



4th Regional Conference of Heads of Statistics and Planning (HOPS)
4^e Conférence régionale des directeurs des services statistique et planification

Conference Report
22-26 July 2013

Implementation of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, Phase-1

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Executive Summary

During 22-26 July, Heads of Planning and Statistics convened at SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia for their fourth triennial meeting. Representatives from the National Statistics Organisations, planning offices, and some line ministries of 19 Pacific Island Countries and Territories attended the five-day conference. Representatives from 15 development partners (technical assistance providers and other international organisations) also attended the event.

The conference was organised around three main themes:

1. Review SPC Statistics for Development Division's implementation of its 2010-2013 work programme in delivering agreed-upon outputs and outcomes associated with *Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy*, Phase-1 objectives;
2. Review the independent external mid-term review of Phase-1 of the *Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy* implementation, and recommend follow-up actions, particularly regarding design of Phase-2 (2015-2017); and
3. Discussion of pressing and emerging policy challenges impacting statistical activities.

In addition to the *Mid-term Review* report, the conference considered 17 working papers, 12 information papers, and 7 other documents (for example, a proposed set of gender indicators for PICTs, an assessment of regional tourism statistics, workshop reviews, and briefings from Australian Bureau of Statistics on their collaboration with AusAID on statistics technical assistance and on their Pacific Leadership Program). Country representatives, SPC-SDD staff, and development partners gave presentations based on these documents. Additional presentations provided country-specific accounts to demonstrate the implementation of programs, the state of statistics in the region, and to elaborate on global statistics initiatives (such as PARIS21).

The conference concluded with the participants accepting 59 recommendations and 40 action points (see Appendix 1) for implementation during the upcoming three-year cycle of the Regional Conference of Heads of Statistics and Planning (2013-2016). Of those, three recommendations and five action points had resource or budget implications for the implementing countries or development partners.

The conference participants also accepted for implementation the 12 recommendations from the *Mid-term Review of Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan Phase-1* (see Appendix 2), also acknowledging additional resource implications for some of these recommendations.

4th Regional Conference of Heads of Statistics and Planning — Conference Report
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 22 - 26 July, 2013)

DAY 1: 22 July 2013

Opening Remarks

Dr Jimmie Rodgers, SPC Director General, opened the conference by welcoming participants, partner organisations, and observers to SPC and thanking the donors for making the conference possible. He also thanked the outgoing Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) Chair, Mr Sefuiva Reupena Muagututia (Government Statistician, Samoa) for his leadership. Dr Rodgers emphasized the importance of the HOPS meeting since ‘the region is undergoing a period of rapid transition’, especially in light of the post-Millennium Development Goal (MDG) period. He continued that the *Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy* (TYPSS) has its roots in the *Pacific Plan*, and statistics will be a core priority of the region going forward.

Dr Rodgers emphasized that for countries to be able to plan, their leaders need real-time, accurate statistics. To better formulate statistics guidance during the HOPS conference, he suggested that the conference participants remove themselves from viewing the world through the ‘lens of the statistics officers’ but instead from the point of view of a ‘development officer’ in light of the post-2015 development environment.

Dr Rodgers closed his remarks by highlighting an upcoming change at SPC. In the near future, SPC will be adding a new Deputy Director General, who will commence in September. This new position will oversee all seven of SPC’s technical divisions, including the Statistics for Development Division.

Administrative Announcements

Mr Muagututia, Samoa, continued to assume the position of Chair since the formal election of office bearers was being postponed until later that morning. He thanked Dr Rodgers for his remarks and presented Dr Gerald Haberkorn, Director of SPC’s Statistics for Development Division (SDD), who introduced his division’s new staff.

Part 1: Review of Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy implementation

Session 1 / TYPPS Objective 1: PICTs are undertaking key statistical collections as scheduled.

Population and Housing Censuses, 2010 - 2013

Arthur Jorari, SPC Demographer, led the first session, on TYPSS Objective 1, and introduced six presentations: three from SPC, two from UNFPA, and a country presentation from Samoa.

Presentation: SPC

Mr Jorari then began the first presentation, on Population and Housing Censuses (based on *Working Paper 1.1*) with an explanation of the key achievements of the 2010 census round. With the exception of Palau (which had a mini-census), all of the countries conducted at least one census in the 2010 round, and several (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga) conducted two. Several countries (Samoa, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands) have successfully used the new scanning technology for their censuses and two countries (Vanuatu, Cook Islands) continue to use this technology for processing other statistical collections. Almost all countries (with the exception of Papua New Guinea) used Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, which was introduced in this census round, to geo-reference dwelling locations in the household listing phase of their censuses.

The population and housing censuses had two TYPPS Objective 1 outputs. The first was to have census plans and budgets prepared within 12 to 18 months prior to the scheduled census date, and complete all pre-enumeration activities. Except for two, all countries applied sufficient lead-time for planning their census operations, and realised the first output. The second output was that census products should be completed and disseminated within 12 to 18 months after completion of

enumeration. Some countries released basic census products less than 12 months after completing their census enumeration. Other countries, however, did not meet the 12 to 18 month goal, and the second output of TYPPS Objective 1 was not achieved.

During the 2010 census round, PICTs encountered several major challenges.

- Although many PICTs have been taking population censuses for several decades, challenges remain given the high staff turnover.
- Roles and responsibilities of all cooperating partners have not always been well defined, and at times contributed to unnecessary confusion and misunderstandings about which partner is responsible for what role.
- Census funding support continues to be a challenge, especially when governments provide limited internal budgetary support.
- Managing field enumeration operations and data collection continues to be a major challenge in many countries, leading to compromising the quality of census results.
- And, the data analysis, report writing, and data dissemination phases of census operations also continue to cause challenges for many countries.

Presentation: UNFPA

Ms Virisila Raitamata, Assistant Representative from the UNFPA Office for the Pacific, gave the second presentation on population and housing censuses. After providing an overview of her presentation, Ms Raitamata stated that ‘UNFPA supports statistics as part of its Multi Country Program outcomes for 2013 to 2017.’ For statistics, UNFPA focuses on improved data availability, analysis, and use around population dynamics.

Ms Raitamata reiterated many of the challenges mentioned earlier by SPC. These challenges include change and turnover in NSO staff, planning and budgeting difficulties, quality control of census processes, lack of coordination amongst partners, political pressure, competing priorities of staff with key skills, and the capacity for NSOs to produce statistical analysis and reports.

Concluding her presentation, Ms Raitamata mentioned several challenges that could evolve into opportunities. The opportunities she mentioned included strengthening and formalizing South-South cooperation, engaging young people and new graduates in surveys and statistics, engaging Parliamentarians, enhancing coordination amongst partners, and engaging the sector ministries on policy directions and budgetary implications that can be based on census analysis.

Presentation: Samoa

Mrs Malaefono Taua, Assistant Government Statistician for Samoa, presented on Samoa’s experience engaging policy-makers and parliamentarians in census dissemination. Often, policy-makers and parliamentarians receive statistical reports with no opportunity for guidance from statisticians in their interpretation. Samoa conducted three workshops with parliamentarians in 2011. The first reviewed the census questionnaire; the second was an opportunity to view the finalised questionnaire and the possible indicators that could result from the census; the third notified the parliamentarians of the census results before its public release.

As a new initiative in 2011, Samoa created a census user group to consult on data needs, financed by their AusAID census funding. With the same funding, Samoa’s NSO conducted workshops with village mayors and in schools. They also conducted radio interviews and published newspaper articles about the census and results. After Cyclone Evan (16 December 2012), Samoa’s NSO took the lead role in the damage assessment team. Using GPS census maps and household lists, the NSO performed data entry, analysed the results and compiled a report. The data and report were used by the disaster management office, the Red Cross and other humanitarian aid partners for assistance provision.

Concluding her remarks, Mrs Taua stated that Samoa hopes to achieve better data dissemination and to continue to have workshops with parliamentarians.

Discussion

During the discussion, Mr Mark S. Feary, Principal Adviser, International, with Statistics New Zealand, stated his organisation's interest in participating in SPC's next round of training if it could be expanded to be a hub for training enumerators and census staff. Mr Haberkorn responded that Statistics New Zealand and Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) would be invited to the next planning meeting.

Mr Ipia Gadabu, Nauru's Director of Statistics, mentioned the importance of coordination, both among partners, among countries, and within countries. 'There is always room or more advocacy, both at the national level and at the regional level, to improve coordination.'

Mr Kele Lui, Statistician with the Government of Tokelau, spoke about their successes in their last two censuses. Statistics New Zealand provided aid for both censuses, and Tokelau engaged populations at local through national levels. Tokelau also conducted consultations on the census and on data utilisation, including with school students and village workers.

Mr Mathew Chigiyal, Assistant Director of the Statistics Division in FSM's Office of SBOC (Statistics, Budget and Economic Management, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management) stated that Pacific NSOs have evolved positively since the last HOPS. Regarding the upcoming Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIESs), PICTs should look back to the last HOPS, examine the challenges that they faced, and how they overcame those challenges. FSM had a census workshop for its congressmen, who showed their appreciation of the opportunity.

Mr Simil Johnson, Government Statistician of Vanuatu, focused his comments on training and sharing of resources linked to South-South cooperation. Lots of training has occurred on census undertaking and surveys, and linking them to policy outputs remains a challenge. He said, 'Vanuatu would like to see more work done' on that area.

Mr Kimray Vaha, Niue Government Statistician, emphasised the importance of dissemination of statistics. For their recent census, the Parliament of Niue adjourned to participate and be properly counted. Niue would like more data dissemination workshops but funding is not available. Niue hopes for more South-South cooperation across all areas, including economic statistics.

Election of Office Bearers

Election of the HOPS Chair and two Vice Chairs resumed after the group photograph. Mr Haberkorn specified that ideally the Chair and two Vice Chairs would each represent one of the three SPC sub-regions. Mr Chigiyal, FSM, nominated Mr Simil Johnson of Vanuatu as Chair, who was seconded and approved by the participants. Ms Hemline Ysawa, Head, Statistics collection and analysis unit from Marshall Islands, nominated Mr Gadabu of Nauru as Vice Chair for the Micronesia sub-region. Mr Lui of Tokelau nominated Mrs Mii T. Taggy Tangimetua, Government Statistician from Cook Islands, as Vice Chair for the Polynesia sub-region. The nomination of both Vice Chairs was seconded by the participants. Mr Haberkorn then thanked the outgoing chair for his leadership and requested his continued support in the future. As the new Chair took his position, he expressed his thanks and stated his intention to collaborate with the two vice chairs.

Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, 2010 – 2013

Presentation: SPC

Mr Chris Ryan, Statistics Adviser / Survey Specialist (Northern Pacific) with SPC, presented on the standardized Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES). At the second Pacific Statistics

Steering Committee (PSSC), in 2011, SPC proposed the establishment of the HIES Technical Working Group (TWG), which later met for the first time in August 2011. The HIES TWG, which is examining the standardisation of the HIES, is comprised of representatives from NSOs, technical assistance providers, and donor agencies.

The standardised HIES began with a version from Solomon Islands and some improvements from SPC. Samoa, Nauru and FSM made further improvements. The result was the current standardised HIES questionnaire. The TWG is specifically working toward standardising the structure of the questionnaire; countries would tailor specific sections and modules as needed. Four countries have adopted the standardised version of the HIES. Several other countries showed interest in adopting the standardised HIES, with more expected in the future.

The HIES TWG is also developing standardised classifications for income and expenditure. The classifications must be modified to suit Pacific conditions; the Pacific specific version of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP), the PAC-COICOP, is an example of this. The HIES TWG is also creating a standardised data processing system, which would contain a standardised data entry system. Several of the system's attributes are already developed, including an ability to make data edits as a survey unfolds, and monitoring tools for survey managers to better track field staff performance.

The HIES TWG developed a 12-month field strategy. All participating countries have adopted the field strategy, but each is adopting it with their own modifications. The key benefits of the standardised 12-month field strategy are accounting for seasonal factors, the possibility to work with smaller and more qualified field teams, and most importantly the opportunity to repair problem areas from earlier rounds.

Standardisation of the HIES is encountering a few challenges. Not all Pacific countries have adopted it or expressed interest. Limited resources make it difficult to provide technical assistance to countries that deviate from the standardised methodology. Field supervision continues to define success of a HIES. Some conceptual and scope issues have also been encountered, including the definition of household members (which is different in many PICTs), and how to cover non-private dwellings. In conclusion, improved planning is required for future HIESs for the region, as many countries are requesting HIESs in upcoming years.

Country Interventions

Mr Chigiyal, FSM, highlighted the usefulness of the HIES TWG's creation of a questionnaire in module form. This format made it easier to teach the enumerators. A success that FSM encountered was in making the training a part of the recruitment process for the enumerators, which made the enumerator recruits more dedicated to excelling during the training.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, reiterated the importance of staff management; having good staff relations can help solve problems that arise in the field. Nauru offered a raffle to the households that completed the questionnaires properly and completed the two-week diary. Parliamentarians and community leaders contributed incentives to the raffle and advocated survey completion.

Mr Laupua Fiti, Economic Statistician from Samoa, stated that although Samoa is not part of the TWG, it is adopting the standardised HIES. Samoa's HIES is fully funded by its government. The HIES instructions were very useful. As a result, Samoa received an 85% response rate. Governments would appreciate support in the early stages of data processing. Also, completing the HIES in four rounds is useful for implementing lessons learned.

Discussion

Mr Douglas Kimi, Government Statistician in Solomon Islands' National Statistics Office, said that some of the data gatherers changed marital status during their employment, causing logistical problems in the field. Solomon Islands also employed 'super supervisors' to link the supervisors in the field with the main office. The Pacific COICOP must be 'owned' by the countries; otherwise the data will have to be re-coded, causing consistency problems.

Mr Semu Malona, Government Statistician in Tuvalu, thanked SPC for its work on HIES standardisation. He expressed concern about the feasibility of the short time frame for Tuvalu, which has many dispersed islands.

Mr Epeli Waqavonovono, Government Statistician with the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics, said that the standardisation will shorten the time necessary to clean the data, which can take up to four months. Good quality data can assist with receiving donor funding. Also, the health sector wants access to HIES data for compilation of national accounts.

Demographic and Health Surveys, 2010 – 2013

Presentation: SPC

Kaobari Matikarai, SPC Census and Survey Officer, gave a presentation based on *Working Paper 1.3: Recent Progress on Demographic and Health Surveys*. Demographic Health Surveys (DHSs) have two outputs in the Pacific: that plans and budgets are prepared six months prior to the date agreed by country for the survey; and that all pre-enumeration activities are complete, with reports being produced and disseminated within 6-12 months after completion of the survey.

Pilot DHSs were implemented in four Pacific countries during 2005-2008. The pilot DHSs were executed over a two-year period, beginning in 2007. A 2008 regional review resulted in a recommendation for DHSs to be extended to other countries willing to undertake them as part of their household survey programme. The next round of DHSs commenced in 2009. Only two Pacific countries conducted DHSs without SPC assistance: Papua New Guinea (PNG) conducted its second DHS in 2006 with support from the Philippines Statistics Office and Samoa conducted its DHS in 2009 with support from Macro International Inc. and UNFPA. The considerable external funding and technical support resulted in achieving outputs one and two of TYPPS Objective 1.

The DHSs encountered several major challenges. As with the censuses, all partners' roles and responsibilities must be defined so that no confusion exists about which partner is responsible for what role. This is especially important for multi-sector and multi-TA provider partnerships, such as a DHS that typically involves close collaboration between NSOs and Ministries of Health. Resource limitations with respect to skills and funding make it difficult to increase the sample size to allow indicator estimates at sub-national levels. Like with HIESs, field management and supervision as well as quality control measures need to be well managed. Regarding data processing and analysis, complex DHS processing, tabulation, and analysis will continue to be a challenge in many countries. Survey coordination challenges, given complex multiple-stakeholder arrangements will need to be addressed prior to embarking on new activities.

Presentation: UNFPA

Ms Virisila Raitamata, Assistant UNFPA Representative for the Pacific, gave a brief presentation on UNFPA support for DHSs in the Pacific. For Samoa's 2009 DHS, UNFPA assisted in the drafting of several report chapters. UNFPA has also been involved in technical discussions for Tonga's and Vanuatu's DHSs. To continue with Fiji's DHS, a paper must first be approved by their Ministry of Health and partner funding must also be confirmed. The need to 'Pacificise' the DHS has been partly addressed through the standardisation of questionnaires. Concluding her remarks, Ms Raitamata reiterated that sector and government commitment are key to successfully completing a DHS.

Discussion

Mr Vaha, Niue, asked what in DHS cannot be collected by the other surveys. Mr Joari, SPC, responded that many of the DHS's health-related modules are not covered by HIES, such as family planning, gender based violence, malaria, maternal mortality ratios, and child health.

In her comments, Mrs Taua, Samoa, reflected on the issue of small sample sizes for surveys, especially for infant mortality. She requested that other PICTs share how they deal with small numbers. Mr Haberkorn responded that for similarly small demographic events, a more pragmatic approach than increasing sample sizes would be for countries to strengthen their civil registration systems. Countries with populations below 15,000 should not be concerned with these surveys when the indicators they provide can be captured more economically and reliably through civil registration.

