries – Finance, Trade, Investment etc..

Efficiency	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User²²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the PSSC providing the governance required to effectively monitor and guide the implementation of the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) ? • Have PSSC consulted with their constituents? • Have PSSC members prepared adequately for meetings? (For example in terms of provided requested progress reports and having read circulated materials) • Is PSSC actively identifying and resolving critical statistical issues? • Is its communication with, and reporting back to designated stakeholders effective in justifying its current operating structure and mechanism? • Has the management and implementation of the project adapted effectively to changing needs and circumstances? • Has flexibility been promoted: along with appropriate allocation of resources? • Has the project been implemented in a timely manner? What have been the causes of any delays? • How well are activities delivered under the Action Plan coordinated between various implementing partners? How might coordination be improved? • Have there been any financial variations to the activity? If so, was value for money considered in making these amendments? • Has the activity had sufficient and appropriate staffing resources? • Do the current governance structure, mandate and processes of the PSSC enable the Committee to effectively monitor and guide regional statistical activities and developments oversight over regional activities? How might this function be strengthened? • What were the key risks to achievement of objectives? Have the risks been managed appropriately? • Are there any internal or external constraining factors and obstacles that have hampered progress towards implementing TYPSS objectives and achieving associated outcomes? 	X	X	X	X

²² Other ministries – Finance, Trade, Investment etc..

Impact	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User²³
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you feel the current range of activities are the most relevant for developing sustainable collection systems, with emphasis on administrative databases and associated ongoing staff support and training? 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you feel the current balance of activities in developing national level capacity and accessing regional capacity to undertake agreed core statistical functions is appropriate? 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there new and innovative statistical tools (currently not being developed) that could be introduced, with aim of providing data users with more access and increased efficiency of providing technical assistance? 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the activities produced intended or unintended changes directly or indirectly 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was the balance between capacity building, problem solving & service delivery approaches optimal to produce impact? 	X	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have there been positive or negative impacts on impact from external factors? Consider political commitment to reform; political influence in sector institutions; reform champions; donor commitment and fragmentation? 	X	X	X	X

Sustainability	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User²⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it likely that technical assistance and training delivered under the Action Plan will achieve lasting benefits? 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What, if any prospects are there for other donors to increase or take over funding? 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any actions that can be taken now that will increase the likelihood that the activity will be sustainable? Are there any areas of the activity that are clearly not sustainable? What actions should be taken to address this? 		X	X	X

²³ Other ministries – Finance, Trade, Investment etc..

²⁴ Other ministries – Finance, Trade, Investment etc..

Sustainability	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User²⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do stakeholders have sufficient ownership, capacity and resources to sustain progress? 	X	X	X	X

Gender Equality	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent have the plan and its implementation advanced gender equality? 	X	X	X	X

Analysis and Learning	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent was the Action Plan based on sound technical analysis and continuous learning? 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well has learning from implementation and previous reviews been integrated into activities 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What lessons from the activities can be applied to understanding of statistical reporting in the Pacific 	X	X	X	X

Monitoring and Evaluation	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the current monitoring and evaluation framework adequate and used appropriately? If not, how might the framework (and use thereof) be strengthened? 	X	X	X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does evidence exist to show that objectives are on track to being achieved? To what extent does evidence from plan monitoring assist in assessing the Australia's strategic objective set out in the Cairns Compact and Independent Review of AID Effectiveness 	X	X		X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have different donors worked to harmonise reporting? 	X	X	X	

Monitoring and Evaluation	NSO	SPC ABS PF- TAC	Donors	User
• Was data gender disaggregated to measure differential outcomes for men, women, boys and girls?	X	X		
• To what extent does the project monitoring and evaluation strategy align with Pacific government monitoring arrangements? Is the data generated useful to a range of stakeholders?	X	X	X	X
• How can monitoring and evaluation be better integrated or improved?	X	X	X	X

Evaluation process

The team will utilise document review and semi structured interviews. The process of gathering information and views from key informants will be flexible and iterative, based on a combination of unstructured and semi-structured interviews. The evaluation team may develop some standard questions for project counterparts based on information collected during the first week of interviews. Specifically, in undertaking the evaluation, it is proposed that the team will:

- Review available and relevant documentation (a list of reference documents is provided below);
- Develop a draft evaluation plan, to be submitted to AusAID for approval prior to the in-country missions. The evaluation plan will include the main evaluation questions, the evaluation design and the report structure;
- Liaise and consult with AusAID staff in Canberra, Port Vila and Suva;
- Undertake in-country visits (Noumea, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tuvalu and Samoa) to meet with SPC staff, conduct interviews with national statistics officers, training recipients and stakeholders
- Undertake consultations with additional stakeholders as required;
- Participate in peer reviews and briefings as required;
- Submit a draft report to AusAID, who will coordinate comments (these comments should be addressed prior to submission of a final report);
- Share key messages to PSSC members at the next PSSC meeting in May 2013; and
- Submit a final amended report that incorporates comments received on the draft.

