

## INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE PACIFIC STATISTICS METHODS BOARD 3-4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

### AN UPDATE ON REGIONAL STATISTICS ACTIVITIES AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM - Paper 4

#### 1. THE TEN YEAR PACIFIC STATISTICS STRATEGY 2010-2020 (TYPSS)

Recognising the constraints and challenges facing PICTs in their statistical development the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) was formulated. This was funded by Australia and came into effect in 2010. The overall objectives of TYPSS focus on improving PICT national data collection activities including coordinated data collection technical support, and standardised tools, methods, systems and processes. In its first two phases (2010-2017), TYPSS gave high priority to ensuring that high-quality data, conforming to international standards, were being collected on a timely basis.

Despite significant progress towards these objectives in its first two phases, a number of significant challenges remained. Prominent amongst these was that many PICTs continued to conduct unplanned statistical collections that were often driven by funding availability and funder-agendas rather than in accordance with their planned national collection cycles. These ad hoc and unplanned collections often result in an inefficient allocation of scarce NSO resources and potentially undermine data quality and comparability.

Furthermore, conducting unplanned statistical collections creates challenges for technical assistance providers (including SPC-SDD) because they require urgent reallocation of scarce TA resources to support the NSO. In addition, unplanned and ad hoc collections inhibit the ability of partners working within the TYPSS framework to plan, mobilise resources and coordinate technical assistance activities in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

#### 2. REGIONAL STATISTICS ACTIVITIES AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

In order to minimise the above constraints it was agreed by the Regional Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) meeting in 2017 that there was a need for a stronger statistical collection coordinating mechanism<sup>1</sup>. Such a mechanism would aim to: a) align collection activities conducted by PICTs with work plans and funding cycles of technical assistance providers and donor funding sources, and b) to seek the agreement of all partners to work within this framework. It was recognised that in certain circumstances one-off collections might be required in response to emergencies or specific events. But these would be accommodated in an open and transparent manner and in consultation with relevant partners.

In furtherance of this, the TYPSS Mid-Term Evaluation (2016) recommended that the SPC-SDD should take on the role of coordinating technical partners, donors and member countries in the planning and management of statistical collections in the region. This would ensure a more coordinated approach to providing technical support and financial resources to statistics for development in the Pacific.

Significant progress has been made with development and donor partners in formalising partnership agreements or in strengthening cooperation. Three main donors to Pacific statistics for development are: Australia, New Zealand and the World Bank. Core technical partners: SPC, PFTAC, Statistics NZ, Australian Bureau of Statistics; UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCAP, UNSIAP), FAO and ILO. The following

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*1 Supporting Statistical Collections through Coordinated Partnerships and a 5-Year Plan; SPC/HOPS 2017/Session 7 – Working Paper 5; 5th Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS), (Noumea, New Caledonia, 14-16 November 2017)*

Annexes presented detail information on upcoming regional statistics activities and partnership program in the region.

Annex1A: Proposed partnership in the provision of technical support to member countries when running core national statistics collection.

Annex 1B: Lead agencies in providing technical support to each of the key economic statistics.

Annex 2A: 5-Year Data Collection Program (2018-2022)

Annex 2B: PFTAC Work Plan for Economic Statistics (2018-2022)

Annex 3: Estimated Cost of Conducting the 5-Year Data Collection Program

### 3. FUTURE OUTLOOK AND DATA DISSEMINATION

One of the remaining challenges for PICTs is to ensure that their national data is incorporated into the global databases of the UN system, World Bank and ADB. The establishment of the Methods Board will help to give confidence to the global agencies that Pacific data meets global standards. As indicated by the UN Human Development Report Office (UNHDRO) their data is taken from the UN mandated agencies – education data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics; life expectancy, adolescent birth rates, and population numbers from UN Population Division; and gross national income per capita from the World Bank and UN Statistics Division etc. According to UNHDRO, these agencies have the mandate and capacity to collect data from national statistical offices, to compile, verify and disseminate the data by means of their publically accessible databases. In this way, data are comparable across countries and across time in a transparent way. According to UNHDRO, they always advise NSOs to communicate with these UN entities so that the most recent national data are featured in the international databases.

However, this is clearly not happening as the PICTs are supposedly lacking data on many of the core UNHDRO indicators. But in fact the data is available, it is not being adequately disseminated; and the UN agencies are not doing much themselves to look for the data e.g. on PRISM or in the NMDI database. Moreover, the findings of the User Focus Survey undertaken by SPC-SDD in 2017, indicated that improved access and the ability to interrogate Pacific data were amongst the most important criteria for those who used SPC-SDD's current web-sites and databases. These are areas where stronger support and partnership is required between the NSOs, SPC-SDD and the UN and other international agencies. To this end SPC is currently embarking on two major data dissemination projects: i) an SPC corporate data portal, and ii) an improved and scaled-up SDD statistical indicator database with data explorer capability.

