

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

REGIONAL MEETING OF HEADS OF PLANNING AND HEADS OF STATISTICS (HOPS)  
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 22–26 July 2013)

**Session 3: Report on South-South technical collaboration**

(Document presented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. Recognizing that *Small Island Developing States* (SIDS) national statistical agencies face great difficulties to recruit and retain specialists technical staff across all major statistical subject matter areas, the *Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy* (TYPSS) advocates making greater use of South-South type technical collaboration between *Pacific Island Countries and Territories* (PICTs) statistical agencies, where recognized specialists statistical skills in one office is deployed to an *National Statistics Office* (NSO) lacking such skills (*Pacific Statistics Action Plan, Phase 1, Output 3-4*).

**Key Achievements**

2. As outlined in Table 1, and with the main focus on NSO-NSO collaboration, SPC has managed five deployments of national staff from Samoa (2), Vanuatu (2) and Fiji (1) to assist NSOs with census operational matters (train staff/supervise electronic data capture, Cook Islands; provide census field management support to Tuvalu Census commissioner), and in economic statistics (compilation of national accounts, Niue; setting up Business Register, PNG).
3. SPC has also made use of national technical expertise from these countries to assist *Statistics for Development Division* (SDD) staff in sub-regional training assignments (co-facilitate regional training in consumer prices), producing a census and household survey (how-to-do) guide, and invited national staff from FSM to join a combined technical assistance mission with SPC, to train them in a specific methodology (CRVS Rapid Assessments), so they can subsequently undertake such assignment themselves.

**Main Challenges faced**

4. Sourcing specific but rare technical expertise (e.g. advanced data processing/programming skills; data analysis/interpretation) or deploying expertise at the time required by requesting NSOs. This is a particular challenge when potential supplier and client NSOs are involved at the same time in the same activities, such as is the case with population and housing censuses, with up to ten countries regularly scheduled to undertake these operations within a 12–18 months period.

**Proposed way forward/Recommendations**

5. Based on combined experience by SPC and other providers of statistical technical assistance (including PFTAC, ABS, Brisbane Accord Group agencies) over recent years, and informed by the recent Skills audit, finalize compilation of a list of NSOs subject matter expertise by the end of 2013, which can be called upon for short-term south-south type technical deployments.



**Table 1: South-South technical collaboration – NSO to NSO, 2012 - 2013**

South-South National expertise – national solutions	Period	Location	Supervisory SDD staff	Activity	Outcome
Mr Rara Soro (Vanuatu)	18 Feb – 2 March 2012	Cook Islands	Phil Bright	Scanning of CK Island Population census (spread over two assignments): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setup and test form definitions for individual and housing questionnaires</li> <li>• set up, and test validation checks</li> <li>• Trained scan operators and verifiers</li> <li>• Supervise scanning/verification process</li> <li>• Developed Access database to assist with recoding open-ended “other” questions</li> </ul>	Data processing deadlines were met, resulting in final dataset allowing production of Cook Island census tables.
Mr Rara Soro (Vanuatu)	11 April – 12 May 2012	Cook Islands	Phil Bright	2 <sup>nd</sup> part of assignment – continue tasks spelled out above.	(see above)
Mr Aliielua Salani (Samoa)	7 – 14 July 2012	Niue	Alick Nyasulu	Compilation of National Accounts	2012 National Accounts Estimates report submitted to, and accepted by Niue Government
Ms Malaefono Taua (Samoa)	4 Nov – 6 Dec 2012	Tuvalu	Arthur Jorari	Provide field management support to Tuvalu census commissioner during census enumeration	Fieldwork flow and receipts process and quality control process in place and implemented.
Mr Rajnesh Narayan (Fiji)	11 – 23 Feb 2013	PNG	Nilima Lal	To set up the Business Register and providing training to staff on using and maintaining it.	PNG Report submitted to SPC.

**Table 2: South-South technical collaboration – NSO to Regional, 2012 - 2013**

South-South National expertise – regional solutions	Period	Location	Supervisory SDD staff	Activity	Outcome
Mr Benuel Lenge (Vanuatu)	10 Oct – 4 Nov 2011	Noumea	Arthur Jorari	To produce a census / survey Guide under the guidance of the demographer	Second edition of the draft Pacific Census Managers Guide finalised for peer review.
Mr Aliielua Salani (Samoa)	31 Oct – 4 Nov 2011	Nadi	Alick Nyasulu	Co-facilitating a Regional Workshop on consumer prices under guidance of the Economic Statistician.	Workshop report on consumer price indices produced, data quality assessments for CPI completed
Mr Ben Jesse (FSM)	7 – 12 Nov 2012	Chuuk and Kosrae	Karen Carter	Undertake Rapid Assessment, and develop plan for strengthening VS/CR development. SPC has committed to helping Pacific Island Countries to improve their routine collection (registration), management, analysis and use of vital statistics on births, deaths and causes of death.	Assessment completed in collaboration with National HIS staff.
Mr Siocy Soaz (FSM)	3 – 7 Dec 2012	Yap	Karen Carter	(see Chuuk/Kosrae mission)	(see Chuuk/Kosrae)