Responsibilities for each team member include:

Team Leader/M&E Specialist	Statistics Specialist
Overall responsibilities	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directing team inputs and responsibilities, and delivering quality reports • managing the review team to effectively utilise the expertise of each team member in meeting the Terms of Reference and contractual obligations; and • taking primary responsibility for evaluating overall program design, program management, M&E, gender and other areas as considered appropriate (in cooperation with other team members) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have primary responsibility for providing general contextual information on Pacific statistical issues; • take primary responsibility for assessing technical assistance/training programs contents and effectiveness in statistical capacity building and institutional development of selected PICTs • contribute to achieving the objectives of the mission and required outputs, including provide input into the final report with the Team Leader
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Data collection	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collect data on outputs, constraints and outcome of training • review expenditure and gender data • retrieve any available high level impact data • assess cross cutting issues such as governance, ME, and poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess TA/training activities if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ approach, content and delivery are effective in increasing staff and organizational capacities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ targeted recipients are reached ○ outcomes from tools and technologies can result in improved statistical systems and infrastructure ○ requirements for core sets of statistics and indicators (NMDI, MDG) from surveys, censuses and administrative records can be met • provide any statistical contextual data for relevance and cross cutting issues sections of the report.
Report preparation	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write relevance, cross cutting issues and supplement capacity/training effectiveness / efficiency sections • prepare initial M&E, gender and impact sections for further contribution by other team member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present elements and progress of capacity development (specialist and operational staff resources; and statistical infrastructure, systems and tools) within the Pacific context, arising from TA/training effectiveness / efficiency sections • Supplement background text relating to relevance section, and propose, if any, future adjustments which may likely strengthen TYPSS implementation and ensure optimal impact of the strategy
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Information sources

The information sources used by the evaluation team will include the following

Documents and Reports:

- PSSC5 (October 2012)
- Statistics for Development Programme (SDP) report
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report
- Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) report
- PSSC Terms of Reference
- PSSC4 (April 2012)
- Implementation Plan for Strengthen Statistical Services 2010-2020 – referred to as the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy
- Pacific Statistics Action Plan
 - Objective document
 - M&E framework
 - National initiatives
- SDP report
- ABS report
- PFTAC report
- PIFS Benchmarking Study (2009)
- Financial records:
- Annual financial reports

AusAID documents:

- Guidelines and templates
- Guideline: Manage the Independent Evaluation of an Aid Activity
- Template: Aide Memoire
- Template: ICR
- Other reviews

SPC and PIFS documents

- SPC Corporate Plan 2007-2012

Other documents:

- Millennium Development Goals <<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>>
- Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action
- Cairns Compact
- Pacific Plan of Action for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration

Evaluation and field work schedules

The proposed evaluation schedule and the proposed field work schedule are presented below. Given the short period available for planning, we will remain flexible throughout the evaluation field work to fit the availability of stakeholders. The review will commence 11 February 2013 and be completed by 14 June 2013. The timing and duration for the scope of services and input of days are as follows:

INDICATIVE DATES	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	Maximum # of Days	
			Team Leader	Statistics Specialist
11 February 2013	Document review/desk review	At base	3	2
14 February 2013	Briefing with AusAID – Canberra and SPC	Meeting	1	1
28 February 2013	Draft Methodology / Evaluation Plan to AusAID	Via email	2	1
4 March 2013	AusAID feedback on the draft Evaluation Plan	At base	0.5	
8 March 2013	Revise Evaluation Plan and submit to AusAID	Via email	0.5	1
17 March 2013	Travel to SPC, Noumea	SPC Consultation	1	
18 March	Noumea (travel to Port Vila Monday evening)	SPC Consultation	1	
19 – 20 March	Port Vila	Country visit	2	
21 March	Travel to Fiji		1	