The new SPC-SDD web-site and platform will provide detailed metadata for all available datasets and enable easy access to the data through a visual data explorer, and via machine-to-machine transfer. Wherever possible the data available in the indicator database will be curated and verified through quality assurance checks based on the standards set by the Methods Board, in line with global best-practice. Key datasets such as the 132 Pacific Core SDGs, and an improved replacement for the popular National Minimum Development Indicator database<sup>2</sup> will be accessible directly through the main SPC data-portal, which will then link to the SPC-SDD indicator database for additional functionality.

The new SPC-SDD website-redevelopment, the preparation of the data and its uploading into the new web-site will require some additional resources for SPC-SDD. Improving access to data, improving the quality of data and the wider dissemination of both data and analyses, will lead to greater use of the data for policy and academic research, and will ultimately lead to better development outcomes for all the people of the Pacific region.

### 4. RECOMMENDATION

That the Board note this paper.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.spc.int/nmdi](http://www.spc.int/nmdi)

<b>Annex 1A: Service proposition of technical assistance providers in different phases of a statistical collection</b>							
<b>STATISTICAL ACTIVITY PHASE</b>	<b>PHC</b>	<b>HIES</b>	<b>DHS*</b>	<b>MICS*</b>	<b>Disability*</b>	<b>Agriculture*</b>	<b>LFS*</b>
Collection design, budgeting and planning	UNFPA, SDD, ABS, SNZ	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	FAO, SDD	ILO, SDD
Questionnaire design and user engagement	UNFPA, SDD, ABS, SNZ	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD, WG	FAO, SDD	ILO, SDD
Collection cartography and household listing	SDD, UNFPA	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	SDD, UNICEF	SDD, UNICEF	FAO, SDD	SDD, ILO
Selection of data capture and processing technology	SDD, UNFPA	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	SDD, UNICEF	SDD, UNICEF	FAO, SDD	SDD, ILO
Field work training and management	SDD, UNFPA	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD, WG	FAO, SDD	ILO, SDD
Data processing and cleaning	SDD, UNFPA	SDD, WB	SDD, UNFPA, UNICEF	SDD, UNICEF	SDD, UNICEF	SDD, FAO	SDD, ILO
Secondary data assurance	UNFPA, SDD, ABS, SNZ	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD, WG	FAO, SDD	ILO, SDD
Data archiving and anonymisation	SDD	SDD	SDD	SDD	SDD	SDD	SDD
Data analysis, dissemination and use	UNFPA, SDD, ABS, SNZ	SDD, WB, PFTAC, ABS	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD, WG	FAO, SDD	ILO, SDD
* indicates that the Statistics for Development Division's services are provided on a cost-recovery basis							
The order of technical partner proposes the leader for the activity for within each statistical collection.							
ABS= Australian Bureau of Statistics, FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization, ILO = International Labour Organization, PFTAC = Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center, PHC = population and housing census, SDD = Statistics for Development Division, SNZ = Statistics New Zealand, UNFPA = United Nations Development Fund, UNICEF = United Nations Children's Fund, WB = World Bank, WG = Washington Group							

**Annex 1B: Areas of Lead and Secondary Technical Assistance Responsibility in Economic Statistics : Summary Table**

	ABS	ADB	IMF/ PFTAC	IMF/ TAOLAM	IMF HQ	SPC	SNZ	US Graduate School	UNSD/ ESCAP	SIAP	USP
<b>Institutional setting</b>											
Strategic planning for Economic Statistics (National strategy for the development of statistics)		S	S	S	S	L		S			v
Economic Data dissemination	S	S	S	S	L	L		S			
<b>Statistical Infrastructure</b>											
Setting-up of statistical business registers	S		S			L		S	S	v	
Regional standards and classifications	S		S			L		S			v
Inter-agency data sharing			L	L	L	S		S			
<b>Prices and costs</b>											
Consumer Price Index	S	S	S		v	L	S	S		v	v
Producer Price Index	S		S		v	L		S			v
Trade Price Index	S		S		v	L		S	S		v
<b>Demand and output</b>											
National Accounts	S	S	L		v	S	S	S	S	v	v
International Merchandise Trade Statistics						L	S	S	S		v
<b>Income and wealth</b>											
External Sector Statistics (Balance of payments, International investment position (IIP) and External debt)			L	L	v			S			v
<b>Money and banking</b>											
Monetary Statistics (Broad money and credit aggregates)			L					S			v
<b>Government</b>											
Government Finance Statistics (General government operations and General government debt)	S		L		v			S			v
<b>Natural resources and the environment</b>											
Environmental Economic Accounting (Natural resources)			S						L	v	v
<b>Number of staff</b>	*	5	5	3	n/a	2	1	2	5	4	4
L=Lead agency; S=supporting agency											
v= discipline in which learning opportunities are provided											
* Mix of economic statisticians work in the region and other ABS staff assist in conjunction with their domestic work program											
Source: Coordination paper on Technical Assistance on Pacific Core Set of Economic Statistics for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories											