Session 2 / TYPPS Objective 2: PICTS are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors.

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), Health statistics

Presentation: SPC

Ms Karen Carter, Vital Statistic-Civil Registration Specialist, gave SPC's presentation on CRVS, also on behalf of the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG). Civil registration is important for PICTs for several reasons. It aids with health planning by identifying priorities, targeting programs to at-risk populations, delivering services, and in monitoring and evaluation. CRVS aids in providing government services such as education, social security, and gathering general population statistics. It is important to achieving government security and identification functions: passports, electoral rolls, and disaster planning. Finally, CRVS also is important to maintaining land rights and inheritance records.

CRVS improvement in the Pacific is being coordinated by the Brisbane Accord Group of agencies. BAG coordinates the support provided to PICTs on CRVS. The further aims of BAG are to provide strategic and technical support to countries around vital statistics improvements, and to ensure partner agencies' support to SPC is compatible with implementation of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy. The improvements to Pacific CRVS are being accomplished through the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (PVSAP). The aim of the plan is to assist countries to improve their statistics on births, deaths, and cause-of-death through routine collections. The basic premise of the plan is to work with countries to undertake an assessment of their collection and reporting systems through both in-country visits, and by assisting countries to work through a self-assessment, using a tool developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). This information is used by countries to develop their country-specific Vital Statistics Improvement Plans.

There have been several recent achievements in Pacific CRVS work. Assessment and planning work has commenced in all SPC member countries and three territories. Most have completed draft plans and started implementation of improvement activities. In each country planning work has included staff from the Ministry of Health, the NSO, the Civil Registry Office, and other key partners.

Several challenges face countries in obtaining high quality vital statistics. These include difficulties capturing events that occur in remote areas, lack of intra-governmental cooperation, a lack of procedures for verification, poor coding for cause-of-death, and a high reporting burden on health facilities. Information Technology poses an additional set of challenges to CRVS. Analysing and reporting data from the CRVS system is often poorly defined or not assigned at all.

BAG partners will continue to support PICTs. The BAG partnership represents the strengths of many agencies, with partners actively committed to ensuring the work continues. Current funding for the University of Queensland Health Information Systems (UQ HIS) Hub is about to end, which will

impact the co-facilitation of the BAG process and access to technical and financial resources for in-country BAG activities. At the same time, BAG partners are encountering greater demand for support from countries as the importance of CRVS becomes more broadly recognised.

Presentation: Niue

Mr Vaha, Niue, presented on the *NiueVitals Report: 1987-2011*. Prior to intervention, there was no in-depth analysis of vital statistics in Niue except for crude birth rate and crude death rate. Cause-of-death was not reported to international standards and certification of death was poor. Formal papers were not published to note the data collection process. With technical assistance from SPC, Niue implemented International Classification of Diseases (ICD) coding and began an in-depth analysis of vital statistics data from the past 24 years. The *NiueVitals Report: 1987-2011* is now available on SPC's PRISM web site.

Mr Vaha cited several statistics from the report. At the time of Niue's 2011 census, there were 1460 residents in the country. Niue is fortunate that women have the option of giving birth in Niue or in New Zealand. Mr Vaha explained, as a result, 'we don't have any maternal mortality in Niue.' During 1987-2011, the number of deaths per year in Niue ranged from four to eleven. Statistics of this type often use ratios (per 10,000 or per 100,000) but these ratios do not apply to Niue because of its small population: 'even in the whole wide world, we don't have 100,000 Niueans.'

Presentation: Tokelau

Mr Lui, Tokelau, presented on vital statistics in Tokelau. There were about 1400 people counted in Tokelau's last census. Tokelau is encountering serious difficulties in producing vital statistics. Current levels of birth and death registration are poor. Using the 2011 Tokelau Census as a benchmark, over 60% of births from the last five years are not registered, and registration of deaths is lower. Tokelau's CVRS is broken: responsibility is not clear; training on the atolls is non-existent; incentives to register births and deaths are poor; registration forms are old and lack necessary details; and old legislation prevents collection of necessary information. Fixing the problems is urgent because there is now a birth and death registration requirement all under Tokelau law. Three government agencies (seven staff) are leading the way to fix the system: the National Statistics Office, the Department of Health, and the Department of Transport and Support Services' Births Deaths and Marriages Office. Obtaining historical data is an important part of the solution since half to two-thirds of births in the last five years in Tokelau were not registered. Tokelau's solution is to have a national holiday to celebrate civil registration. The civil registration day can provide a chance to register missing births and deaths, spread the message of the importance of civil registration, and communicate changes.

Presentation: ABS

Ms Sue Taylor, Director of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, presented on ABS's support for CRVS development. ABS provided technical support to 12 Pacific countries in 2012-2013 through their out-posted officer to the UQ HIS Hub and in partnership with BAG members. ABS also held a two-day leadership forum for Pacific NSOs. The forum presented work within the Asia-Pacific region to support CRVS development and the importance of understanding the value of CRVS data for policy development. ABS also played an active role in achieving UNESCAP endorsement of a resolution to continue CRVS improvement across Asia and the Pacific.

ABS encountered some challenges in its Pacific CRVS development support. Changes to resourcing of ABS's coordination function, which supports the work of the BAG, will present a potential risk to effective provision of its in-country support for CRVS improvement activities. Changes in AusAID's priorities for regional development support could limit ABS's capacity to support the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (PVSAP) in 2014. With tightening resources, ABS will need to identify new and innovative ways of providing support to countries in view of its changing resource restrictions.

Looking ahead, ABS has funds available to provide in-country technical support until the end of 2013. ABS will continue to proactively support partners to attract additional resources for the coordination required for effective progress on the PVSAP and to support progress reporting. Regional CRVS improvement initiative across Asia and the Pacific provides ABS with the opportunity to further promote successes in the Pacific and to advocate for continued resourcing. ABS plans to discuss the possibility of repeating the CRVS short-course in Australia. Finally, ABS will be seeking 'in-posting' opportunities for staff from PICTs to registries of births, deaths and marriages in Australia to further develop regional CRVS capabilities.

Discussion

Ms Audrey Aumua, WHO Consultant for Health Information Systems/CRVS, intervened as a member of the BAG. She said that implementation of the vital statistics plan under TYPPS is 'probably the most important public health investment in the region.' She continued by saying that the region's 'public health ministers have, for third year running, highlighted the regional priority of improving vital statistics.' Concluding her remarks, she acknowledged the help of SPC and other BAG partners in improving vital statistics in the region.

Mr Feary, New Zealand, asserted that use of CRVS helps countries move away from surveys, which can become very resource intensive. He continued by stressing that CRVS should be seen as a priority by HOPS, which should endorse it as such.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, echoing the comments from New Zealand, also advocated the importance of improving CRVS in the region and requesting additional support. He noted that PICTs will require further assistance from the technical assistance agencies for CRVS improvement.

The Chair, Mr Johnson of Vanuatu, reiterated that a legislative review is necessary for CRVS improvement since civil registration is not handled by some of the NSOs in the region.

Mr Waqavonovono, Fiji, commented that Fiji's CRVS has improved in recent years. One of Fiji's CRVS achievements is that the Ministry of Health's Bureau of Statistics and the Registrar General's office now meet on a regular basis. Fiji has good coverage in terms of civil registration but the data is not provided to the NSO in a form that enables creating a vital statistics report.

Mrs Taua, Samoa, stated that it has similar challenges in CRVS. Samoa has no incentives for registration of deaths. They are looking first at legislation to solve the issue. Samoa's Ministry of Women is responsible for collecting birth and death registrations from the villages and taking the forms to the national office. That ministry has monthly meetings on gathering the forms and coordinating the registrations. Samoa would support a regional guideline on CRVS.

Mr Ata'ata M. Finau, Government Statistician from Tonga, stated that he also supports a regional guideline on CRVS since civil registration is more difficult in small countries.

Mrs Lorilee Crisostomo, Director of Guam's Bureau of Statistics and Plans, commented that Guam has been collecting vital and health statistics for many years. She thanked SPC for its training of health department workers on monitoring and evaluation of data collection.

Presentation: SPC/WHO/UQ HIS Hub/PHIN

Ms Carter, SPC, began the presentation by explaining the importance of health information systems (HIS). HISs are important for evaluating and monitoring patient care and preventative programs, guiding decision-making, conducting prioritisation and resource allocation, and monitoring international agreements. The goal of a HIS is to produce information that stakeholders can use to

make transparent and evidence-based health decisions. A HIS's performance is measured not only on the quantity and quality of data produced but also on the data's continued use.

The need for health planning and health statistics crosses many sectors of government; a HIS is composed of multiple subsystems as a result. These include civil registration systems, health facility information systems, disease surveillance systems, research systems, statistical systems, and other non-health sector information systems. The broader regional statistics community plays an important role in the collection and sharing of health data. There is a lot of overlap in how the NSOs are involved in HISs.

Many PICTs still operate without sufficient information needed to make timely and effective policy decisions. A 2009 regional assessment of health information systems by the PHIN identified several key challenges for HISs. The challenges impact the timeliness of information and data completeness, and coverage. The strategic challenges to HISs involve ensuring that the wide variety of health data is seen as a national asset and is accessible to all potential users. Integrating health statistics into the broader national statistics framework through national statistics strategies is therefore critical. Coordinating activities supported by various networks can begin to solve these strategic challenges.

Dr Adam Roth, Team Leader, Surveillance and Operational Research with SPC's Public Health Division (PHD), continued the presentation. Fifty-eight health-related indicators are collected and reported in the Statistics for Development Division's National Minimum Development Indicator (NMDI) database; these are gathered and available from SPC. SPC has also held operational research training and developed surveillance systems for special events. SDD and PHD plan to create a HIS specialist position to improve country support, to implement a regional platform for enhanced data sharing among PICTs, and to support integration of disease surveillance systems.

Dr Roth further explained the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN), which is dedicated to public health surveillance. PPHSN is a voluntary network of PICTs, regional institutions, and other organisations. Its goal is to improve public health surveillance and response in the Pacific. It is composed of 22 member PICTs, plus affiliate organisations. PPHSN is involved in providing early warnings for epidemic outbreaks. In addition to its warning function, PPHSN has led trainings for building in-country epidemiology capacity to be better able to collect, collate and analyse data.

Ms Aumua, WHO, presented on PHIN, the Public Health Information Network. PHIN provides a mechanism for networking, support, information sharing, and training for people working in health information. There are currently 66 members from 19 different countries, primarily PICTs. The goal of PHIN is that professionals working in HISs in PICTs will promote and use reliable, complete and timely information for decision-making and for achieving greater health outcomes. PHIN has conducted several capacity building activities, that included developing health data dictionaries, implementing software applications, improving the quality of annual health reports, and developing a website for resource sharing.

Ms Aumua also presented on the UQ HIS Hub, which provides tools and technical resources (including vital statistics and registration systems assessments and planning kits) for HIS systems. The UQ HIS Hub also provided a HIS short course for the past four years, which was recently transferred into Fiji National University's (FNU) public health program.

Concluding the presentation, Ms Aumua stated that one of the most important lessons learned in public health was the recognition that, 'when we're improving our HISs, we really often need to look outside the health sector.' To this end, PHIN, UQ HIS Hub, WHO and SPC recently facilitated a HIS leadership forum, inviting participants from a variety of sectors. Its goals were to broaden perspectives on HIS implementation options, to develop a shared awareness of the roles of various sectors in

collaborating on and strengthening HISs, and to develop action plans to promote stakeholder engagement, advocacy, leadership and sustainable commitment to HISs.

Discussion

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, remarked that Nauru's relationship with the HIS committee has not always been successful, 'particularly in the role of the NSO just being a member and not [being] particularly involved in some of the discussions that occur outside of the committee meetings.' Health data is where some privacy conflicts have occurred and legislation could help solve these conflicts. He concluded his remarks by saying that NSOs 'need to learn how to develop and share our roles and responsibilities in this initiative and also identify the overlapping issues to obtain a high level of cooperation and endorsement at the national and at the regional levels.'

In his remarks, Mr Fiti of Samoa emphasized the importance of using all stakeholders when working on HIS issues. Acknowledging assistance from PARIS21, he said, 'when we're talking about statistics, we're not talking about a stats office; we're talking about a system that involves basically everybody in the country.'

Mr Chigiyal, FSM, commented that his country's experience is that there are many development partners within health, which in itself creates some problems. Data collection processes should be streamlined.

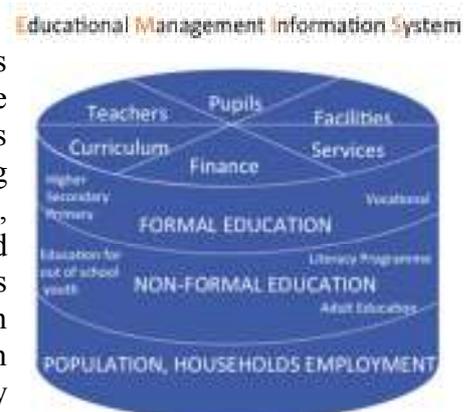
Mr Vaha, Niue, stated that classification of cause-of-death is an aspect of Niue's HIS that is working well but otherwise, Niue's HIS is in need of additional support.

Education Statistics

Presentation: SPC

Mr Scott Pontifex, SPC Database Specialist – Development Indicators, gave a presentation on education statistics. He began by stating that there are many complementary features across the spectrum of administrative data sources, including in education. Despite this, there is wide-scale disagreement (between government, local education staff, donors and partners, and others) about the state of education data.

To begin to understand education data, it is important to appreciate the Educational Management Information System (EMIS). EMIS is not software for storing data, nor a data collection process. The objective of EMISs is not only to collect, store and process information but also to help in education policymaking by providing relevant and accessible information. EMISs can contain student data, transfer and dropout data, teacher data, school inventories and facilities, and information on school financing. In addition to aspects of formal education, EMISs can also include information on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and from censuses and household surveys about people who are not currently in the education system. The results of EMIS implementation have been mixed, although initial attempts have focused on implementing EMIS technology, with little attention paid to building human capacities in Ministries of Education (MoE). EMISs can be used for education planning and decision support, monitoring of government services, understanding the skills and utility of the future workforce, and monitoring and evaluation of national development projects (for example, MDGs), given that education is a major component of national budgets.



SPC has begun to develop an online repository of regional education data, housed on the PRISM website, including a collection of annual statistical digests. SPC has also been aiding in the

development of MoE websites, to further disseminate education data. SPC and AusAID are designing a regional EMIS facility that would be responsive to requests from countries. The proposed facility could provide an up-to-date status of individual EMIS platforms, address country-level hardware and software issues, and provide staff training. The EMIS taskforce is developing a framework for the consideration of performance indicators used in monitoring of Pacific Education Development Framework (PEDF) progress.

Several challenges face increased use of education statistics in MoEs. Late receipt of surveys from schools, capacity and resource challenges for EMIS teams, and poor survey response rates lead to publication delay and degrade data quality. This compromises the timeliness of data release. Also, the lack of a common IT system across the region creates support problems that further degrade data and analysis quality, as well as delay report publication and dissemination.

Presentation: Solomon Islands

Mr Joe M. Ririmae, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in Solomon Islands' Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, presented on Solomon Islands' recent development experience in its MoE. Most of Solomon Islands' MoE data analysis is at the national level. Solomon Islands received support from SPC and SPBEA for enhancing and identifying EMIS technical problems, and improving its MoE website. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) provided support to develop monitoring and evaluation capacity and improve the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Solomon Islands encountered several challenges in implementing its EMIS. In particular, Mr Ririmae highlighted technical problems related to documentation for the system. Solomon Islands also faces other education difficulties affecting EMIS data, such as teacher absenteeism, inadequate learning materials, and classroom management problems. To improve Solomon Islands' EMIS, unnecessary functionality should be removed from the system, detailed technical documentation and support should be acquired from the system developer, school surveys should be simplified yet remain comprehensive, and links must be created between the education sector, the NSO, and policy makers.

Discussion

Mr Haberkorn began the discussion by stating that there is a need for close coordination between NSOs and MoEs. Basic statistics, such as enrolment rates, must be based on the proper population base, otherwise bad data will have severe negative impacts on schools.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, asked for guidance about developing EMIS tools. Mr Pontifex responded that an upcoming meeting in Nadi, Fiji would address this. Indicators should be linked to the survey instrument, whether it is a household survey, a census, or an administrative database. Prior efforts have failed because technology implementers did not adequately account for human factors.

Mr Douglas Kimi, Solomon Islands, commented, 'There is no perfect census instrument.' He noted that it is possible to use HIES data to help determine growth between censuses. He also announced that Solomon Islands' census data would be released after the analysis is completed.

Mr Vaha, Niue, noted that it is difficult to get data from Niue's MoE and requested assistance obtaining education data. Mr Pontifex responded that he would be happy to help and that UNESCO's implementation of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) could help with standardisation.

Mr Alexandre Gautier, *Directeur* of the *Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économique* (Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies) in New Caledonia said that basic statistics should be the priority, especially in education. He asked about evaluating vocational education, suggesting the use of OECD's Program for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC). He also asked about

the cost of education: how much should be spent on a university student, a middle school student, and an elementary school student? How much should be spent in the future to adequately improve them?