22 -25 March 2013	In-country visit to Fiji	Country visit	4	
26 March	Travel to Tuvalu	Country visit	1	
26 – 28 March 2013	In-country visit to Tuvalu	Country visit	2	
1 April 2013	In-country visit to Samoa	Country visit	3	
20 April 2013	Presentation of consultation Aide Memoire	At Posts and teleconference for AusAID Canberra	2	2
20-April-3 May 2013	Draft Evaluation Report	At base	6	4
3 May 2013	Submission of draft Evaluation Report to AusAID Canberra and Suva	Via email	1	
29 May	Presentation of Draft Report to PSSC-6 for review and feedback	Noumea	2	
3 May 2013-14 June 2013	Re-draft Evaluation report based on feedback from AusAID and other Stakeholders	At base	2	1
14 June 2013	Submit Final Evaluation Report to AusAID	Email	1	
TOTAL			37	33

Presentation of findings

The Review Team will provide AusAID with the following reports:

- **Evaluation Plan / Draft Methodology** –provided to AusAID for agreement prior to the commencement of consultations.
- **Evaluation Mission Aide Memoire** - to be presented to AusAID Canberra, and other stakeholders at the completion of the in-country missions. The format for the Aide Memoire will follow AusAID’s template (to be provided).
- **Draft Independent Evaluation Report** – to be provided to the evaluation manager (AusAID Canberra). Feedback from AusAID and other stakeholders will be provided within two weeks of receiving the draft report, followed by a peer review.
- **Independent Evaluation Report** - final document within 15working days of receiving the feedback, incorporating advice from evaluation peer review. The report will be no more than 25 pages (plus annexes). Lessons, recommendations and ratings should be clearly documented in the report

Report structure

The draft and final report will be submitted electronically in MS Word format and be in accordance with AusAID’s Guidelines for Independent Completion Reports. The report will be ≤ 25 pages with annexes. The proposed table of contents of the report is shown below.

Proposed Table of Contents

Title page

Aid Activity Summary

Acknowledgements

Authors’ details

Table of contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Executive Summary (max. 2 pp.):

- Background and context (where directly relevant to the findings)
- Summary of the objectives, components and key results
- Brief outline of the evaluation findings
- Brief outline of the lessons and recommendations

Evaluation Criteria	Rating (1-6)
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Relevance	
Effectiveness	
Efficiency	
Sustainability	
Gender Equality	
Monitoring & Evaluation	
Analysis & Learning	

Rating scale: 6 = very high quality; 1 = very low quality. Below 4 is less than satisfactory.

5. Introduction

1.1 Activity Background

1.2 Evaluation Objectives and Questions

1.3 Evaluation Scope and Methods

1.4 Evaluation Team

1.5 Assumptions and possible biases of the review and limitations of the method

6. Evaluation Findings

2.1 Relevance

2.2 Effectiveness

2.3 Efficiency

2.4 Impact and sustainability

2.5 Gender Equality

2.6 Analysis and Learning

3. Evaluation Criteria Ratings

4. Conclusions

5. Lessons Learned (clear, specific, actionable) and Recommendations

Attachments

1. Consolidated Recommendations

2. ToRs

3. Evaluation Plan for the Mission

4. List of documents

5. Itinerary and Persons Consulted

6. Compliance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Accra Agenda for Action

7. Others as required

Annex B: People and Agencies Consulted.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Date</i>
Noumea		
Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Director General, Patricia Sachs-Cornish, Principal Adviser and Liaison	SPC	18 March
Gerald Haberkorn, Manager SDD	SPC	18 March
Arthur Jorari, Sandra Gianini, Chris Ryan, Bertrand Buffiere, Pierre Wong - Statistical Collections	SPC	18 March
Nilima Lal - Economic Statistics	SPC	18 March
James Hemphill (NMDI, PRISM), Arthur Jorari (Data user workshops, policy seminars) and Scott Pontifex (GIS, Education)	SPC	18 March
Karen Carter, CRVS and Health	SPC	18 March
Damian Hoy, PHD, Health	SPC	18 March
Vanuatu		
Simil Johnson, Government Statistician	VSO	20 March
Fabiolah Bibi, VEMIS Manager	Department of Education	20 March
Kim Robertson, Advisor	VSO	20 March
Fiji		
Epeli Waqavonovono, Government Statistician	FIBOS	22 March
Tim Martyn, Agribusiness Specialist	SPC	22 March
Solstice Middleby, Counsellor	AusAID	25 March
Tim Gill	AusAID	25 March
Professors Saqib Jafarey and Sunil Kumar	USP	25 March
Shivnay Naidu, Director, Health Information Research and Analysis	Ministry of Health	25 March
Annette Robertson, Deputy Director UNFPA; Eduard Jongstra, UNFPA; Mosese Qasenivalu, UNDAF M&E Manager; Bjorn Gelders, UNICEF; Clement Malau, WHO, Asenaca Ravuvu, UNDP	United Nations	25 March
Michael Andrews, Gregory Legoff	PIFTAC	25 March
Tuvalu		