**Annex 2A: Five Year Statistical Collections Programme; PICT Summary 2018 - 2022**

<b>PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>MELANESIA</b>					
Papua New Guinea		HIES	CENSUS		
Fiji	MICS	HIES	EUS		HH LISTING
Solomon Islands	LFS, VRS, AGR BIG FARM	CENSUS			HIES
Vanuatu	NSDP		CENSUS		
<b>MICRONESIA</b>					
Kiribati	DHS/MICS	HIES	CENSUS	AGR	LFS
Fed. States of Micronesia	HIES		CENSUS	DHS/MICS	
Marshall Islands	HIES			CENSUS	
Nauru	MINI CENSUS	MICS/DHS	LFS	CENSUS	HIES
Palau	HIES		CENSUS		
Guam	AGR	DHS			
CNMI	HEALTH SURVEY, HH Listing	AGR / LFS	CENSUS	LFS / HIES	HH LISTING
<b>POLYNESIA</b>					
American Samoa	HEALTH SURVEY	AGR	CENSUS		
Samoa	HIES	MICS/DHS, AGR	LFS	CENSUS	
Tuvalu		DHS/MICS	DISABILITY	HIES	CENSUS
Cook Islands	LFS			CENSUS	
Niue		AGR			CENSUS
Tokelau		HIES / MINI CENSUS		CENSUS	
Tonga	LFS / DISAB	MICS	HIES	CENSUS / DHS	AGR
<b>FRENCH TERRITORIES</b>					
Wallis and Futuna	CENSUS	HIES, ICT	ICT		
New Caledonia	HIES	CENSUS	DHS		
French Polynesia					CENSUS
		POP CENSUS			
		HIES			
		MICS / DHS			
		OTHER SURVEYS			

## Annex 2B: PFTAC Workplan for Economic Statistics 2018 -2020

Provisional: Work is done on a request basis																						
Country	2018								2019						2020							
	National Accounts	External Sector	Gov Finance	Prices	IMTS workshop	IMTS TA	Business Stats	Regional Tables	National Accounts	External Sector	Gov Finance	Prices	IMTS TA	Business Stats	Regional Tables	National Accounts	External Sector	Gov Finance	Prices	IMTS TA	Business Stats	Regional Tables
American Samoa																						
Cook Islands																						
Federated States of Micronesia																						
Fiji Islands																						
French Polynesia																						
Guam																						
Kiribati																						
Marshall Islands																						
Nauru																						
New Caledonia																						
Niue																						
Northern Mariana Islands																						
Palau																						
Papua New Guinea																						
Pitcairn																						
Samoa																						
Solomon Islands																						
Timor Leste	(i)								(i)							(i)						
Tokelau	(i)								(i)							(i)						
Tonga																						
Tuvalu																						
Vanuatu																						
Wallis and Futuna																						
TA Providers: IMF (PFTAC/TAOLAM/HQ) and SPC																						
In Country																						
Remote TA																						
(i) Invitation to PFTAC workshops/remote asst																						

### Annex 3: Estimated Cost of Conducting the Five Year Statistical Collections Programme; PICT Summary 2018 - 2022 US\$

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total Cost by Country
<b>MELANESIA</b>	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Papua New Guinea		42,000,000	84,000,000			126,000,000
Fiji	7,650,000	5,100,000	5,100,000		2,550,000	20,400,000
Solomon Islands	10,500,000	8,400,000			4,200,000	23,100,000
Vanuatu	900,000		3,600,000			4,500,000
<b>MICRONESIA</b>						
Kiribati	1,380,000	690,000	1,380,000	1,380,000	345,000	5,175,000
Fed. States of Micronesia	630,000		1,260,000	1,260,000		3,150,000
Marshall Islands	330,000			660,000		990,000
Nauru	66,000	132,000	66,000	132,000	66,000	462,000
Palau	108,000		216,000			324,000
Guam	2,220,000	1,665,000				3,885,000
CNMI	522,000	696,000	696,000	522,000	174,000	2,610,000
<b>POLYNESIA</b>						
American Samoa	360,000	720,000	720,000			1,800,000
Samoa	1,140,000	2,280,000	570,000	2,280,000		6,270,000
Tuvalu		132,000	33,000	66,000	132,000	363,000
Cook Islands	45,000			180,000		225,000
Niue		18,000			18,000	36,000
Tokelau		10,800		14,400		25,200
Tonga	630,000	945,000	630,000	1,890,000	1,260,000	5,355,000
<b>FRENCH TERRITORIES</b>						
Wallis and Futuna	144,000	72,000	36,000			252,000
New Caledonia	1,650,000	3,300,000	2,475,000			7,425,000
French Polynesia					3,300,000	3,300,000
<b>Estimated Total Cost by Year</b>	<b>28,275,000</b>	<b>66,160,800</b>	<b>100,782,000</b>	<b>8,384,400</b>	<b>12,045,000</b>	<b>215,647,200</b>
General Assumptions						
Population & Housing Census/Agriculture Census: Pro-forma cost US\$12 per capita national population (100% cost factor)						
DHS/MICS/Mini-Census: Pro-forma cost US\$9 per capita national population (75% cost factor)						
HIES/LFS/Mini-census: Pro-forma cost US\$6 per capita national population (50% cost factor)						
Disability/ICT/HH listing: pro-forma cost US\$3 per capita national population (25% cost factor)						