Mr Finau, Tonga, requested clarification on cleaning a database. Mr Ririmae responded that data that is not being used should be cleaned out. He also mentioned that MoEs are reserved about enrolment figures, which some schools exaggerate since that data is often tied to grants.

Mrs Lorilee Crisostomo, Director of Guam's Bureau of Statistics and Plans, stated that the U.S. Government helps Guam to produce and publish its census. The related challenge is that the information is released little by little and last, since Guam is a U.S. territory, not a state. She then presented Guam's completed census data and statistics yearbook to SPC.

Mr Haberkorn concluded the discussion by asking if Guam retained a copy of census data and by remarking on the precise technical assistance requests SPC received from Guam and American Samoa. He also noted an outstanding request to set up a regional planning GIS database for American Samoa, for which their Governor intervened. Mrs Crisostomo responded that Guam requested funding for that project from a different U.S. agency. Mr Keniseli Lafaele, Director of American Samoa's Department of Commerce responded that he will follow-up on the request.

DAY 2: 23 July 2013

Economic Statistics

Presentation: SPC

Mr Alick Nyasulu, Economic Statistician with SPC, began the day with a presentation under TYPPS Objective 2, on developing price and national accounts statistics. There have been several achievements in economic statistics since the last HOPS, including building capacity and conducting training for national accounts. SPC rebased the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for three countries and provided peer reviews of CPI methods in several others. SPC has also conducted training in the compilation of Trade Price Indices for all member PICTs. Despite the achievements, SPC sees a few challenges related to development of economic statistics. These challenges relate to attracting and retaining key economic statistics personnel (likely due to remuneration disparities) and other integrity matters such as inconsistencies in data from public versus private sources, and interference in the statistical production process.

Presentation: Kiribati

Mr Tekena Tiroa, Republic Statistician with Kiribati's NSO, began the presentation on Kiribati's rebase of its Retail Price Index (RPI) by mentioning that their economic statistics office recently lost one of its personnel and would appreciate additional SPC assistance with training its new staff. During the first quarter of 2013, SPC updated and adjusted for quality 2006 price data. New products and services were also inserted into the baskets of goods for reclassification. SPC also trained Kiribati staff on the concepts of weight, index and inflation for baskets of goods. Finally, SPC introduced a new design of the RPI spread sheet, which was adopted by Kiribati. The new design is advantageous in minimizing errors in computing the final RPI and inflation. The new design included an additional output, the Seasonal Adjustment Index, which removes the seasonal component of the time series.

Discussion

Opening the discussion, Mr Chigiyal, FSM, asked if the economic statistics interventions were pre-planned or based on requests from NSOs. He also asked if there has been collaboration between SPC, Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC), and the other TA providers with respect to economic statistics capacity building.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, stated that the recommendations were not worded strongly enough and sounded like suggestions as opposed to actionable recommendations for National Statistics Systems (NSS). Mr Haberkorn later agreed with the comments regarding the wording of the recommendation and agreed that it would be amended.

Mr Jonathan Palmer, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Statistician with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, suggested that losing economic statisticians to other organizations could be avoided with methods other than changing remuneration practices. Providing employees with out-posting opportunities and out-sourcing some production would be more effective for small organisations.

Responding, Mr Haberkorn explained that governments do not recognise the value of statistics in their salary structure and that remuneration is a structural issue. Mr Nyasulu continued by explaining that all SPC economic statistics activities are based on TYPPS Objective 2 and country requests. Also, SPC collaborates and shares work plans with PFTAC and ABS to minimise duplication.

Mr Stéphan Challier, Director of *Institut de la statistique de la Polynésie française* (French Polynesia Institute of Statistics), asked whether SPC assistance on CPI rebasing is linked to household budget surveys (HIES). He also asked, regarding national accounts, if SPC is considering doing work on 'rapid accounts' (*Comptes Économiques Rapides pour l'Outre-Mer* or CEROM), which is being studied for use in French Polynesia.

Mr Peter Wise, Permanent Secretary of Fiji's Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, mentioned that statistics are important for achieving sustainable development, climate change adaptation, and improved health. He said that countries would only be able to address these issues strategically if good data is available. He also agreed with the comment from Nauru that the recommendations were not worded strongly enough. He said that Fiji is having difficulties getting data from some ministries and is currently reviewing legislation related to statistics as a solution. He requested that SPC work 'with the core ministry looking after the statistics office' as opposed to only working with the NSO. Regarding remuneration in Fiji, economics graduates with statistics will have a special grading, which is higher than a normal planning officer.

Mr Bertrand Buffière, SPC Statistics Adviser, responded to Mr Challier's question on linking HIES and CPI rebasing. Currently, there is no direct link between them. The data is published under the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) and the data is coded under COICOP. SPC can provide assistance, however, for French Polynesia's project.

Mr Len Cook, Consultant with Statistics New Zealand, commented that 'there is no brilliant formula' for solving economic statistics challenges. In one country, it may be valuable for the government statistician to meet with the head of treasury or the central bank governor once a year, or to chair a review. Some ministries might identify an individual in the office to become a special contact person for statistics. It is important to understand the measures available outside statistical frameworks. He also commented that it is important for NSOs to disseminate the data they gather. There are still some major statistics users, however, who find that if they deal with the NSO, they may get data that could be wrong. He concluded by stating that perhaps past years' advice of keeping NSO operations completely independent should be disregarded in favour of better collaboration.

Mr Scott Rogers, Coordinator of the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre, began his comments by stating that there can be better cooperation between SPC and PFTAC. There also should be better communication between NSOs (as suppliers of statistics) and the ministries (as users of statistics). Better collaboration and increased data interpretation and analysis within the NSO are some ways to address this. Regarding remuneration, globally, statisticians are not paid as well as central

bankers and there are other ways to ensure staff retention, which have a lot to do with job content, such as making positions interesting and rewarding, and not just dead-ends.

Concluding the discussion, Mr Lui, Tokelau, updated the conference on the status of CPI development in Tokelau, which began in 2010. June 2012 was the first time that Tokelau could collect four quarters worth of prices. This data would be released the week following HOPS. In August, Statistics New Zealand would come to Tokelau for the first time to give data utilization workshops.

Presentations: SPC

Ms Nilima Lal, Economic Statistician with SPC, gave an update on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) progress. IMTS data remains weak in the Pacific, since available data is lacking and unmet demands exist. Data is also not reliable and timely. SPC has been providing technical assistance to PICTs since mid-2011, when weeklong workshops were offered. These were followed by weeklong attachments of trade statisticians in 2012, focusing on compilation, analysis, and dissemination. Countries are at different stages of implementing the workshop recommendations, as shown in the *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Monitoring Report*. Some challenges exist in implementing IMTS, including difficulties with classification of data by customs offices, staff shortages, lack of qualified staff, and high staff turnover in NSOs. Ms Lal concluded by requesting that HOPS strengthen working relations between customs offices and NSOs.

TABLE No	TABLE TITLE	% of responding countries completed the respective tables
	Reconciliation between IMTS and General Merchandise on a BOP basis	29
1	Balance of Trade – all items	100
2	Imports by HS	100
3	Domestic exports by HS	100
4	Re-exports by HS	100
5	Total exports by HS	86
6	Principal domestic exports	86
7	Principal imports	71
8	Balance of Trade by major partner countries	71
9	Trade by Region	57
10	Trade by trade agreements	43
11	Exports by SITC	57
12	Imports by SITC	57
13	Re-exports classified by SITC	43
14	Trade by Mode of transport	0

Ms Lal then gave a second presentation on the progress of business statistics. Quality data on business activities is lacking in PICTs. Business surveys should be conducted at least on a five-year cycle so more regular GDP re-bases can more accurately reflect structural changes in national economies. Fiji and SPC, together with ABS, have reviewed industry-specific business survey questionnaires and upgraded the business register. A draft business register is now available from the Fiji Bureau of Statistics. SPC aided PNG with compiling its Standard Industrial Classification and designing industry-specific business survey questionnaires. PNG, in South-South collaboration with Fiji, also set up a business register. The challenges that exist for business statistics include a lack of funds to perform business surveys, weak legislation on statistics collection from businesses, and a lack of skills available to conduct business surveys.

Presentation: PFTAC

Mr Gregory Legoff, Real Sector Statistics Advisor with PFTAC, presented on the production of the agreed core set of economic statistics. PFTAC is one of IMF's nine regional TA centres, with the goal of improving economic management and sustainable growth across PICs. Within PFTAC, IMF combines strategic advice from headquarters with local expertise and on-the-ground capacity building, including IMF's core lending and surveillance operations. Coordinating with SPC and ABS, PFTAC provides national accounts TA to all of its member countries except Tuvalu, Nauru, Niue, PNG and Tokelau. IMF and PFTAC have increased their TA to PICs on external sector statistics, government finance statistics, building General Data Dissemination Systems (GDDS), and on the International Comparison Program (coordinated by ABS). A GDDS guides public dissemination of comprehensive, timely, accessible, and reliable economic, financial, and socio-demographic statistics.

Recently, PFTAC produced at least two independent measures of GDP to a high standard in eight PICs and improved the quality of GDP measures in all PICs, by rebasing constant price GDP estimates by production and by expenditures. PFTAC aided eight PICs with compiling regular annual Gross National Income (GNI), Gross National Disposable Income (GNDI), and saving and net lending/borrowing aggregates. PFTAC also produced quarterly national accounts and compiled Producer Price Indices (PPI) and Trade Price Indices (TPI) in four PICs. PFTAC sees some challenges in producing business statistics, however, including the small number of staff and insufficient resources in NSOs. Compilers often rely on out-dated source data combined with a limited number of indicators to extrapolate time series. Also, existing administrative data is often used for national accounts statistics. IT challenges also exist, such as NSOs using Microsoft Excel-based compilation systems and NSOs not using good data and metadata management practices.

Presentation: ABS

Mr Bruce Hockman, Division Head for Business Industry and Environment Statistics with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, presented on the ESCAP core statistics requirements to build capacity by 2020. The set of core indicators should be indicative as opposed to prescriptive and they should be judged as the minimum set effective for economic analysis and monitoring that can be tailored to individual countries' needs. These needs are determined by the information requirements of government and non-government decision makers. The seven economic statistics domains in the core set are: price and costs, demand and output, income and wealth, money and banking, government, labour market, and natural resources and environment. Each of these seven economic statistics domains can be further broken down into several separate statistical indicators, some of which may be more important to developed economies. These should each be tailored to each country's needs.

Discussion

Ms Sue Taylor, Australian Bureau of Statistics' Director of the 2016 Census, began the discussion by commenting on work at UNESCAP in Bangkok. A technical advisory group there created a core set of economic and social statistics, covering 11 domains, which was approved by the Statistics Commission and was pronounced a 'global milestone.' This broader project is applicable to PICTs.

Ms Jillian Campbell, Statistician with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Pacific Office, commented that in addition to the core set described by Mr Hockman, the steering committee from ESCAP developed a regional program for economic statistics, which can be used to focus cooperation in statistical capacity development.

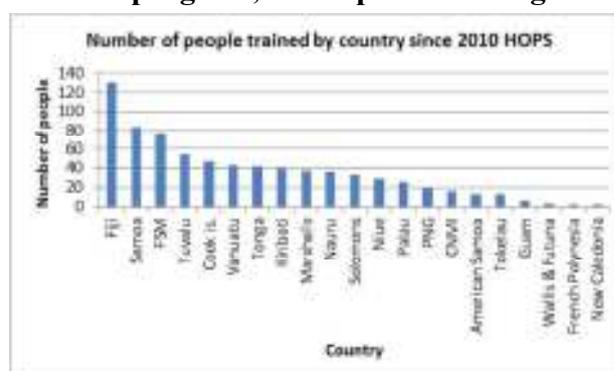
Mr Christopher Edmonds, Senior Economist with the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Pacific Department, concluded the discussion by emphasizing that if statistics are not actually analysed and disseminated, they are ineffective, regardless of their quality. NSOs should engage with development partners who may also be able to analyse and disseminate data. Countries should consider ways to leverage their HIESs with other ways that allow quicker and easier data collection to 'get a more timely and accurate portrayal of what's happening in the economies of the Pacific.'

Session 3/TYPPS Objective 3: PICTs have their own capacity or are accessing regional capacity to undertake agreed core and some specialist statistical functions.

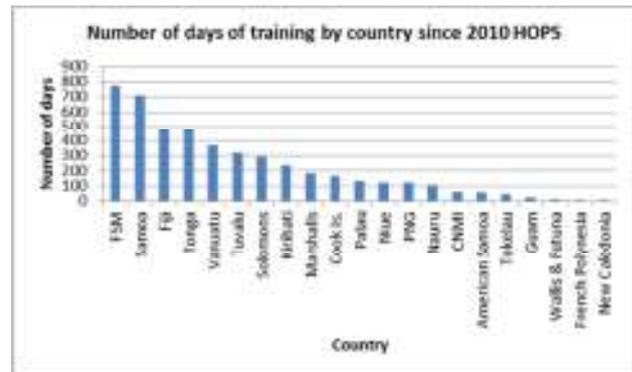
Report on skills audit, SDD training activities, South-South program, development of long-term training programme

Presentation: SPC

Mr Chris Ryan, SPC Statistics Adviser and Survey Specialist, began the session by presenting a review of SDD training activities that occurred since the last HOPS. Overall, a total of 752 personnel (with



gender information available from 388 men and 341 women) were trained by SDD since 2010. Most of the training (42%) consisted of sub-regional workshops, followed by on-the-job training (38%), in-country workshops (14%), and attachments (6%). It is important to note the difference between the graphs of the number of people trained by country (with Fiji in the lead) and the number of days of training by country (with FSM in the lead). This is due to the prevalence of sub-regional trainings based in Fiji. SDD encountered some challenges with the trainings, most notably in data analysis. There were two trainings on data analysis immediately after the last HOPS but none have been scheduled since. Although data analysis is a popular training topic with PICTs, the decline was due to SDD staff having been committed to a heavier than usual workload related to population censuses and household surveys over the past years.



Presentation: SPC

Ms Renee Sorchik, SPC Demographer-Social Statistician, presented the 2011 NSO skills audit analysis results. The skills audit was meant to establish a baseline for development of long-term training and professional development strategies. It was undertaken in late 2011 for all countries and U.S. territories where SPC is engaged, providing a snapshot of the situation at the time. Almost three-quarters of the staff (73%) responding to SPC surveys had some kind of job-specific training. Many offices were understaffed: only four NSOs had a staff contingent of 25 staff or more (24%), while eight of the 17 NSOs surveyed had less than five staff (47%). A substantial training gap exists between current professional work undertaken by NSO staff and formal training received. Only one in three staff who received job-specific training (38%) believed their training was sufficient to do a competent job in their office. Concluding her presentation, Ms Sorchik stated that large percentages of respondents indicated a need for further training in data analysis (75%), report writing (71%), and data processing (67%), although relatively small proportions of NSO staff perform those functions.

Presentation: SPC

Mr Haberkorn presented a report on South-South technical collaboration. Eleven of the 21 Pacific NSOs have ten staff or less and nine have five or fewer staff. Because of difficulties obtaining trained specialists and technical staff across all major statistical subjects and the small sizes of many NSOs, many will never be able to have the expertise necessary for a well-functioning NSO. One way to solve this challenge is through South-South collaboration: drawing on skilled staff with expertise in other Pacific island NSOs, large and small, and deploying them to offices lacking those skills. There have already been five deployments over the past two years of NSO staff from Samoa, Vanuatu, and Fiji to other PICs. NSO staff have also been recruited to assist SDD in four sub-regional training assignments. Challenges to increasing South-South NSO collaboration include sourcing specific but rare technical expertise and deploying expertise at the time required by the requesting NSO.

Presentation: Vanuatu

Mr Rara Soro, IT Manager with Vanuatu’s National Statistics Office, having been on two NSO South-South cooperation missions, presented his experiences. As an IT Manager, Mr Soro assisted NSOs with adopting Optical Character Recognition scanning technology. A major challenge is that each NSO has different ICT requirements. Also, many NSOs are using Microsoft Access, which is becoming obsolete. Data should be moved from Access into SQL; trained ICT/IT staff, not data processing officers, should be performing this function. Timeliness of data releases is linked to the NSO’s ICT capability. Mr Soro said, ‘there is a need for ICT in each NSO.’

Presentation: Samoa

Mrs Taua, Samoa, presented her experience assisting with Tuvalu's 2012 census. Despite the size of the census, many of the challenges encountered are the same as those in Samoa, such as enumerators or supervisors simply not doing their jobs. Transportation also posed challenges. Such common challenges provide increased opportunities for South-South cooperation. In addition to sending staff, larger countries can host staff from smaller countries for out-posting learning opportunities.