Semu Malona, Director	Tuvalu Statistics Office	26 March
Kaevaa Lstotele Roy, Health Statistician	Department of Health	27 March
Katalina Taloka, Director	Department of Education	27 March
Simalua Enele, Senior Economic Advisor	Department of Planning and Budget	27 March
Samoa		
Sefuiva Reupena Muagututia, Government Statistician	Samoa Bureau of Statistics	8 April
Avalisa Viali, Assistant CEO, Ministry of Revenue, with Tui Faasili, Talaitupu Lia, Perensise Tinei-Puna, Solia Tanuvasa Iosefa Kalolo and Shona Williams	Ministry of Revenue	8 April
Benjamin Percira, Karras Lui	Central Bank of Samoa	8 April
Noumea Simi, Assistant CEO	Ministry of Finance	9 April
Anthony Stannard, Counsellor	AusAID	9 April
Dr Lameko, Director of Clinical Programs & Senior Clinical Lecturer	Oceania University of Medicine	9 April
David Abbott, Helen Stott, Advisors (ISP Program)	Samoa Bureau of Statistics	9 April
Australia		
Jerry Strudwick, Senior Education Adviser	AusAID	11 April
Beth Slatyer, Senior Health Adviser	AusAID	11 April
Mehaka Rountree, Senior Monitoring and Results Advisor (Teleconference)	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	11 April
Zoe Mander-Jones, Assistant Director General, Pacific Regional Branch	AusAID	11 April
Jessica Ireland, Pacific Regional Branch	AusAID	12 April
Roksana Khan (Teleconference)	ABS	12 April
Mark Feary (Teleconference)	NZ Statistics	12 April
Anthony Gill (Teleconference)	ADB	18 April

Annex C: Progress against TYPSS Milestones

Table C1: Objective 1, Outputs, Targets and Achievements

Output	Planned / Target	Achieved
1-1: Census plans and budgets prepared within 12 and 18 months prior to scheduled census date, and all pre-enumeration activities are complete	2011-12: Nauru, Tuvalu, RMI, PNG, Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga 2014-15: Kiribati, Palau	Good progress - census plans and budgets documented in PSSC minutes.
1-2: Census outputs completed and disseminated within 12 to 18 months after completion of enumeration	2011: Vanuatu, Solomon Islands 2011-2013: FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga 2012-2014: Nauru, Tuvalu, PNG	Good progress. Published Reports - Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, RMI Draft – Nauru, Tuvalu, FSM, Solomon Islands, Tonga PNG- ongoing
1-3: Survey plans and budgets prepared 6 months prior to date agreed by country for survey, and all pre-enumeration activities are complete	<u>DHS</u> – Tonga & Fiji (2011-2012) FSM & Vanuatu (2012-2014) <u>HIES</u> – Solomon Islands & Kiribati (2011) RMI, Nauru, Cook islands (2012)	DHS Plan – Tonga, Vanuatu, logistic plan for FSM, Fiji delay HIES Plan - Sols, Nauru Cooks (progress). Deferred – Kiribati, RMI
1-4: Survey reports produced and disseminated within 6 to 12 months after completion of survey	<u>DHS</u> – Tonga & Fiji (2011-2013). FSM & Vanuatu (2013-2015) <u>HIES</u> - Solomon Islands & Kiribati (2012-13) RMI, Nauru, Cook islands (2013-14)	DHS - Report drafted – Tonga HIES – Nauru, Solomon Islands on-going Planned timing for other reported surveys unclear

Table C2: Objective 2, 2.1-2.1.2 Outputs, Targets and Achievements

Output	Planned / Target	Achieved
2-1: Regional endorsement of National Minimum Development Indicator dataset	Regional sign-off by 2011	Full set of all NMDIs were sent to countries for review. Released on PRISM
2-2.1.1: TA/training to countries to develop plans to improve regular collection and dissemination of key economic statistics	Economic statistics plans developed for all PICS by the end of 2012.	10 PICTS, end of 2012
2-2.1.2: TA/training to countries to produce priority economic statistics identified in these plans	8 PICS are producing key economic statistics identified by these plans, from administrative databases by the end of 2014.	Good progress. Definition of this indicator an issue. ie. 'key'

Table C3: Balance of Payments Manual in use - BOPM5 or 6 is in use

Country	2009	2010	2011	2012
Fiji	No	No	Yes	Yes
Kiribati	No	No	No	Yes
Marshall Islands	No	No	No	Yes
Micronesia, Fed. Sts. of	No	No	No	Yes
Palau	No	No	No	No
Papua New Guinea	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Samoa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Solomon Islands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tonga	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vanuatu	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: World Bank Statistical Capacity Index

Table C4: National accounts base year is less than 10 years old

Country	2009	2010	2011	2012
Fiji	No	No	Yes	Yes
Kiribati	No	No	Yes	Yes
Marshall Islands	No	No	No	Yes
Micronesia, Fed. Sts. of	Yes	No	No	Yes
Palau	No	No	No	No
Papua New Guinea	Yes	No	No	No
Samoa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Solomon Islands	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tonga	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vanuatu	No	No	Yes	Yes

Source: World Bank Statistical Capacity Index

Table C5: CPI weights reference period used is less than 10 years old

Country	2009	2010	2011	2012
Fiji	No	No	Yes	Yes
Kiribati	No	No	No	No
Marshall Islands	No	No	No	Yes
Micronesia, Fed. Sts. of	No	No	No	Yes
Palau	No	No	No	No
Papua New Guinea	No	No	No	No
Samoa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Solomon Islands	No	No	Yes	Yes
Tonga	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vanuatu	Yes	No	Yes	No

Source: World Bank Statistical Capacity Index

Table C6: Objective 2, 2.1.2-2.3 Outputs, Targets and Achievements

Output	Planned / Target	Achieved
2-2.2 Vital Statistics. TA/training to countries with weak / incomplete registration systems to produce reliable birth and death statistics	9 PICS with functioning civil registration systems by end of 2014.	10 countries were developing their own vital statistics improvement plans with specific actions 10 engaged in medical certification training with their doctors. 2 countries were implementing policy changes to adopt the WHO International Cause-of-Death Certificate and 1 country is producing a comprehensive vital statistics report
2-2.3 Health Statistics. TA/training to countries to develop plans to improve regular collection and dissemination of health statistics	Situational assessment (gap analysis) and development of appropriate actions plans for all PICS by end of 2012	Involvement in Pacific Health Information Network (PHIN). NCD element in BAG follow-on proposal. Health focus planned for 2013-14. Numerous UN activities in addition to situation analysis
2-2.2. Education Statistics TA/training to countries to develop plans to improve regular collection and dissemination of education statistics	Situational assessment (gap analysis) and development of appropriate actions plans for all PICS by end of 2012.	Good progress. Proposal from regional workshop for EMIS, EMIS TA for Samoa and Solomon's, module for household survey, MORTPAK training for population projections. Numerous UN activities in addition to situation analysis
Output 2-3: Improved Statistical Products – Annual report by PICTS on indicators relating to NMDI, MDG and GDSS	Half of PICs will be reporting against agreed set of NMDI and MDG 1-6 by 2012;	Sound progress. SPC is supporting annual reporting by PICTS on indicators relating to NMDI, Pacific Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose. Additional UN activities to M&E indicator in TYPSS.

Table C7: Objective 3, Outputs, Targets and Achievements

Output	Planned / Target	Achieved
<p>3-1: NSS have staff with skills to undertake core and specialist statistical functions, commensurate with size of country and NSO.</p> <p>3-2: NSS have staff with skills to undertake core statistical functions</p> <p>3-3: Larger NSS have staff with skills to undertake specialist statistical functions</p>	<p>Skill audit and development of long-term training and professional development strategy Documented skill improvement</p>	<p>Needs attention. The terms of reference for the Technical Working Group (TWG) on statistical training and formation and long-term training and professional development strategy depends on the results of the skills audit</p> <p>Needs attention. No PSSC summary of quality of training assessed by :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participant rating of course content, design, or teaching standards • post-training assessment of individual and organizational gains <p>Importance of accreditation – discussed with USP</p>
<p>3-4: The region has a pool of national staff with specialist statistical skills, which is being deployed to NSS lacking such skills</p>	<p>Number of NSS staff with specialist skills suitable for regional deployment, and number of deployments</p>	<p>Needs attention. Skills audit tabled at PSSC 6.</p> <p>Cases of deployment documented. Examples include Vanuatu statisticians helping the Cook Islands and Solomon Islands with scanning for the census, and Samoa assisting Tuvalu with field management support census field work and Niue in the compilation of their national accounts. PFTAC Report to PSSC Meeting 4 noted that Samoa hosted two staff on attachment from Vanuatu, seeking to learn from Samoa’s experience of compiling QNA</p>
<p>3-5: NSS have the organizational capacity (adequate staff numbers and management skills) to sustain ongoing statistical operations</p>	<p>Documented organizational capacity and management skill improvement</p>	<p>The ABS mentoring program has been designed to build leadership capacity of Pacific Government Statisticians in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Fiji Needs attention. Organizational capacity audit by Head of NSO, with baseline established in 2011 (to be calibrated against NSDS, statistical Master plans)</p>