Presentation: New Zealand

Mr Feary, New Zealand, presented Statistics New Zealand's proposal for the Official Statistics (OSS) Certificate. The OSS Certificate is designed to increase the capability of staff using statistics so Pacific governments and development partners receive better statistical and policy advice. OSS Certificate training will explain the characteristics, purpose, operation and drivers of the NSS and increase understanding of the value of statistics. The OSS Certificate course utilises staff from Victoria University, adapting course material to include country-specific statistical material and NSO-specific requirements. In-country teaching of the five units takes 15-20 days, with workshops for the assignments and research project. Implementation of the OSS Certificate can be achieved by 2018 with a five-year plan, including collaboration with the University of the South Pacific.

Presentation: University of the South Pacific (USP)

Dr Saqib Jafarey, Head of USP's School of Economics, presented a progress report on the restructuring and consolidation of the Official Statistics Programme at the University of the South Pacific. USP has offered its Bachelor of Commerce in Official Statistics since 2006. Dennis Trewin, former head of ABS, performed a recent review of the program. Although he found clarity of its underlying structure, he also found many challenges: gaps in the curriculum, program under-subscription, no postgraduate offering, and a need to engage external partners. As a result, USP is undertaking several key modifications to its Official Statistics Programme. These include introduction of professional learning streams, flexible learning, and greater collaboration with regional training partners. Three courses are being extensively revised and external partners will deliver two new courses. Future revisions could include instruction on software used by NSOs.

Discussion

Opening the discussion, Mr Chigiya, FSM, commented on the importance of training on data analysis and interpretation of census and other types of data.

Mr Palmer, Australia, stated his support of the capacity building efforts. He also supported efforts involving 'flipping the classroom,' providing instruction at the learner's pace and location. He requested that stronger collaboration, new delivery models, and more incentives for development of staff training be implemented.

Mr Challier, French Polynesia, remarked that they were interested in receiving personnel who are interested in being trained in cartography, GIS, and national accounts. French Polynesia has also developed simple monitoring and evaluation tools, which permit monitoring of data collection.

Mr Wise, Fiji, noted that capacity building in monitoring and evaluation is very important. PICTs should focus on building the best and most cost-effective way to tailor appropriate training regimes.

Mr Fiti, Samoa, noted that it is testing a new SQL-based system, which makes it easier to produce timely and improved products. He also thanked Statistics New Zealand for its aid on the system.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, pledged support for the recommendations and stated that training was important for improving capacity in the Pacific. He also mentioned that there are instances when PICTs are not included in certain trainings; the opportunities should be made available to all member PICTs.

Ms Margarita F. Guerrero, Director of the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP), noted that her agency also conducts training on planning and statistics, both in collaboration with and separate from SPC. UNSIAP is exploring some training models similar to 'Massive Open Online Courses' (MOOCs), with the provision that a live instructor guides the course. Her agency supports a follow-up skills assessment and forming a separate technical working group on training under PSSC. UNSIAP is interested in being a member of the training TWG. Concluding her remarks, Ms Guerrero mentioned that Samoa is one of the four Asia and Pacific priority countries for training under the Global Strategy for Improving Agriculture and Rural Statistics.

Mr Rogers, PFTAC, stressed that training should focus on skills, not just knowledge. Sometimes trainers focus on knowledge and neglect skills. There also needs to be more brainstorming about how to provide innovative approaches to sustainable supplemental capacity.

Session 4 / TYPPS Objective 4: Pacific national and regional statistics are accessible and are being utilized.

Report on PRISM redesign, NMDI, PopGIS redevelopment/PRISM mapping facility, increased utilization of national and regional statistics by data users; development of Pillar-3 statistical indicators; data user workshops

Presentation: SPC

Mr James Hemphill, SPC Web Developer – Data Dissemination Specialist, led the presentation on *Working Paper 4.1*. He also introduced the personnel presenting other aspects of the working paper. He began by presenting the recent PRISM redesign and NMDIs. PRISM, the Pacific Regional Information System, is a data archive containing education reports, communications, training courses, regional tables, and other documents. The NMDIs, the 'National Minimum Development Indicators,' are a selection of online tables, charts, mapping data, metadata, and other regional development data. Seventeen PRISM NSO websites were upgraded to the Joomla Content Management System with greater control over files. Also, a total of 33 surveys have been published via the PRISM data catalogue and regional online mapping is available and published via PRISM. Mr Hemphill gave overviews of the PRISM site, the NMDI site, and several recently updated NSO websites.

Presentation: Samoa

Mr Semo Fepuleai, GIS and Statistical Officer with the Samoa Bureau of Statistics, presented on GIS and dissemination. Samoa adopted GPS and scanning technologies for its 2011 census. In addition to other data, household GIS coordinates were collected to map precise population locations for planning, and natural disaster preparedness and response. Regarding updating Samoa's GIS database, enumeration boundaries were extended to the middle of the islands to account for population expansion. Using the open source PopGIS software, Samoa created thematic maps, such as a map of households on freehold land by political district, and a longitudinal study of mobile phone saturation. Samoa also adopted SPSS statistics software during the census round.

Presentation: SPC

Mr Phil Bright, GIS Specialist (Census and Survey) with SPC, presented on spatial data dissemination via online mapping and PopGIS. With Samoa's stable boundaries and census questions, Mr Bright gave an example comparison, showing changes in households that only have access to unimproved toilet facilities over the 2001, 2006, and 2011 censuses. In some countries, which do not have house addresses, GPS can establish exactly where houses are. Rather than completely redesigning boundaries, countries can split districts to make future comparisons possible. A limitation to spatial data dissemination is that population data is only useful for a certain period of time, after which it no longer reflects reality. Also, wide dissemination of data is important; this can be achieved through PRISM, PopGIS, posters, and reports. Concluding his presentation, Mr Bright gave a preview of the updated web-based mapping software, which can also be used for spatial data dissemination.

Presentation: SPC

Mr Fermin Sakisat, Programming Officer with SPC, presented on micro data documentation using a National Data Archive (NADA) and the 'Pacific Data Catalogue'. A NADA is a web-based cataloguing system that serves as a portal for researchers to browse, search, compare, and download relevant census or survey information. A NADA keeps a history of data from sources like censuses, DHSs, HIESs, and other surveys. Data from 31 documented surveys is already online; 13 surveys are in progress for posting, and 34 surveys are under review for documentation. SPC and PARIS21 have trained 41 staff in 14 PICs on NADA. Also, the NADA software for the Pacific Data Catalogue is being updated from version three to version four. Concluding his presentation, Mr Sakisat demonstrated the updated Pacific Data Catalogue and outlined the challenges confronting increased NADA use, including dataset accuracy and the transition to CSPro version five.

Presentation: SPC

Mr Hemphill presented achievements and challenges related to the updated PNG NSO website, which was recently migrated from FrontPage to the Joomla 2.5 content management system and is ready for uploading to PRISM servers. Data on the old website was out-dated and tables, charts, and maps have been recreated with updated data. One challenge to this effort was integrating data from several databases since each government department has its own statistical databases (PNG's Integrated Government Information System, a centralized information system, is currently being implemented). Other challenges include PNG's ongoing upgrade to fiber optic cables, software and hardware resource limitations, and limited internet access that inhibits dissemination.

Before beginning the discussion on *Working Paper 4.1*, Mr Hemphill outlined challenges to making regional statistics more accessible. Although communication has improved through Skype, it is still hard to reach some NSO staff. Survey documentation should be implicit in the survey process itself; too often the documentation stage happens after survey completion, as an afterthought. Finally, there is a disconnect between online and offline dissemination; this can be improved in TYPPS Phase-2.

Discussion

Opening the discussion, Mrs Taua, Samoa, thanked SPC for its technical assistance on GIS. Samoa's GIS capacity is useful in several capacities and it took perhaps 20 years to develop and implement.

Mr Chigiyal, FSM, asked about how governments can maintain and update their websites on PRISM; which one updates which? He also asked if Samoa could share how their mapping works with the census data since most countries complete mapping before census fieldwork and there is a lag between each data collection. Mrs Taua responded that the census data gathering is connected to a GPS device. Mr Muagututia of Samoa praised the technology and SPC's provision of it; Pacific governments should take advantage of it.

The meeting Chairman, noting that much of the Pacific population lives in rural areas, asked how governments inform rural populations and disseminate results.

Mr Rogers, PFTAC, noted that many Pacific NSOs have very limited staff and limited budgets and the costs of this type of analysis must be high. If this were determined to be a good use of resources, it would be useful to standardize it as much as possible to improve South-South cooperation.

Mr Wise, Fiji, supported the concept of the new technology but questioned the high cost of maintaining it. Governments should judge the technology's relevance, practicality and sustainability.

Mr Chigiyal, FSM, asked about the privacy of mapping data, which is now at peak demand. He asked, 'Can we share this information if we take out the labels?'

Mr Hemphill, SPC, responded that most of the GIS software is open source and therefore free. Training and website updating are low cost activities. Ideally, there would be a permanent staff member who deals with each NSO's website but this is not possible. SPC is therefore keeping the content management systems and the Joomla portion of websites simple. Regarding dissemination to rural areas, other methods are available such as radio and pamphlets.

Mr Bright, SPC, further responded that buildings appear and disappear between census mapping and enumeration. When census fieldwork is occurring, staff should be aware of areas that were missed or changed since mapping and try to update them. Samoa has examples of how that was accomplished. Indeed, confidentiality of GPS data is an issue. Governments are already releasing simple household population data, which is not confidential, for disaster management and food security purposes. More sensitive information is not released. SPC does not release data except as permitted by governments.

Mr Vaha, Niue, thanked SPC for help with the NSO website and asked how long SPC can host it. He also stated that Niue is not interested in further PopGIS aid or support.

Mr Alfonis M. Sound, Director of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI) Department of Commerce, endorsed the ideas presented and stated that CNMI has strong ICT access.

Mrs Taua, Samoa, emphasized the importance of disseminating information to users. Maps are an excellent tool to get data to the people, and younger Samoans in particular. Samoa is investing in students and the young population to get them interested in GIS and mapping technology. She also noted that although data confidentiality is important, natural disasters are when it can be relaxed. Samoa's recent cyclone event was an example of this. Following-up on this comment, Mr Sakisat, SPC, noted that legislation and NSO policies should regulate when confidential data is released.

Concluding the session, Mr Hemphill addressed the costs related to the technology. Ongoing costs are small and relate to website updating. Purchases of servers were made with one-time payments; the servers will last a long time and SPC has policies in place to perform server upgrades. As a result, SPC will be able to continue to host Niue's website.

Session 5 / TYPPS Objective 5: New and innovative statistical tools and systems have been introduced.

New field monitoring tools; Advanced HIES output system; Use of tablets/computer assisted interview – field-tested during Tuvalu 2012 census

Presentation: SPC

Mr Toga Raikoti, Census/Survey Data Processing Specialist and Programmer with SPC, began session five by presenting computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) technology, to be introduced for the 2020 census round. CAPI involves enumerators recording responses directly into a laptop, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), tablet, or mobile phone. Pacific field-testing of CAPI began during Tuvalu's 2012 census. CAPI enables higher quality captured data and permits faster data processing than with paper questionnaires. In addition, CAPI removes the need for double data entry and eliminates imputations. Several challenges exist for CAPI implementation, such as providing technological support in the field, access to electricity to recharge laptop batteries, and opportunities for regular data backup and storage.

Presentation: SPC

Mr Peter Wong, Population Census/Survey Data Processing Specialist and Programmer with SPC, began his presentation on the HIES field-based data capturing and monitoring system by describing the rationale behind HIES Computer Aided Field Editing (CAFE). HIES CAFE methods can identify errors encountered in field collection and help identify enumerator weaknesses for understanding and

delivering questions to respondents. HIES CAFE also enables easy and quick corrections of information and utilisation of PAC-COICOP to make coding efficient and accurate. The major accomplishments during development of HIES CAFE were completing data consistency and validity checks; these include validity errors, consistency errors, range warnings, and receipts and disbursement thresholds. The two key challenges for the future of HIES CAFE are adding country specific questions and possible dependency on the system for quality control.

Presentation: SPC

Mr Buffière, SPC Household Survey Specialist, presented the implementation of the Pacific Living Condition (hybrid) Survey in Vanuatu. The hybrid survey was developed by SPC with support from the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical capacity building to provide a more cost-effective household survey format to generate key social, demographic and economic development indicators, as compared to running multiple household surveys such as HIES, DHS, LSMS and LFS. Drawing key components from these surveys, including household income/expenditure diary modules from HIES and sexual/reproductive health and family planning modules from DHS, for example, this survey captures 82 out of 208 of SPC's National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDIs), including most of the population-based MDG indicators. The survey had a small sample, comprised of 1,200 households representing all six provinces, and providing for robust indicators at national and rural-urban levels. Running the survey over a twelve-month period allowed addressing seasonality issues, and the use of fewer, and thus more manageable survey teams, at a modest budget of USD 230,000. Key challenges affecting the hybrid survey included achieving timely data entry; problems with charging laptops in the field; inconsistent internet connections; computer illiteracy among some supervisors; and frequent communication breakdowns between enumerators and supervisors. In conclusion, Mr Buffière noted several final observations: 12 months of data collection requires continual support from the NSO throughout the survey period; a greater dedicated budget line should be reserved for mobile phone communication; more dedicated technical support is needed for field-based data entry/CAFE system support; and NSO staff should perform more frequent field visits.

Mr Haberkorn presented additional information on development of the hybrid survey. This new survey tool was necessary to measure NMDIs. Portions of the hybrid survey came from the HIES. Some indicators, like cultural practice, were not present in previously established household surveys. Other modules created for the hybrid survey included: a two-page labour force survey, and a nutrition and food intake diary. The World Bank and the International Household Survey Programme were interested to test if the hybrid methodology could provide a more cost-effective alternative to countries that do not have sufficient resources to run large-scale and expensive household surveys like HIES, DHS, and LSMS, for example, to generate a growing number of statistical indicators required for monitoring development progress. Ultimately, the more cost-effective hybrid survey could be run every two or three years, as opposed to every five years for the HIES. Concluding his comments, Mr Haberkorn thanked the World Bank, the International Household Survey Program, and PARIS21 for their funding support.

Discussion

Mr Wise, Fiji, opened the discussion by remarking that one of the biggest challenges in the Pacific is measuring poverty. The health and labour force indicators in the hybrid survey will help measure poverty. Mr Wise asked if it is possible to include other indicators, such as access to resources, like land and marine resources, for measuring poverty. He also asked why variation for non-food items was high while variation for food items was low.

Mr Haberkorn responded that questions regarding access to land, forestry and marine resources were included in the cultural practices module. Regarding the variations between food and non-food items, this was largely due to expenditures on products such as cigarettes, alcohol, beer, and mobile phone recharge cards, which were not consistently reported.

Mr Challier, French Polynesia, asked why the hybrid survey used the CAFE model and not CAPI. He also asked what the investments are that SPC will make in CAPI in the future.

Mr Buffière responded that it was already difficult enough in the hybrid survey to introduce and test field-based data capture. To implement CAPI, a larger budget would have been necessary to have enough IT and logistical support, almost three times as many supervisors, and all the enumerators would have had to be familiar with the computers. Also, the main objective was to test the new methodology, including new thematic modules and diaries, not primarily electronic data capture.

Mr Gautier, New Caledonia, mentioned that it is easy to link the idea of new NSO websites and computer-assisted personal interviewing. He asked if SPC is considering internet based data-capture. Mr Haberkorn responded that given the logistics and basic IT challenges encountered, such as battery recharging, internet based data-capture is not a current priority. It could perhaps be used as an additional method in highly urbanised areas.

Mr Palmer, Australia, concluded the discussion by stating that Australia has already had two censuses for which it used the internet to capture data. The 2016 census will be Australia's first true digital census and the internet 'will be the mainstream way of people responding.' Since 'Niue is the Wi-Fi nation,' this could be another opportunity to use CAPI. He also mentioned the capacity of mobile phones and how citizens are empowered to contribute data using their phones.

Session 6 / TYPPS Objective 6: National and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively.

Approved statistical master plan or NSDS; PIC establishment of national statistical advisory committees; effective functioning of PSSC.

Presentation: SPC

Mr Haberkorn began the session on statistics governance by presenting on statistical strategic planning, and reiterating one of the main recommendations coming out of the *Mid-term Review of Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan Phase-1*: to ensure the development of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) should be a key strategic priority for TYPPS Phase-2. PICTs are at various states of NSDS development: NSDS is complete or imminently complete for five; road map consultations are planned for two; and four other NSOs have expressed interest in completing strategic planning. Other than NSDSs, 15 PICTs have other types of multi-year NSO strategic plans and two have annual business plans. Also, three PICTs have active National Statistical Advisory Committees, a prerequisite for the NSDS, and eight other PICTs have statistical advisory committees that are planned, not strategic in focus, or inactive. Mr Haberkorn concluded by stating that PARIS21's guidance is a 'fantastic catalyst' to further progress NSDS developments across the region.

Presentation: ABS

Closing the day, Mr Palmer, Australia, presented an update on ABS's activities to strengthen statistical leadership capacity. In collaboration with AusAID and SPC, ABS is supporting the implementation of TYPPS. ABS provides a program of instruction, mentoring and direct assistance on governance, implementing training and workshop opportunities that support improved leadership and institutional strengthening. In 2011-2013, ABS held successful workshops in Canberra, Vanuatu, and Brisbane. Programs included instruction by current and former senior executives from ABS, Statistics New Zealand, SPC and AusAID, with active involvement by PICT participants. Similar workshops were also presented for Indonesia's *Badan Pusat Statistik* and Timor-Leste's *Direcção Nacional de Estatística*. ABS's mentor program was piloted in Fiji, where Epeli Waqavonovono participated.