Table C8: Objective 4, Outputs, Targets and Achievements

Output	Planned / Target	Achieved
<p>4-1: National, regional and international users have increased access to user-friendly statistical information systems and databases across key sectors</p>	<p>Progressive roll-out of PRISM upgrade by 2014 – including, automated national data uploads; interactive table-builder and regional mapping facility Redevelopment of SPC PopGIS</p>	<p>Good progress. Upgrade completed. Activities undertaken by SPC include template selection and basic training in article creation and online document management. Table builder functionality complete for 4 latest censuses and mapping. Needs attention. Test installer compiled, key functionalities implemented, and access to online census data for several test countries. Open source coding not achieved.</p>
<p>Output 4-2: Increased utilization of national and regional statistics by data users</p>	<p>Development of statistical advocacy strategies and materials to mainstream importance of evidence-based decision making into public domain and conscience</p> <p>Deliver statistical advocacy training to key data user groups (including elected officials, senior public servants, media) Train/educate statisticians to become better communicators and champions</p>	<p>Key developments for increasing utilization of national and regional statistics included seminars in making micro-data more accessible and establishment of a working group to develop guidelines for micro-data usage Statistical advocacy strategies and materials to mainstream evidence-based decision making into the public domain need attention</p> <p>A small pool of statisticians has been trained to become better communicators and champions. For example, in June 2012, ABS facilitated a workshop in Vanuatu to support the VNSO in strengthening their role in leading statistics in their country. The ABS also delivered the workshop ‘Statistics for Evidence Based Policy’ in Fiji and Vanuatu</p>

Table C8: Objective 4 (cont), Outputs, Targets and Achievements

Output	Planned / Target	Achieved
Output 4-2: Increased utilization of national and regional statistics by data users (cont)	Conduct regular data user workshops after completion of major statistical collections	Stats NZ have run a data analysis course in Tonga with the assistance of the Victorian University. The review team were provided examples of data analysis training, such as the SPC short course which targets middle level staff who work with statistical data and is run in association with HIES collections and ABS policy/evidence analysis. Longer term 'on-the-job' training required. Several stakeholders pointed to the importance of providing analysis on issues such as climate change, food security and risk management. Data analysis training could be provided for the calculation of key indicators for these issues. Example of UNFPA /SPC – previous project 'Integrating Population Factors into Policy' - mix training and national counterparts. Demand guided by priorities set out in NSDS

Table C9: Objective 5, Outputs, Targets and Achievements

Output	Planned / Target	Achieved
5-1: New multi-indicator household survey	Peer review approval of methodology by 2012, and endorsement by pilot country	Good progress. Vanuatu Multi Development Indicator Hybrid survey, it was successfully tested in 2012-2013 with ongoing SPC technical support, with data currently being reviewed before being analyzed later this year.
5-2: Development and use of common tools for statistical collections	Regional signoff of on core set of census questions in 2011 Regional signoff of on redeveloped HIES questionnaire, 2012	Census achieved. Records of Pacific Statistical Steering Committee (SSC) meeting, 2011 SPC has submitted standardised HIES Income/Expenditure forms to the World Bank's International Household Survey Network (IHSN) for review and comments have been received. AusAID noted, at PSSC 4, that the PSSC has a policy of constituting formal peer reviews of all new activity designs such as HIES methodologies to obtain independent advice on these proposals. The ABS is collaborating with SPC on the development of a best-practice Pacific Business Register Manual. The manual will be based on the operations of the Fiji Islands

Table C9: Objective 5 (cont), Outputs, Targets and Achievements

Output	Planned / Target	Achieved
5-3: Adoption of new technology for improved data collection and dissemination	<p>All PICTS (except for small island states) using GPS technology for upcoming census and surveys</p> <p>Large PICTS using automated data capture (scanning) for census and surveys</p> <p>Develop and test PDA (portable digital assistant) survey applications in PICTs (time savings documented)</p>	<p>GPS adoption has been successful in Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. These countries now have an established geo-referenced database of GPS location of dwellings</p> <p>Vanuatu, Solomon Island, Tuvalu, Cook Islands and Samoa have adopted automated data capture as part of surveys and in some scanning of arrival/departure cards.</p> <p>An evaluation of PDA suitability was undertaken as part of the 2012 Tuvalu census</p>