Mr Waqavonovono, Fiji, intervened, stating that the mentor program was very useful. Dennis Ferrel, an executive with 42 years of experience in statistics, shared his knowledge as a mentor. He helped

Fiji draft a review of its statistics legislation and also helped with drafting a Memorandum of Understanding for several data suppliers.

Mr Palmer continued by explaining some challenges for ABS's mentoring program, which was piloted in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and met mixed results. In Fiji, the program obtained significant outcomes on access to administrative data and preparation of legislation strategies but was sluggish when cooperation from other stakeholders was required. After initial visits to Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, progress has not continued and is dependent upon uptake by these countries.

DAY 3: 24 July 2013

Part 2: Report of an external mid-term review of Phase-1 of Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy implementation

The *Mid-Term Review of the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) Implementation* was jointly commissioned by AusAID and SPC. The review's goals were to provide feedback on TYPSS implementation, record lessons learned, and document ongoing relevance of TYPSS objectives and priorities amidst emerging regional and international development policy issues. The *Mid-term Review* will guide completion of Phase-1 (2013–2014) and assist in the design of Phase-2 (2015–2017) activities.

Session 7: Reflection by PSSC Chair on TYPPS implementation 2010-2013 and statistical developments in the region, followed by plenary discussion

Presentation: Chair of PSSC

Sefuiva Reupena Muagututia, outgoing Chair of the PSSC and Government Statistician from Samoa, opened the day by presenting *Information Paper 7.1*, reflections on the future directions of TYPPS. He began by outlining TYPPS's six strategic objectives to guide statistical development in the Pacific. He also gave an overview of the progress on TYPPS. SPC is supporting several areas of development: the census and HIES rounds that are underway, standardisation of questionnaires and methodologies, and improving national accounts and key economic statistics (involving both SPC and PFTAC), as well as improving Civil Registration/Vital Statistics (CRVS) and education management information systems (EMIS) across the region. There is a feeling amongst NSOs, however, that progress should be enhanced to boost momentum in other aspects of the strategies. Greater emphasis is needed towards implementing the TYPSS strategies for capacity building, data access and utilisation, and especially governance. Also, NSOs should complete their National Statistics Strategies, as they agreed under PARIS21. Concluding, Mr Muagututia outlined two general recommendations, one on a TYPSS Project Coordinator and another on a regional capacity building team, (included in Appendix 1) which the participants later accepted.

Mr Muagututia then introduced Mr Len Cook, a consultant with Statistics New Zealand and *Friend of the (PSSC) Chair*, who elaborated on the outgoing Chair's comments. Mr Cook informed HOPS that the PSSC was developed around the models of Eurostats, CariCom, and the Nordic countries' statistics council, with the PSSC having become the fourth most important collective body of statisticians outside the UN system and OECD. Key drivers of continued growth of the PSSC include the convening of Technical Working Groups (TWGs), such as the current group developing the new Pacific HIES methodology, and another group about to be formed by PSSC-7 to look at a regional statistical capacity building/training strategy, thus increasing the capacity to build the body of knowledge of statistics gathering in the Pacific. There is much the Pacific can offer the world in terms of statistics development, including legislation, information on sampling from small populations, and technology-age data gathering (such as with Wi-Fi). Also, the ability to bridge the gap between the most advanced statistical systems and the systems in the Pacific has never been greater; this is an

opportunity for growth. The next PSSC will emphasize user linkages, training, strengthening regional solutions, and driving the pace of change. The new PSSC will be composed of the Chair of HOPS, government statisticians from Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, a representative of the smaller countries, representatives of Australia, France, New Zealand, and the U.S., observers from partner agencies, and heads of the planning agencies (who will attend every second meeting).

Dr Jimmie Rodgers of SPC spoke next, introducing three additional recommendations, which were included in those later accepted by the HOPS participants (Appendix 1). He stated that the proposal to strengthen the PSSC is very good and that SPC will gladly work to advance it.

Discussion

Mr Gautier, New Caledonia, was the first to comment on the recommendations from the outgoing Chair of the PSSC and SPC. He remarked that PICTs need to make progress in the areas mentioned by the outgoing Chair. He also stated that progress by various TWGs should be regularly monitored. Finally, Mr Gautier noted that collaboration is essential and South-South collaboration will continue to be very useful.

Hemline Ysawa, Head of the Statistics Collection and Analysis Unit in Marshall Islands' Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office, expressed her support and called for further collaboration.

Mrs Crisostomo, Guam, expressed support for the recommendations. She also provided clarification that the number of staff in Guam's Bureau of Statistics and Plans was reduced from 18 to 14. She also expressed regret that Guam cannot provide more South-South assistance but could support training efforts if they are held on Guam.

Mr Wise, Fiji, supported the proposal, which he said is in line with the ESCAP committee of statistics recommendations and a commitment made at Rio to improve information, including reliable real-time statistics. The challenge will be to find suitable modalities to make the proposal functional and cost-effective, and to ensure TWGs do not become a new level of bureaucracy and focus primarily on ensuring that quality and timely statistics can be generated to assist decision-making in the post-2015 environment.

Mr Chigiyal, FSM, gave full support to the outgoing Chair's recommendation to appoint a full-time TYPSS Project Coordinator. Regarding the recommendation on creating TWGs, FSM shares the same views as Fiji: the Pacific does not need additional layers of committees – it needs to streamline. Its intent is to strengthen focused discussions on statistics. He also agreed that PICTs should harness the benefits of cooperation that can be provided by others in the region.

Mrs Tangimetua, Cook Islands, asked if the new PSSC Project Coordinator would be a person from within HOPS or staff of SDD. She also said appointing senior planners as committee members will not work, recommending that instead, planners should be invited to every second PSSC meeting, to ensure PSSC retains its main focus on statistics. Further, HOPS should progress to statistics analysis from collection, which was discussed for the past decade. Universities, SIAP, and PFTAC could deliver training, rather than developing a core team. Cook Islands, as the last to conduct its census, is the last to get resources. Therefore, the make-up of PSSC and the Project Coordinator position should be re-examined.

Mr Palmer, Australia, conveyed strong support for the recommendations. He also noted that the inclusion of planners in PSSC is a strategic initiative, which would make the Pacific voice more noticeable around the world.

Mr Lafaele, American Samoa, supported the recommendations. Introducing American Samoa's territorial planner, also at HOPS, Mr Lafaele noted the importance of having planners and statisticians work together. He invited representatives from Guam and CNMI to discuss common challenges and resources available to U.S. territories. He will assure that SPC receives the requested information that it did not get from American Samoa's previous administration.

Mr Johnson, HOPS Chair, speaking on behalf of his country, expressed Vanuatu's support for the recommendations. He also confirmed Vanuatu's willingness to provide continued support to South-South cooperation.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, mentioned that TYPPS governance is one of the most important issues for HOPS to consider. The stakeholders' expectations under TYPPS exceed SPC's capacity, alone. This is also a reflection of TYPPS's wide scope. He concluded his comments by supporting the recommendations.

The following country representatives also expressed their support for the ideas presented by the outgoing PSSC Chair and SPC's Director General, providing limited supplemental statements: Mr Sound of CNMI, Mr Tiroa of Kiribati, Mr Lui of Tokelau, Mr Finau of Tonga, Mr Malona of Tuvalu, Mr Kimi of the Solomon Islands, Mr Fiti of Samoa, Mr Vaha of Niue, and Mr Feary of New Zealand.

Ms Resina Katafono, MDGs Regional Advisor with PIFS, noted that the regional statistics achievements would be included in two key reports to the Forum leaders later this year. The challenge for statisticians is to transform collected information into reports that are useful for policymaking. PIFS strongly supports the recommendation on involving three planners from the region in the PSSC. She noted that a difficulty was how statisticians engage planners and this is a way to overcome it. Also, challenges raised about staffing and statistician salaries can be presented at the Forum Economic Ministers Annual Meeting and at the Annual Pacific Island Countries and Development Partners Meeting.

Mr Mehaka Rountree, Principal Development Manager with the New Zealand Agency for International Development, supported the recommendations, suggesting more detail would be useful.

Mr Samuel Blazyk, PARIS21's Program Co-ordinator for Asia and the Pacific, expressed PARIS21's approval of the main point of the recommendations: to design national strategies for statistics in the region. Although it has only 15 staff, PARIS21 would like to be more involved in the Pacific region.

Mr Rogers, PFTAC, generally supported the recommendations, but he said 'the devil is always in the details'. Having a TYPPS Coordinator makes sense. Regarding having senior planners at PSSC, that may not provide 'enough flexibility or enough pressure on planners.' There may be times when countries will want central bankers, or representatives from finance, health or environment ministries at PSSC meetings; having senior planners is not a substitute to engaging those people. Regarding capacity building resources, after a statistical training TWG develops the regional training strategy, training gaps can be identified and the duties of the new capacity building team can be defined. Its duties should not be defined before gaps are identified and a strategy is developed.

Ms Ireland, AusAID, expressed support for the recommendations in principle. There should be more discussion on all the recommendations in the context of the design of Phase-2 and future TYPPS implementation. She requested that HOPS review all recommendations together and prioritise those involving additional (new) funding.

Dr Jafarey, USP, welcomed the suggestion that USP should stay on the PSSC as an observer. In addition to training, the university is also an avid data consumer and would like to be influential regarding that role. Dr Jafarey proposed to draft a TOR for USP's role as researchers in PSSC. He

added his support to PFTAC's idea of not limiting PSSC to planning departments but also including other producers and consumers of statistics, in line with thematic TYPSS priorities.

Mr Muagututia, Samoa, expressed thanks for the overwhelming support for the recommendations. He also responded to Cook Islands' query: if the position of TYPPS Coordinator were approved, the recruitment would be performed through the same channels as for SPC staff. Also, including a planner in PSSC is the result of working with statistics users, who should 'recognise the fruits of our work, the statistics that we produce.' Responding to PFTAC's comment on capacity building resources, a training gap analysis has already been accomplished, and will feed into the planned work of a new TWG dealing specifically with statistical training and capacity building.

Dr Rodgers, SPC Director General, reinforced the history of South-South cooperation in the region. A regional strategy regarding how cooperation works would be useful for countries. Also, PIFS is instrumental in influencing the region's highest level of leaders, the Forum Leaders. Having PIFS at HOPS provides a direct link to the Forum Leaders' processes. He also echoed the importance of the recommendations. Regarding meetings where some PICTs could not participate, Dr Rodgers concluded with an appraisal of the late Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara of Fiji, who stressed one of SPC's important roles was that it '*was a place for everybody*'.

Mr Muagututia, Samoa, closed the discussion by thanking Dr Rodgers for his participation. He thanked the participants for their support as PSSC Chair. He also thanked Mr Haberkorn and his team for their assistance, and expressed his gratitude to Mr Cook of New Zealand for his mentorship over the years.

Session 8: Mid-term review of TYPSS Phase-1 – Introduction of mid-term review report by consultants, followed by plenary discussion **Introduction of mid-term review report**

Presentation: AusAID

Ms Jessica Ireland, AusAID, introduced the *Mid-term review of TYPSS Phase-1 Action Plan*. The idea for the review was raised at the PSSC meeting in April 2012. The review would gauge progress against the six TYPPS objectives, inform Phase-2 design, and report back to donors on progress and contributions by all TYPPS partners. Ross McLeod, a monitoring and evaluation specialist, and Thomas Africa, former Government Statistician of the Philippines and Director of UNSIAP, were the independent consultants who undertook the *Mid-term Review*. It was co-managed by AusAID and SPC. In addition to assessing achievements, the review was also to consider the sustainability of the present implementation arrangements, assess current TYPPS governance arrangements, and suggest improvements that would strengthen the program.

The review's key findings were structured around the following criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, gender equality, and monitoring and evaluation. Regarding relevance, TYPPS was seen as well aligned with national and regional priorities and its thematic focus on economic, education, vital and health statistics remains relevant. The review highlighted the importance of national strategies guiding regional assistance and called for a renewed focus on data analysis and dissemination in Phase-2. Regarding effectiveness, the review found that Phase-1 is achieving all six TYPPS objectives. Regarding efficiency, the review found that coordination and regional delivery of products and services achieved efficiencies; it also noted that an optimal approach to regional delivery of statistical assistance requires recognition of different capacity development demands of each country. Regarding sustainability, NSO transaction costs have been reduced through TYPPS's survey finance and technical assistance. Governments are increasingly funding statistical services as the NSDS design process harnessed political support and commitment for statistics. The sustainability of capacity building efforts, however, was questionable. Regarding gender equality, sex-

disaggregated data is more accessible but more support is needed for production of gender statistics. Finally, monitoring and evaluation was seen to be somewhat complicated with a multiple-partner program like TYPPS, noting that reporting had been largely focused on inputs and outputs by most partners, with only some explicitly reporting on outcomes; this will need to be addressed by all in future reports on TYPSS implementation.

The *Mid-term Review* provided 12 recommendations (Appendix 2) impacting TYPPS, PSSC, technical assistance agencies, and donors. Following the AusAID presentation, a discussion on the recommendations led to their approval by the HOPS participants with minor suggested amendments (included in Appendix 1).

Discussion

The plenary discussion had time available to discuss the first six recommendations on a broad scale. The breakout group exercise that followed gave participants the opportunity to discuss the recommendations in a more focused environment, working on three themes: statistical collections, administrative data and associated management information systems, and dissemination and analysis.

Mr Feary, New Zealand, asked for clarification on whether the review was prepared for HOPS. Mr Haberkorn replied that the participants had before them the final version of the review report commissioned by SPC and AusAID, which was tabled at PSSC-6 in May for an initial review in its capacity as a committee of HOPS, and is now presented to the full HOPS body for comment.

Mr Wise, Fiji, commented that the thematic areas of the review, such as gender and climate change, were too broad. The recommendations should be more focused, identifying specific areas relevant to each country. Some thematic areas could be integrated since several are crosscutting in scope. Each country may give different priorities to the areas, which have commonalities and differences.

Ms Campbell, UNESCAP and chair of the Suva-based United Nations Development Assistance Framework's (UNDAF) Monitoring and Evaluation Group, expressed support of the overall structure of TYPPS, reiterated UNDAF members' continued commitment to TYPPS, and their interest in pursuing the recommendations as a team of assistance providers. UNESCAP and UNDAF support the emphasis on NSDS as the way forward, welcome a strengthened focus on data analysis and dissemination, and acknowledge the importance of SPC's National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) database as an important system to monitor UNDAF activities.

Regarding Recommendation 1, that the TYPSS overall structure and objectives should be maintained, Mr Chigiyal, FSM, agreed that it could be more specific but that countries should at least collect the statistics required for the full suite of the NMDIs. Countries should also collect more statistics in specific thematic areas, such as gender, climate change, food security, disaster risk, disability, and environmental-economic accounting.

Mr Feary, New Zealand, stated his support for FSM's comments on recommendation one. He stated that in addition to the review report's key findings and recommendations, further discussion should also focus on its key themes around relevance, effectiveness, and monitoring and evaluation.

Mr Jorari, SPC Demographer, clarified that while the review report's first recommendation referred to the continued relevance of the TYPSS structure, countries were also requested to consider which emerging issues, all of which are part of the Pacific Plan, are most relevant to them for inclusion in the design of Phase-2 of TYPSS implementation.

Regarding all twelve review recommendations, Mr Haberkorn requested that wherever a recommendation makes reference to 'PSSC', this should be changed to 'HOPS', since PSSC is a

HOPS committee which was established in July 2010 to enable a more regular monitoring of TYPSS implementation than would have been possible under a triennial HOPS meeting framework.

With no specific comments provided on Recommendation 2, Mr Chigiya, FSM, commented that Recommendation 3 endorsement of an increased TYPSS focus on data analysis and dissemination should also include language pertaining to ‘training and recruiting good teachers’.

Ms Guerrero, UNSIAP, commented that the mid-term review team unfortunately did not interview her organisation. She expressed support for the recommendation’s emphasis on data analysis training, and UNSIAP’s willingness to collaborate with SPC on future training needs assessments.

Mr Gautier, New Caledonia, commented that the recommendation is a sign of regional success in data collection and surveys. The skills of data analysis and dissemination are very different and care should be taken if they are combined during training.

Mrs Crisostomo, Guam, mentioned that dissemination is a particular area of need for Guam’s NSO.

Mrs Tau, Samoa, asked if improving sampling is mentioned in the recommendations since there are no regional standardized sampling methodologies or software. Responding, Ms Ireland of AusAID, stated that sampling was not an area that arose as part of the review and should likely be considered in addition to the review recommendations. Mr Gadabu, Nauru, followed-up, stating that since sampling comes under analysis, the term sampling or its methodology should be added to recommendation three. Also responding to Samoa, Mr Finau of Tonga stated that NSOs could look to old methodologies for sampling design and error. This was included in the conference recommendations (Appendix 1).

Mr Wise, Fiji, commented that Fiji’s statistical releases are often criticized for being too technical, and hence are infrequently used by journalists. Dissemination and report writing are key focal areas if NSOs want their work covered in the media. Agreeing, Mr Haberkorn mentioned that SPC is already discussing assistance on statistical advocacy and report writing with PARIS21, with associated training in this area getting more attention during the next several years and the next funding cycle.

Mr Rogers, PFTAC, agreed with the comment from New Caledonia that data analysis and dissemination are generically different and data analysis will be increasingly important for NSOs. He suggested several changes to recommendation two and three. Ms Ireland of AusAID responded that the *Mid-term Review of TYPSS Phase-1* is a finalised report. Noting the comment from PFTAC, she requested that discussions focus on how to use the recommendations rather than changing them, as the review had already gone through two rounds of reviews by countries and PSSC.

There were no interventions on Recommendation 4, which identified NSDS development as a major priority.

Mrs Taua, Samoa, expressed support for Recommendation 5, ‘that all technical assistance providers and countries should improve monitoring and evaluation’, and stressed that monitoring and evaluation remains a weak area for many NSOs, requiring more support.

Regarding Recommendation 6, that PSSC engage a part-time coordinator, Mrs Taua, Samoa, noted that earlier in the day, the outgoing PSSC Chair recommended engaging a full-time coordinator. Ms Ireland, AusAID, responded that this difference should be further discussed. Continuing, Mrs Taua supported engaging a full-time coordinator. Responding to a related comment from Mr Gadabu, Nauru, Mr Haberkorn clarified that the wording of the recommendation should be for HOPS to engage a coordinator for PSSC, and that a decision on whether or not the coordinator position should be part-

time or full-time, would ultimately become more apparent once the exact Terms of Reference have been established and agreed upon, and also be dependent on available funding.

Mr Feary, New Zealand, also supported Recommendation 6, adding that the coordinator should provide ‘an independent secretariat role that is independent of providers, and provides full support to the PSSC chair.’

In the interest of time, the Chair proposed that participants temporarily suspend discussion of individual *Mid-term Review* recommendations, suggesting that further discussion take place during the final review of HOPS actions and recommendations (Appendix 1), concluding the conference. He requested participants to convene in three breakout groups, and discuss implementation and prioritisation of the *Mid-term Review* recommendations; Mr Fiti, Samoa, supported the Chair’s suggestion.

Presentations: breakout groups on implementation / prioritization of report recommendations

HOPS participants separated into three breakout groups to discuss implementation and prioritisation of the twelve recommendations from the *Mid-term Review* of TYPPS Phase-1. Several SDD staff members facilitated the discussions of each working group. The meeting participants were divided into the following working groups (PICTs with more than one representative participated in multiple groups):

- Group 1 – Collections: Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tonga.
- Group 2 – Administrative data (Database / Associated MIS): CNMI, Niue, RMI, Samoa, Tokelau, and Vanuatu.
- Group 3 – Dissemination and Analysis: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Mr Feary, New Zealand, commented that the proposed breakout group themes do not resonate with the review’s findings and that the groups would return discussion points on subject matter content rather than focusing on the reason for the review: determining progress against TYPPS Phase-1 objectives and informing design of Phase-2. Acknowledging Mr Feary’s concern, Mr Haberkorn clarified that the breakout groups’ discussions were meant to focus on how to fine-tune implementing the recommendations. Mr Cook, Friend of the Chair, added that the *Mid-term Review* was generally positive and that only marginal changes to its emphasis were called for, and that continuing with discussion of individual *Mid-term Review* recommendations could upset the conference order. Mrs Crisostomo, Guam, commented that positive progress is being achieved on the TYPPS objectives. Mr Haberkorn further clarified that the review was initially requested by SPC, to provide it with an independent assessment of its own implementation of Phase-1 activities, and to advise his division on possible changes required to address pressing and newly emerging statistical issues in the second part of Phase-1 and also guide Phase-2 design. PSSC-4 recommended to extend this review to all TYPPS activities, including those undertaken by other partners (such as, for example, ABS, PFTAC, UNFPA, UNICEF); this resolution, however, did not fully materialize during the review process, which focused more on agencies’ views on progress of TYPPS, rather than a review of their own contribution to this process.

Following extensive discussions, each breakout group presented its findings to the conference.

Group 1: Statistical collections

This group focused on challenges, risks, opportunities, and priorities for each of four domains within data collection: planning, questionnaire design and use of common core set of questions, field supervision, and data entry and editing. Challenges to collections planning include PICTs lacking a master plan for data collection, unreliable funding and waiting for budget cycles, and a lack of

coordination between government departments and international organisations. Challenges to good questionnaire design include a lack of clearly defined outputs, language translation problems, and heavy respondent burdens caused by long or overly detailed questionnaires. Challenges to field supervision relate to recruiting quality field staff, insufficient monitoring tools, and difficulties related to monitoring staff in remote areas. Challenges related to data entry include the data system not being ready in time for entry, poor quality of data entry staff, and data sets not being complete when analysis is scheduled to begin.

Group 1 identified several risks pertaining to statistical collections: surveys not meeting all desirable objectives, the creation of data gaps if survey questions are not used consistently over time, and poor staff performance creating inconsistencies and data errors in the field and during data entry.

Opportunities for collections involve better planning and seeking early and long-term funding, which is helped by establishing strong communication with government and development partners. Opportunities in questionnaire design often come from use of tested or standardized question modules. Accountability, capacity building, and cultivating good staff ethics practices can help create opportunities for building a pool of skilled field staff. New communication technologies can also improve staff communication. Regarding opportunities for data entry and editing, system standardization and use of improved technologies can generate overall efficiencies.

Group 1 work concluded with reviewing priorities: securing early and reliable funding, having skilled staff with training provided where needed, clearly defined outputs, gaining government commitment and user involvement, adoption of international standard classifications, implementing better field supervision, and introducing new technology when applicable.

Group 2: Administrative data

Group 2 began their presentation by emphasising that each sector believes their data is important. NSOs must, however, be mindful of the differing capacities of each sector. Sector ministries and NSOs must see quality statistics as a priority within data collection. Data access and managing change through communication with sector stakeholders are also challenges. Risks related to administrative data include changing funding and resources, changing priorities away from collection (which should remain a perennial focus), and implementation that overestimates current capacities. Opportunities exist for data collected by other entities (ministries and private-sector), technology growth, and creating interactions between statisticians and data users. It is critical that NSDSs develop an overall framework for administrative data use. Other priorities include creating relationship and communication mechanisms between NSOs and ministries, ensuring that statistics legislation exists and is enforced, using of existing systems so NSOs do not duplicate efforts.

Group 3: Data analysis and dissemination

This group expanded their original focus on analysis and dissemination to also include advocacy of the wealth of information statisticians have to influence policies and change lives. The group began by discussing the challenges to improving analysis. These challenges focus on training, including gaining instruction resources and applying lessons learnt to real-world analysis. Data analysis also suffers from low interest and resources, compared to collections. Collected data can be better ‘sold,’ however, through improved analysis, which is also an opportunity for inter-agency and South-South collaboration. In-country training and ‘training of trainers’ on a thematic topic involving multiple related sector offices (not only NSOs) should be prioritized. Measures for monitoring and evaluation include report and policy brief outputs, the number of courses given based on countries’ requests in their NSDSs, and improvements measured in regular skills audits.

This group also stressed the importance of establishing a more strategic link between dissemination and statistical advocacy, highlighting the need for statisticians to change from seeing themselves

primarily as data providers to being also policy advocates and ‘information vendors’. Statisticians should identify their clients (government ministries, legislators, and non-state actors), determine their needs, and how to best engage them. Following those determinations, NSOs can choose from a menu of options for communicating information and advocating policies. Some of these options include working with media, engagement through the UNFPA and UNDP Parliamentarians Programmes, preparing booklets and pamphlets containing ‘meaningful stories,’ and improving regional collaboration. Challenges to dissemination include acknowledging the wide variety of data users, their limited knowledge of statistics, the lack of producers’ understanding of users’ needs and requirements, the diverse range of dissemination techniques, preparing user-friendly data products, and dealing with political pressure preventing data release. Risks to dissemination include data being misinterpreted by users and poor policymaking resulting from decisions that are not informed by data. Opportunities for dissemination include leveraging new technologies, enabling legislation, and making greater use of a wide variety of dissemination techniques (including maps, graphs, and charts). Priorities for monitoring and evaluation include empowerment of NSOs to release data, allocation of appropriate resources to dissemination, and formulation and implementation of a dissemination strategy.

Mr Haberkorn summarized the group presentations, stating that all of the recommendations from the *Mid-term Review*, with the exception of recommendations six, eight, and nine (dealing with PSSC), were addressed by the breakout groups, and that further detail on the breakout group discussions would be presented at the conclusion of the conference. Mr Haberkorn also indicated that the recommendations from the previous days’ presentations, discussions, and working papers, as well as those in the information papers and upcoming presentations would be discussed as the last item of business at the conclusion of this meeting. Also included for adoption would be the consolidated recommendations from the breakout groups, and the review of the PSSC Terms of Reference.

Thanking Mr Haberkorn for his summary, Mr Gadabu, Nauru, proposed that if another TYPPS assessment is undertaken, the methodology should be expanded to include countries that are not represented on the PSSC, to permit a wider response rate. Noting that some PICTs felt excluded from the previous review, he concluded by expressing his support for the review findings.

The Chair acknowledged Nauru’s observations, and thanked the working groups for their thoughtful and constructive deliberations and reports.

DAY 4: 25 July 2013

Part 3: Discussion of pressing and newly emerging policy challenges impacting on statistical activities

The discussions that occurred within Part 3 addressed pressing and newly emerging policy matters and their implications on national and regional statistical activities. The selection of topics was guided by the new SPC Corporate Plan, regional and international policy discussions, and requests from national, regional and international stakeholders. Each topic was introduced by an agency representative together with a designated NSO colleague, and was followed by plenary discussion.

Session 9.1: International Comparison Program

Presentation: ABS

Mr Hockman, ABS, began the day with a presentation on the International Comparison Program (ICP). He introduced several key economic statistics. Comparing two countries’ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) can be accomplished using a price index that measures the relative prices of the same goods and services in each country. The Purchasing Price Parity (PPP) statistic shows the ratio of prices in national currencies, of a certain product or service, in different countries. The Price Level

Index (PLI), the ratio of PPP to exchange rate, measures the extent that different countries are cheap or expensive. Measuring PPPs requires a common basket of goods, for which data is collected, entered and validated each quarter.

Recalculations of the Global ICP are conducted every six years under the auspices of the World Bank to provide comparable measures of GDP, consumption, and other aggregates across countries. Its uses include: aiding international organisations assessment of government needs, increasing the profile of the Pacific in international statistical comparisons, and contributing to capacity building in Pacific NSOs. PICT participation in the ICP helps develop better measures of income, consumption and GDP. The Pacific ICP is coordinated by ABS and funded by AusAID. ABS envisages a simplified involvement for the Pacific in its first ICP round, balancing the need for good data with the need to ensure success.

ABS completed several phases of progress toward submission of final ICP data to the World Bank by 15 October 2013. Preliminary PPPs and PLIs for each country as well as average prices for different quarters have been calculated. The remaining challenge is data validation; each country must verify that the right product was priced accurately, and correct or confirm the data with ABS. Mr Hockman concluded by indicating areas where using ICP can build NSO capacity. Some ICP features can be adopted to improve the CPI: detailed product specifications, price collection sheets with images, and harmonised product classifications. Gathered ICP data can also be used to compare price levels across different islands or across rural and urban areas, as an indicator for exchange rate adjustments, or to create an index of tourism attractiveness.

Session 9.2: National accounts as an integrated framework for economic statistics

Presentation: SPC

Postponing discussion, Ms Lal, SPC, delivered a presentation on implementing Supply and Use Tables (SUT). The Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan recommends regular production of national accounts, implementing the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) standards. This requires countries to construct SUTs, which provide a good basis for measuring economic output and growth. One foundational principle of SUTs is that products available for use in a country are either domestically produced or imported (showing total supply). The other foundational principle is that the total supply is used for intermediate consumption, final consumption expenditure (FCE), capital formation, or exports.

Goods and services	SUPPLY AND USE TABLE															
	SUPPLY				USE											
	Domestic Production	Imports	Total supply	Intermediate consumption	Final consumption expenditure			Capital formation			Exports	Total use				
				Household	Government	Non-profit institutions serving households	Government	Private	Government	Private	Government	Private	Government	Private	Government	
Fish																
Carried fish																
Health services																
Total																
				Gross value added				Gross value added less value added								
				Consumption of employees				Consumption of employees less value added								
				Consumption of fixed capital				Consumption of fixed capital less value added								
				Taxes less subsidies				Taxes less subsidies less value added								
				Gross operating surplus/Mixed income				Gross operating surplus/Mixed income less value added								

Currently, SPC provides technical assistance to Fiji, the only PICT compiling a SUT. Challenges to other countries that will compile SUTs include a demand for detailed product level data, obtaining technical economic skills for the compilers, and securing human and financial resources to complete the compilation. SPC will continue to assist PICTs in the step-by-step SUT compilation process.

Presentation: PFTAC

Mr Legoff, PFTAC, presented on national accounts and business surveys, with the goal of opening a discussion for the improvement of business survey data necessary for compilation of national accounts. The System of National Accounts (SNA) is a coordinating framework for economic statistics, including balance of payments, government finance, and environmental-economic

accounting statistics. To address specific analytical or policy needs, development of satellite accounts enables the production of SNA-compliant estimates, focusing on specific aspects of the economy.

National accounts use a broad range of data sources not limited to business account data, administrative data, and household surveys. The quality of national accounts estimates depends heavily on the quality of data sources. VAT (Value Added Tax) data can provide a valuable source of information but obtaining it requires liaison with tax offices for data integration and coverage. Business surveys provide key data sources, which can be components for compilation of GDP. Technical assistance to governments may be required for compiling business registers, designing questionnaires, planning, sampling, and analysing data. Improving the availability and quality of business data would be a powerful instrument to economic statistics, including national accounts.

Presentation: PFTAC

Mr Rogers, PFTAC, presented on the G-20 gaps initiative, which sets new standards for data collection and dissemination. In 2009, the G-20 asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) to assess key information gaps, leading to inadequate policy measures before the recent global financial crisis and still hampering economic recovery. The resulting G-20 gaps initiative will develop measures of aggregate leverage and maturity mismatches in the financial system and improve coverage of indicators of financial health and soundness of financial institutions, markets and instruments. It will improve understanding of cross-border financial linkages and strengthen coverage of national balance sheets, flow of funds, and general sectoral data. It will also promote timely and cross-country standardized and comparable government finance statistics and communication of official statistics.

The IMF and FSB have made significant progress on the G-20 gaps initiative. For areas where there are existing statistical frameworks, target dates for full implementation by G-20 members are at the end of 2014. Pilot exercises are under way for areas where frameworks need development. The G-20 gaps initiative will likely affect PICTs through development of financial soundness and risk indicators, exposure of cross-border finance flows and investment positions, standardization of government financial statistics, and development of public sector debt statistics. In some cases, the higher statistics standards will affect PICTs through Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) requirements. More generally, PICTs may decide to conform, through NSDSs, to the higher standards of data comprehensiveness, timeliness, and dissemination from market participants.

Discussion

Mr Feary, New Zealand, asked if the standards advocated by the G-20 gaps initiative are comparable to those from other organisations, such as UNESCAP. He also asked whether the international organisations were collaborating on the standards and how they are being implemented.

Mr Muagututia, Samoa, requested assistance from ABS to verify that prices in Fiji are the lowest (with Samoa as the second lowest) in the region, as shown in the preliminary Pacific ICP Results, before disseminating these statistics to political leaders. He also requested assistance from SPC for preparation of its SUT.

Dr Jafarey, USP, requested compilation of additional information on intra-Pacific cross-border banking floors and Pacific regional trade partners, including trade in services as well as goods. He also urged NSOs to foster wider dissemination of financial statistics.

Mr Kimi, Solomon Islands, noted that low response rates pose problems for its annual business surveys. Solomon Islands conducts a business census every five years and business surveys annually during the other years. Mr Kimi requested assistance to overcome the low response rates.

Mr Rogers, PFTAC, responded to the questions from New Zealand, by stating that, in principal, there should not be different standards. The level of cooperation is good across agencies.

Mr Hockman, Australia, responded that one of the 20 gaps initiative criteria is that agencies work together on common definitions and collecting common data. He also responded to the question from Samoa, stating that the data and relative rankings will be verified. Responding to USP, he stated that in the absence of other data, the ranking would be used to make comparisons of competitiveness, rather than simply as a measure of the cost of living.

Mr Lenox Vuti, Manager of Research and Planning with the South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO), introduced the SPTO document, 'Tourism Statistics in the Pacific – An Assessment,' a general paper related to Tourism Satellite Accounts which was included for consideration at HOPS. NSOs will continue to require assistance on statistics related to tourism production capacities. Visitor surveys, accommodation surveys, and other tourism-related surveys are only completed through aid-funded projects and are not part of the regular NSO work.