Table C10: Objective 6, Outputs, Targets and Achievements

Output	Planned / Target	Achieved
6-1: PICs have established national statistical advisory committees	Committees established in all PICS in conjunction with development of statistical Master Plan or NSDS	<p>NSDS in Samoa.</p> <p>ABS ran the Leading a National Statistical Office Workshop in 2011. Ten NSOs were representatives with a total of 17 participants. The ABS has trialed a leadership mentoring program with the senior statisticians from Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands NSOs</p>
6-2: All PICs have a approved statistical master plan or NSDS	<p>Finalize draft statistical master plans for 5 PICTS (FSM, Nauru, Kiribati, Guam, CNMI)</p> <p>With Paris21 in develop NSDS for PNG, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Solomon Islands</p>	<p>A number of PICTs have a statistical master plan, but only Samoa has an NSDS. A number of PICTs have a statistical master plan, but only Samoa has an NSDS. PNG: currently at design stage, Samoa: implementing, Fiji: deferred to 2014, Tonga: Joint Paris21/SPC NSDS design mission, 24-28 June 2013, Vanuatu Joint Paris21/SPC NSDS design mission, 17– 21 June 2013</p> <p>The NSDS process has the aims of establishing mechanisms for consultation with all the main statistical stakeholders and setting out an agreed statement of what governments and other stakeholders want from the statistical system at some point in the future</p>

Table C10 (cont): Objective 6, Outputs, Targets and Achievements

Output	Planned / Target	Achieved
<p>Output 6-3 The Pacific Statistics Steering Committee is advising on, and monitoring the implementation of the 10-Year Pacific Regional Statistics Strategy</p>	<p>Provide effective and efficient technical secretariat to Pacific Statistical Steering committee twice a year.</p> <p>Regularity of meetings</p> <p>Quality of technical briefing papers provided.</p> <p>Quality of committee work</p>	<p>The PSSC is advising on, and monitoring, the implementation of TYPSS. A framework was developed for regular monitoring of TYPSS. This framework could be improved, as progress against targets could be better outlined, along with resource allocation across member countries.</p> <p>Key Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -independent secretariat -communications support -reporting to HOPs and accountability to Pacific Ministers -meeting structure - focus of discussion on operational issues -policy guidance – peer review, expert committees

Annex D: Statistical Capacity Indicator

Domains of the statistical indicator²⁵.

Countries are rated against each of the following criteria

Indicator	Target	Value
1. Statistical Methodology		
1. National accounts base year	Within last 10 years or annual chain linking	Full 1 mark for target, or zero
2. Balance of payments manual in use	Balance of Payments Manual, the fifth edition	
3. External debt reporting status	Actual or preliminary	
4. Consumer Price Index base year	Within last 10 years or annual chain linking	
5. Industrial production index	Produced and available from IMF	
6. Import/export prices	Produced and available from IMF	
7. Government finance accounting concept	Consolidated central government accounts	
8. Enrolment reporting to UNESCO	Annual or missed reporting only once in the last 4 years	
9. Vaccine reporting to WHO	Nationally reported data on measles vaccine coverage consistent with WHO estimates	
10. IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard	Subscribed	
2. Source Data		
1. Periodicity of population census	≤10 years, for 1	Full 1 mark for less than periodic threshold
2. Periodicity of agricultural census	≤10 years	
3. Periodicity of poverty related surveys (IES, LSMS, etc.)	≤3 years	≤5 years, ½ mark

²⁵ Taken from World Bank (2013) Statistical Capacity Indicator, Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity: <http://www.worldbank.org/data/bbsc>

Indicator	Target	Value
4. Periodicity of health related surveys (DHS, MICS, Priority survey, etc)	≤3 years	≤5 years, ½ mark
5. Completeness of vital registration system		
3. Periodicity and Timeliness		
1. Periodicity of income poverty indicator	≤3 years	Full 1 mark for less than periodic threshold
2. Periodicity of child malnutrition indicator	≤3 years	
3. Periodicity of child mortality indicator	National or international estimates available	
4. Periodicity of Immunization indicator	Annual	
5. HIV/AIDS indicator	National or international estimates available for at least one year out of the last 3 years	
6. Periodicity of maternal health indicator	≤3 years	
7. Periodicity of gender equality in education indicator	Observed for at least 5 out of 5 latest years	
8. Primary completion indicator	Observed for at least 5 out of 5 latest years	
9. Access to water indicator	Observed for 2 out of 6 latest years	
10. Periodicity of GDP growth indicator	Annual	