Mr Tite Habaiyakare, Senior Statistician with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), expressed support for the importance of business surveys. He said that business surveys are the best source of information on wage statistics and labour cost statistics (which are broader than labour compensation).

Mr Johnson, Vanuatu, emphasized the importance of dissemination of economic statistics to users of statistics.

Garth Parry, former SPC Statistician, emphasized the usefulness of administrative data in economic statistics, as it minimizes the impact on NSO resources and the respondent burden. He said that NSOs 'should look at squeezing as much as possible out of the administrative system'.

Ms Campbell, UNESCAP, responded to the question from New Zealand, stating that there is no discrepancy between the ESCAP core set of economic statistics and the standards advocated by the G-20 gaps initiative. The inter-agency working group is a very inclusive process. Mr Rogers followed up on Ms Campbell's comments, stating that the new statistical indicators that require developing new frameworks are focused on sophisticated financial systems (such as financial derivatives), which are not relevant for PICTs. PFTAC provides training courses on developing those and the other financial statistics. Analysts who cannot obtain a country's new financial statistics will become wary of recommending investment in that country's economy.

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, echoing Mr Parry's comments, reiterated the importance of strengthening administrative data, especially for economic statistics.

Mr Finau, Tonga, echoed Mr Muagututia's comment about the necessity of verifying that prices in Fiji and Samoa are the lowest in the Pacific. He also asked if ICP is a better measurement for income than the CPI. Finally, he expressed concern that the methodologies presented were too resource intensive for small countries. Mr Hockman, Australia, responded stating that CPI and ICP serve two different purposes. ICP is for making international comparisons (not domestic policy) and the purpose of CPI is measuring inflation.

Mr Chigiya, FSM, stated that the G-20 gaps initiative shows the importance of economic statistics. SPC and PFTAC should form a 'true partnership' to solve NSOs' capacity problems and act as ambassadors to international 'think tanks' since NSOs lack the capacity to participate in those dialogs.

Mr Gautier, New Caledonia, said that 'economic statistics should not be the poor cousin' in the statistics family; they are where demand is strongest among policymakers. He also said a high level of

competence is necessary to build economic accounts and that they are not of short-term importance: PICTs cannot ‘train accountants every two years – it is not possible.’ Finally, he reiterated the importance of using administrative data as much as possible, and that business surveys should be a last resort.

Mr Rogers, PFTAC, concluded the discussion by stating that the G-20 gaps initiative is a chance to learn about PICTs’ training needs and for PFTAC to improve cooperation with SPC and UNSIAP. He asked that PICTs inform PFTAC of the types of training that work best for them.

Session 9.3: Environmental-Economic Accounting

Presentation: UNESCAP

Ms Campbell, UNESCAP, presented the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA), a new field of statistics for the Pacific and the first international standard for environmental accounting. The SEEA was developed because of the need for better indicators to capture the links between the environment and other pillars of development. The SEEA is a standard that structures information in both monetary and physical terms, by types of resources and types of accounts. The UN is committed to helping countries implement the SEEA, although countries will choose the elements of the system that are most relevant for them.

The SEEA central framework accounts are composed of flow accounts (product SUTs, natural inputs and residuals), stock accounts (natural resources and land), activity / purpose accounts (environmental transactions already existing in the SNA), and combined physical and monetary accounts (blending physical and monetary information for derivation indicators). Experimental ecosystem accounts, which complement the SEEA central framework, provide a way to link ecosystem assets and the economic and development benefits gained from them. There are four policy quadrants in the SEEA that revolve around sustainability: people-environment relationships, economy-environment relationships, ecosystems, and risks from extreme events. Concluding, Ms Campbell presented some examples of how the SEEA is being used to measure resources use against environmental efficiency: CO₂ emissions versus GDP, distribution of environmental taxes and subsidies by industry, and remaining reserves of natural resources.

Presentation: ABS

Mr Hockman, Australia, presented a history of environmental accounting in Australia and the Australian experience implementing the SEEA. Australia has been producing quarterly national accounts for 53 years but they began producing environmental accounts in 1991, with greenhouse gas emissions, ahead of Rio in 1992. Australia’s environmental accounts come from many parts of its government, including ABS, the Department of Environment, and the Bureau of Meteorology. Receiving sustained high-level institutional support, international engagement, and strong partnerships between agencies and between professions has enabled Australia’s success in environmental accounting.

ABS also found experimental accounts to be very useful. Virtually every environmental account was first published as either a research paper or an experimental estimate. This approach provided a practical focus, allowed the development of accounts to be a collaborative process and permitted refining the accounts over time to improve quality and relevance to policy development and evaluation. Overall, accounts improved over time through increased knowledge and skills of staff, speed in accounting, and identification and creation of new sources to address data gaps.

Discussion

Mr Wise, Fiji, opened the discussion and said, ‘The biggest challenge for the Pacific now is capacity building.’ Some PICTs have trouble meeting article four requirements under the IMF, to issue

statistics, for example on debt growth, to be used in comparative analysis. He asked UNESCAP for guidance on how to sequence the requested statistics since PICTs do not have the capacity to develop them all. He added that some issues should be addressed regionally while others are country-specific.

Mr Johnson, Vanuatu, asked how environmental economic accounting is linked to TYPPS.

Ms Campbell, UNESCAP, responding first to the comments from Fiji, stated that in terms of accrual accounting, the SEEA is country driven and PICTs should decide on their own priorities. Although some additional capacity will be needed, much of the environmental data is already available; it is being collected by Ministries of Environment and at the regional level by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The SEEA simply keeps the data in line with an international standard. Regarding how the SEEA linked with TYPPS, Ms Campbell responded that now is the time to determine that, as climate change and other new and emerging issues were highlighted during the *Mid-term Review*.

Mr Hockman, ABS, stated that, regarding linking the SEEA to TYPPS, one of the dimensions of the core economic indicators is environment. He also said that PICTs are each other's partners in the same way that ABS works with other agencies within Australia, to share knowledge and experience. Using the SEEA will allow PICTs to tap into a largely North-North dialogue.

Concluding the discussion, Mr Muagututia, Samoa, addressed how the SEEA fits into TYPPS. He stated that the SEEA falls under emerging and crosscutting issues in the TYPPS *Mid-term Review*. Climate change and national accounts were also raised in the *Mid-term Review*.

Session 9.4: Food security

Presentation: SPC

Caroline Tupoulahi-Fusimalohi, Planning Adviser with SPC's Strategic Engagement, Policy and Planning Facility (SEPPF), provided a snapshot of the regional effort to make progress on food security and provided the major milestones of the Food Secure Pacific Framework. Pacific leaders called for action to improve food security as part of the Pacific Plan. The Framework for Action on Food Security was endorsed at the 2010 Food Summit and later that year by the Pacific leaders. The Food Secure Pacific Working Group (FSPWG) was established in 2010, and is composed of SPC, PIFS, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, and the Centre for Health Innovation and Partnership (CHIP). At the regional level, FSPWG provides leadership and coordination roles, and supports members in developing and implementing national food security plans. At the national level, FSPWG develops and strengthens national implementation plans, strengthens multi-sectoral approaches to national food security policy, and identifies national champions for food security.

To date, many PICTs have held national food summits focusing on food security. At the regional level, FSPWG conducted a mapping exercise of activities related to food security of its member agencies. FSPWG also highlighted the importance of food security at several ministerial meetings, including the 2011 and 2013 Pacific Health Ministers' Meetings, and the 2013 Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting. Major challenges to food security in the Pacific include a lack of resources, advocacy, and the need for food security interventions guided by sector-specific data. Other major challenges specific to food security indicators include a lack of human capacity for data analysis, a lack of IT infrastructure for data collection and analysis in PICTs, out-dated legislation related to data sharing and confidentiality, a lack of monitoring and evaluation capacity, and a general need for food security population data. Concluding the presentation, Ms Tupoulahi-Fusimalohi stated that the FSPWG is in the process of developing a joint proposal for mobilizing resources for joint interventions that include improved leadership and coordination, food security information systems capacity building, and advocacy.

Presentation: SPC

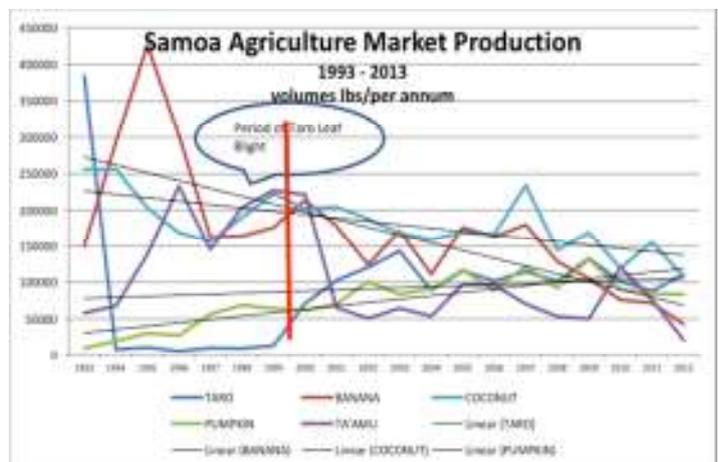
Mr Jorari, SPC Demographer, presented on the development of food security indicators in 2010-2013. Food security exists when all people have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their daily dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (World Food Summit, 1996). There are four dimensions of food security. The first, food availability, refers to the physical existence of food, from production or in markets. The second, food access, is achieved when all households, and all individuals within them, have sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. The third, food utilization, focuses on equitable distribution of food at the household socio-economic level and the ability of the human body to ingest food and convert it into either energy for daily activities or stored energy. The fourth, food stability, refers to the time frame over which nutrition security can be considered as chronic or transitory.

During 2010-2013, the accomplishments toward achieving food security in the Pacific include numerous presentations on food security at ministerial meetings. However, major challenges to achieving food security remain. They focus on a lack of real commitment to making progress, as no additional resources at the national and regional levels have been committed. There is also a lack of coordination among stakeholders on the issue, at both the national and regional levels.

Presentation: Samoa

Mr Fiti, Samoa, presented on food security indicators in Samoa. He said, ‘the issue in Samoa is obesity. Either people are eating too much, eating the wrong food, or both.’ Samoa provides data for FAO to estimate about 30 of its 35 food security indicators. Data gaps are primarily related to data on child undernourishment. Child undernourishment is generally regarded as being very low in Samoa; indeed there is a growing concern at the level of obesity amongst Samoan children. Samoa obtains data for food security indicators from a variety of sources, including its agricultural census, HIES, population census, DHS, trade data, market surveys, and administrative data.

The key uses of food security indicators in Samoa include development of national agricultural and fisheries strategies, monitoring changes in food supply and demand as inputs into national accounts and economic policy dialogues, and assessing the impact of natural disasters on households and production. The challenges to improving these security indicators in Samoa include coordination between the NSO, NGOs, and other government agencies, and allocation of resources to collection and analysis. FAO food security indicators on Samoa, for example, are largely compiled by FAO with little reference to Samoa’s NSO. Some FAO data are difficult to reconcile with NSO data; it is not clear how FAO processes data for international consistency. Mr Fiti concluded the presentation with some charts of changing food security patterns in Samoa, such as the graph of ‘Samoa Agriculture Market Production: 1993-2013’ that shows how food supplies changed after a period of taro leaf blight.



Some FAO data are difficult to reconcile with NSO data; it is not clear how FAO processes data for international consistency. Mr Fiti concluded the presentation with some charts of changing food security patterns in Samoa, such as the graph of ‘Samoa Agriculture Market Production: 1993-2013’ that shows how food supplies changed after a period of taro leaf blight.

Discussion

Ms Guerrero, UNSIAP, began by stating that UNESCAP, FAO, ADB, and UNSIAP are leading a regional effort to linking agriculture and food security statistics under the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. There are two goals: to increase the quality of agricultural production statistics by introducing sustainable systems, and to provide capacity building through in-country technical assistance and training to implement the systems. Implementation began in 2013. It

is important for countries to take ownership of food security and there is a need for a joint discussion on food security so that collaboration can occur.

Mr Chigiyal, FSM, stated that NSOs are taking the issue of food security seriously, with help from SPC. The problem is knowing how to compute the indicators, although progress has been made.

Mr Wise, Fiji, said that food security indicators must be Pacific-specific. Indicators of rail travel and undernourishment are not practical and do not relate to the reality on Pacific islands. He also asked for clarification on the decrease of agriculture's contribution to PICT economies.

Mr Muagututia, Samoa, noted that food security is a challenge for TYPPS regarding capacity building. He emphasized that the large amount of data that has been collected on food security is an opportunity for statisticians to communicate this data to politicians.

Mr Johnson, Vanuatu, noted that their NSO was not represented at the recent Vanuatu Food Summit.

Mr Fiti, Samoa, responding to Fiji, stated that the indicators on agriculture's contribution to PICT economies come from FAO's list. Samoa's NSO did not consult with FAO regarding the FAO indicators. He also said that Samoa's taro exports never recovered after the taro leaf blight and increases in construction have also lead to the decrease in agriculture's contribution to Samoa's GDP.

Mrs Anna Fink, SPC Economist, noted that there are many potential overlaps between food security indicators and the agricultural and forestry NMDIs. One of the biggest gaps is agricultural production data. This data is not readily available from Ministries of Agriculture, who would need NSO assistance collecting and formatting it.

Mr Haberkorn concluded the discussion by noting that there has been little activity on collecting food security statistics because it was not included in TYPPS due to a lack of country demand. For example, the last agricultural census in PNG was two years prior to their independence, and the Solomon Islands, despite requests for support, never had an agricultural census. He also added that food security was now part of SPC's corporate multi-sectoral priorities for the next three years.

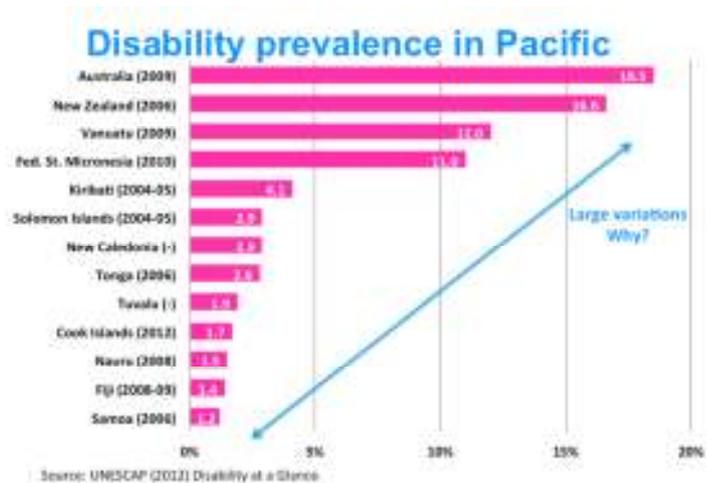
Session 9.5: Disability Statistics

A joint presentation on disability statistics in the Pacific was given by representatives from WHO and UNICEF: Pauline Kleinitz, Technical Officer for Disability and Rehabilitation with WHO, and Bjorn Gelders, Social Policy Specialist with UNICEF. Ms Kleinitz began by stating that there has been much global action on disability statistics, starting with adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008. There has been increasing action on the topic across the UN system, culminating with the UN High Level Meeting on Disability scheduled for 23 September 2013. The report of the UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda explicitly states that those with disabilities must not be 'left behind' and calls for all data to be disaggregated by disability. At the regional level, 2013-2022 is the Asia Pacific Disability Decade led by UNESCAP and through the Incheon Strategy. Also, PIFS noted progress in 2012 of implementation of the Pacific Regional Strategy for Disability. The definition of disability has evolved in recent decades. Previous understanding of disability was limited to the 'impairment' – the change to the body, commonly described as blindness or deafness. Today, disability is considered as 'the outcome of the interaction between the impairment and the environment'.

Disability statistics serve three main purposes: monitoring population level of functioning, designing service provision, and assessing the equalization of opportunity. Several modules on disability for censuses and surveys were developed recently, including the Washington Group on Disability

Statistics (WG) set of questions recommended for inclusion in the 2010 World Round of population and housing censuses, and the UNICEF/WG module on child functioning and disability. The Model Disability Survey is a national survey tool being collaboratively developed by World Bank and WHO. It is slated for completion in 2014. This stand-alone, modular tool will enable collection of information to help countries construct a complete picture of disability with particular relevance to monitoring, service provision, and policy. Child disability is a topic of current interest but there are several challenges relating to measuring disability in the youth population. The challenges for measuring disability in youth are that questions addressed to children are sometimes inappropriate for young adults; developmental delay can be regarded as disability; and views of disability vary by culture and are influenced family and social context.

Mr Gelders continued the presentation by noting that there are enormous discrepancies on disability statistics among PICTs, with data on disability not available for American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Niue, CNMI, Palau, and Papua New Guinea. Part of the challenge relates to data coming from non-standardised sources among the PICTs: some have disability questions in censuses while others have national disability surveys or disability questions in other surveys. Further, the question, ‘Do you have a disability?’ will be answered differently across the Pacific as the word ‘disability’ has very negative connotations and often implies a very significant condition. Questions related to disability should be based on functionality and focus on basic core activities. Also, the word ‘disability’ should not be used, and response categories should be scaled rather stated provided in simple *yes-no* terms. Finally, Mr Gelders presented challenges regarding analysis and dissemination of disability statistics. Presentation of data is usually limited to tabulations showing the number of disabilities in the population. Cross-tabulations with other characteristics are not usually made, but are critical for informing policy. UN guidelines are available for the use of metadata, as well as tabulation and dissemination strategies for disability statistics.