Annex E: Major Statistical Collections 2012 - 2017

(Prepared by Gerald Haberkorn, SPC, 25 Sep 2012)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES									
MELANESIA									
Papua New Guinea		DHS	Ag Census	HIES					CEN
Fiji	DHS (2012-13)	HIES (2013-14)	LFS (2014-2015)			CENSUS			
Solomon Islands	HIES		DHS					CEN	
Vanuatu	Living	DHS-MICS	Business/AG survey	HIES	Ag			CEN	
MICRONESIA									
Kiribati		HIES	DHS	CENSUS					CEN
Federated States of Marshall Islands	mini-							CEN	
Nauru	HIES		Business/LFS		Ag-Fish	DHS			
Palau				CENSUS					CEN
POLYNESIA									
Samoa	Livestock	HIES	DHS	LFS	CENSUS				
	Tourism	Business/AG survey							
Tuvalu	CENSUS		Business/LFS	HIES	Ag-Fish	DHS			
Cook Islands		HIES			CENSUS				
Niue		HIES (2013-14)			CENSUS				
		Visitor/Tourism S							
Tokelau			HIES		CENSUS +				
Tonga	DHS	Ag Census	LFS	HIES	CENSUS				

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
PACIFIC ISLAND TERRITORIES									
New Caledonia									
Guam	Economic	Ag Census							CEN
Northern Mariana Islands	Economic	Ag Census Health Survey							CEN
French Polynesia									
Pitcairn Islands									
Wallis and Futuna									
American Samoa			Ag Census	HIES					CEN

Annex F: Statistical Capacity Indicator, 2006 - 2012

(<http://bbsc.worldbank.org/bbsc>) – Scale 0-100

Country	2006				2007				2008			
	T	M	S	P	T	M	S	P	T	M	S	P
Fiji	56	40	40	87	52	40	40	77	52	40	40	77
Kiribati	37	20	20	70	37	20	20	70	36	20	20	67
Marshall Islands	32	10	30	57	37	10	40	60	41	10	50	63
FSM	31	20	20	53	31	20	20	53	34	30	20	53
Palau	39	20	40	57	34	10	40	53	34	10	40	53
Papua New Guinea	52	60	30	67	48	50	30	63	44	50	20	63
Samoa	52	40	50	67	50	40	50	60	51	40	50	63
Solomon Islands	32	20	20	57	32	20	20	57	31	20	20	53
Tonga	52	40	60	57	57	50	60	60	58	50	60	63
Vanuatu	51	60	20	73	49	50	30	67	59	60	50	67
IDA	61	48	57	79	62	48	57	80	61	46	58	80
EAP	73	63	71	85	73	65	69	86	73	65	68	85
Country	2009				2010				2011			
	T	M	S	P	T	M	S	P	T	M	S	P
Fiji	56	40	50	77	52	20	60	77	69	50	80	77
Kiribati	33	10	20	70	37	20	20	70	38	30	20	63
Marshall Islands	41	10	50	63	41	10	50	63	47	20	50	70
FSM	34	30	20	53	28	10	20	53	28	10	20	53
Palau	34	10	40	53	34	10	40	53	30	0	40	50
Papua New Guinea	49	60	20	67	41	40	20	63	38	30	20	63
Samoa	53	60	40	60	49	50	40	57	49	50	40	57
Solomon Islands	34	30	20	53	40	50	20	50	42	50	20	57
Tonga	59	60	60	57	59	50	70	57	59	50	70	57
Vanuatu	57	60	50	60	42	30	40	57	54	60	40	63
IDA	62	45	59	81	63	47	59	82	63	47	59	82
EAP	72	63	68	85	71	58	69	85	71	60	69	84

2012				
Country	T	M	S	P
Fiji	70	50	80	80
Kiribati	38	30	20	63
Marshall Islands	53	50	50	60
FSM	31	40	0	53
Palau	33	10	40	50
Papua New Guinea	38	30	20	63
Samoa	51	60	40	53
Solomon Islands	41	50	20	53
Tonga	59	50	70	57
Vanuatu	49	40	40	67
IDA	62	47	58	82
EAP	69	55	69	83

T = Overall Total

M = Methodology

S = Source Data

P = Periodicity & Timeliness