Discussion

Mr Gadabu, Nauru, began the discussion by relating that the problem is a definition for disability. It is important because the term is difficult to translate to field officers, agencies, and survey respondents. Elaborating on the problem, he stated that the back-translations into English of the three Nauruan words for disability are ‘crazy’, ‘dead head’, and ‘sick’. There is no applicable Nauruan word for ‘special’. Also, some senior citizen respondents to Nauru’s mini-census marked that they had a disability although others would simply classify them as elderly.

Mr Johnson, Vanuatu, stated that the definition and measurement of disability seem to be subjective. He also asked how to classify permanent versus temporary disability.

Mr Malona, Tuvalu, recounted difficulties with translation of ‘disability’ that were similar to those encountered in Nauru. He reiterated Vanuatu’s question on permanent versus temporary disability, also asking if people involved in accidents should be considered disabled. Finally, he stated that cross-tabulations of disability data would cause confidentiality breaches due to Tuvalu’s small population.

Ms Kleinitz, WHO, stated that PICT governments have ministries charged with managing disability policy; they create demand for disability statistics. Also, the Pacific Disability Forum is a regional

forum that is a voice for people with disabilities. The problem of translating ‘disability’ can be overcome by asking if respondents ‘have difficulties doing things’, and by using tested and scaled questions. Regarding whether the elderly are disabled, those that do not have functioning difficulties are not disabled. She stated that ‘over the age of 85, something like 80-90% of elderly people would be classified as having some disability’, although they may not self-identify as disabled. Regarding whether a disability is temporary or permanent, it depends on the purpose for asking the question, noting that disability is a result of an interaction of the environment and a physical impairment. Finally, she stated that the measurement tools available are too crude to use for determining the number of people who should receive social security benefits and that, ‘we don’t have a perfect tool in measuring disability.’

Mr Pontifex, SPC Database Specialist, mentioned the use of administrative statistics to measure disability and that teachers often measure disability and inclusiveness in education. An AusAID study found that teachers were uneasy at being charged with the responsibility of identifying students with disability since they felt that they were not qualified to make the assessment.

Mrs Taua, Samoa, emphasized that the problem related to the word ‘disability’ should be focused not on questionnaires but on training manuals, where local translations of questions occur. Samoa has had three censuses that tracked disability data. In Samoa’s civil registration system, the wording was changed to ‘people with special needs’ but it was recently changed back to disability.

Mr Cook, New Zealand, related that when New Zealand developed its first disability census question, it took the recommendation of the disability community to use the word ‘handicap’, a term that is shunned today. Also, it is necessary to understand if public policies are influencing the prevalence of disability.

Mr Chigiyal, FSM, requested that WHO and UNICEF organise a workshop on capturing better disability data.

Mr Sound, CNMI, echoed the request from FSM and stated that disability was studied in CNMI’s 2010 census, even though they were not included in UNESCAP’s 2012 Disability at a Glance report. It also participated in the Incheon Strategy.

Mr Wise, Fiji, asserted that there is less space in the census for sensitive questions on disability than in household survey questionnaires. He requested advice on which questions are most suitable for a census versus on a household survey, which has better trained enumerators.

Mr Gelders, UNICEF, concluded the discussion by responding to the participants. Regarding having teachers identify people with disability, development of the ECD Validation Scale is ongoing, which is a tool for tracking development of children. Teachers can use this tool for disability tracking. He requested that countries document the challenges of translating ‘disability’ to facilitate cooperation for solving this problem. Countries should decide if counting disabilities is enough of a priority to include in the census questionnaire or if it should be in the household survey. Regarding FSM’s request for additional training, PIFS and WHO are organising a workshop on disability statistics for November 2013, targeting the countries’ disability focal points and NSOs.

DAY 5: 27 July 2013

Session 9.6: Human Development

Presentation: SPC (Culture statistics)

Elise Huffer, Human Development Program Adviser, Culture with SPC, began the day with a presentation titled 'Lashing the Canoe: Binding culture and statistics in the Pacific'. SPC has been the custodian of the Festival of Pacific Arts since it began in 1972. SPC also aids in regional policy development with the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture and works on preserving and promoting the Pacific Heritage. Ministers of Culture endorsed the Regional Culture Strategy 2010-2020 in July 2012, under Pacific Plan Objective 11.1. There is very little baseline data in the culture sector; existing gaps are defined by observations.

SPC hosted the inaugural meeting on cultural statistics with PIFS, UNESCO, and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) in 2011. This represented the first time that Pacific heads of culture and heads of statistics met in a regional context. One of the objectives of the meeting was to map the way forward for enhanced cultural statistics and development of indicators in the region. Culture agencies and NSOs are working together to achieve recommendations from the meeting.

Following up on the 2011 workshop, Fiji formed a partnership between its NSO and its Department of National Heritage, Culture, and Arts. This became the Fiji working group on cultural statistics, with the aim of developing a national framework on culture statistics. The draft framework will be available by December 2013.

Interventions

Mrs Tangimetua, Cook Islands, was the first to intervene about experience with culture statistics and stated that several culture-related questions were added to Cook Islands' 2011 census. In June 2013, a technical committee was formed to develop surveys targeting visitors arriving at the international airport and people attending cultural events, to assess the impact of culture on tourism. She requested more training in mining the data in culture.

Mr Malona, Tuvalu, stated that some culture-related questions were included in Tuvalu's latest census as a result of participating in the 2011 culture workshop. The questions were polar; in the future he expressed hope that the culture questions could be more explanatory.

Mr Haberkorn referred to the recent testing in Vanuatu of a 'cultural practices module' in Multi-Development Indicator Household Survey developed by SPC. This included eight cultural practice indicators, focusing on the prevalence of language skills, traditional production skills, and poverty or hardship related to access to natural resources like land, forestry and marine resources. About 94% of the ni-Vanuatu speaks one of the approximately 110 indigenous languages (not Bislama), and while virtually 100% of the rural population uses their indigenous language, only 50% of the urban population use it, preferring to use Bislama instead.

Ms Huffer spoke about the experiences of culture statistics in Wallis and Futuna. SPC worked with the NSO and a policy taskforce on culture mapping, planning and policy.

Discussion

Mr Johnson, Vanuatu, opened the discussion, commenting that in addition to what Mr Haberkorn presented, Vanuatu also recently conducted a comprehensive cultural survey, on behalf of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, with Melanesian statisticians from the region coming to Vanuatu to work on the project.

Dr Jafarey, USP, followed-up on Mr Haberkorn's presentation, which, he stated, had previously been mentioned by SPC Director General Jimmie Rodgers at a presentation in Brisbane, where he linked cultural practices to well-being. The economic culture in the Pacific includes aspects of well-being, and countries, such as France and Bhutan, have historically produced measures of happiness, including well-being. Similar surveys are used in Fiji and other PICs.

Ms Taylor, Australia, commenting on Australia's reported 'high level of happiness', stated that Australia is interested in continuing to measure 'well-being' as a broadly focused indicator and would welcome further discussion on the topic.

Presentation: SPC, PIFS (Gender statistics)

Brigitte Leduc, Human Development Program Adviser, Gender Equality with SPC, began the presentation on gender statistics by stating that the goals of gender equality are economic empowerment, elimination of violence, and access to services such as health and education. To fulfil these goals, gender policymakers use statistics to determine gaps, which use sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis from all sectors. Sex-disaggregated data will also provide information about women's contributions to the economy. SPC convenes the Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and a Ministerial Meeting, which will be held in Cook Islands in October 2013; the lack of sex-disaggregated data is raised regularly in the outcome document from this triennial meeting.

Ms Katafono, PIFS, emphasised the importance of data use in her portion of the presentation, tracking MDG progress in the PICs. Under the Forum Compact, PIFS produces two annual regional reports, with one focussing specifically on tracking development progress. This year's MDG tracking report focused on gender. PIFS and its partners have agreed that the NMDI dataset compiled by SPC would be the regional MDG dataset and that partners would not produce any competing datasets on the internet. For MDG 3, data for gender parity indices for primary and secondary schools are available, but data for the tertiary level is not sufficiently available. Data for women employed in the non-agricultural sector was only available if the census or surveys were completed, resulting in data gaps. For MDG 5, data on maternal mortality ratios is problematic due to small populations in the PICs and requires examining other indicators such as skilled birth attendance, adolescent birth rate, and unmet needs for family planning (where data gaps exist). Data for other gender-related indicators may be available but was not readily accessible. The key message was that good work is being done in data, but more needs to be done to ensure sex-disaggregated data is easily accessible.

It is important to try to achieve the MDG targets by 2015. The post-2015 agenda was launched from the 2010 MDG summit. At the Rio+20 summit, discussions on sustainable development goals were also launched. Both run currently in parallel, and have implications for statistics collection over the next 15 years. The High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda called for a 'data revolution', carrying implications of continuing demands on statisticians for the next 15 years. Ms Katafono concluded her remarks by stating that is important for statisticians to get involved in the discussions to shape the post-2015 agenda.

Kim Robertson, SPC Consultant on Gender Statistics, emphasized that there is much more demand today for sex-disaggregated data. Policymakers are not fluent enough in statistics and statisticians are not well versed in policy; a way to bring these two sets of people together must be found. SPC's Human Development Program wants to compile a core set of about 40 indicators and produce the *Atlas of Pacific Women*, which will examine the relative positions of women and men in the region. The biggest challenge is to get the indicators annually, as much of the data comes from censuses and surveys that occur on a five-year basis. The full gender statistics framework was endorsed by HOPS in 2007; since then work on the framework has begun in Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, and Fiji. Although some data for this project is available, some of the administrative data (notably from social security programs) is completely unavailable because it is managed offshore. The Cook Islands gender

report will be presented at the Triennial in October 2013. Overall, the goal is to have an annual set of statistical information on both young and adult men and women. Ms Robertson concluded her comments by presenting some graphs of sex-disaggregated data.

Discussion

Mr Muagututia, Samoa, stated that the UN development report sourced its data from within the UN as opposed to at the country level, which is damaging to ongoing work in the Pacific. The UN bodies do not go to the NSOs for information.

Mr Kimi, Solomon Islands, stated that data sourcing is a challenge. NSOs, with resources already stretched thinly, will not be able to disaggregate all requested data. Some sex-disaggregated data is available and the need for further analysis will not be able to be handled by NSOs, as resources are already overextended. Without collaboration this will not progress.

Mr Finau, Tonga, stated that he agreed that all population statistics should be disaggregated by gender, but there is work to do and some statistics simply cannot be disaggregated. He requested clarification on market output data that was sex-disaggregated. He also stated that there might be some limits to gender equality and that countries' cultural differences should be taken into account.

Mr Feary, New Zealand, asked if there is room for a Pacific cultural framework to set the tone for data collection on cultural indicators. He also expressed wariness of composite indicators, questioning whether they add value or distort the picture.

Ms Leduc, SPC, responded that the comments on resources were understandable and that SPC hopes to work with the NSOs on sex-disaggregation as they validate the data. In Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu, SPC's first step was to work with the NSO, who then solicited the sectors. When SPC begins its sex-disaggregation efforts in Solomon Islands, it will work with the sectors first, and also work with the NSOs for compilation at the end. Each sector should be able to conduct their own data analysis. In Cook Islands, all the ministries are mandated to disaggregate gender data. They will need technical assistance to complete this effort.

Ms Robertson, SPC consultant, responded that gender represents just one of the many clients that NSOs work with on a day-to-day basis. Through the development of national strategies, NSOs will develop stronger working relationships with all of the sectors, including gender. Composite indicators pose a dilemma but they help manage scarce resources; the solution is to make them 'unpack-able' so the individual indicators can be examined.

Mr Johnson, Vanuatu, stated that the focal point of doing gender or any other statistical undertaking should be the NSO first, before going to other agencies. NSOs are the main contact for governments' statistical efforts. He proposed that PICT technical agencies should foster skills in gender statistics.

Mr Palmer, Australia, stated that the general theme is that demand is outpacing supply capacity across gender, environment, well-being, and diversity. The only solution is to tap the sector resources and collaborate with them. Reflecting on composite indicators, Australia has stayed out of weighting indicators and let politicians decide the weight they should receive.

Mr Sound, CNMI, stated that the importance of sex-disaggregated data is understandable. CNMI looks forward to a framework and assistance from SPC.

Ms Huffer, SPC, responded to the comments from New Zealand, stating that large cultural differences exist between countries that make a regional cultural framework difficult, as opposed to national frameworks. There is already a regional cultural strategy, which contains indicators.

Mr Haberkorn, commenting on the theme, stressed that growing demand for gender statistics is outpacing supply capacity. One solution is to make data access easier for data users, such as PIFS. Another option would be to strengthen SPC's Statistics for Development Division, and potentially recruit a dedicated gender statistician, with such a request ideally coming from countries, noting that the Triennial Conference of Pacific Women in October 2013 in the Cook Islands, would be an ideal scenario for such discussions to take place.

Ms Guerrero, UNSIAP, stated that there is a renewed and intensified focus on gender statistics at the global level. The tools to build capacity and provide training are being created and disseminated.

Ms Katafono, PIFS, concluded the discussion by stating that after examining all the PICTs national strategies, gender equality and culture were identified as key crosscutting priorities for governments. PICT's monitoring and evaluation frameworks, however, are silent about how well governments are implementing these aspects of their strategies. Resources will become available to measure overall results and outcomes; NSOs should work with planners to capture these resources.

Endorsement of PSSC membership and Terms of Reference

The Chair opened discussion on membership of the new committee, and adoption of the revised Terms of Reference for the PSSC, as provided to the participants, and discussed on the third day of the conference. This also includes the proposed recruitment of a full-time coordinator.

With the 2013 HOPS chair (Vanuatu) and two vice-chairs (Cook Islands, Nauru) assuming these roles on the 2013-2016 PSSC committee, the following NSOs were nominated and endorsed as PSSC members: Fiji (Melanesia), Guam (Micronesia), Tonga (Polynesia), as well as Tokelau, to address special needs of the smallest PICT statistical agencies. Australia was nominated and endorsed as a member to represent the metropolitan statistical agencies on PSSC.

To foster a better dialogue between statisticians and planners, HOPS also agreed to invite heads of planning agencies to every second HOPS meeting.

In addition to current observers (ADB, AusAID, PFTAC, UNDAF and USP), 5 other agencies were granted observer status: UNSIAP, NZAid, PARIS21, PIFS, UNSIAP and the World Bank. At the request of UNESCAP, the reference to the United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF) was replaced by the United Nations System in the Pacific, since UNDAF is not an organisation, with the chair of the UNDAF M&E Working Group representing the United Nations System in the Pacific.

The proposed membership, PSSC observers and the PSSC revised Terms of Reference (Appendix 3) were endorsed by Nauru and seconded by Samoa.

Session 9.7: Busan Action Plan for Statistics and its implication for statistical development in the Pacific Island region

Presentation: PARIS21

Mr Samuel Blazyk, PARIS21 Program Co-ordinator, and Ms Millicent Gay Tejada, PARIS21 Project Officer, presented on the Busan Action Plan for Statistics and its challenges and opportunities in the Pacific. The objective of PARIS21 is to support and engage developing countries in strengthening their National Statistical Systems. It accomplishes this through advocating for better use of statistics, providing technical support, and generating knowledge. PARIS21 began its collaboration in the Pacific in April 2005 when it organised an information session on NSDS at the 'Issues for Official Statistics for Small Countries' meeting in Nouméa. In 2010-2012, PARIS21 conducted some joint country visits with SPC, to meet data producers, data users, and development partners and to facilitate

NSDS formulation and drafting of NSDS roadmaps. In 2013, PARIS21 provided further support to countries' NSDS preparation, statistical advocacy, data archiving, and survey documentation efforts.

The objectives of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics are to fully integrate statistics in decision making, to promote open access to statistics, and to increase resources for statistical systems. It was endorsed in 2011 during the fourth Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea and it was designed to build on the successes of the 2004 Marrakesh Action Plan for Statistics. To support the objectives, PARIS21 performs five main actions. It strengthens national and regional statistics strategies; it ensures financing for statistical information is robust; it implements standards for data preservation, documentation, and dissemination; it develops programs to increase skills to use statistics effectively; and it builds and maintains instruments to monitor results of global summits.

Statisticians were not involved in the process of defining MDGs and setting targets; it was a 'top-down' initiative. However, the demand for statistics was stimulated and support was strengthened. Mr Blazyk reiterated the call for a 'data revolution' by the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Governments are requested to develop a vision for a global effort to strengthen statistical capacity as a parallel track to Post-2015 MDG setting. To realise this, statisticians should be involved in the preparation process of the post-2015 development agenda. National statistical capacity should be supported by reinforcing the implementation of National Strategies for the NSDS. PARIS21 will continue advocacy to make statistics a development priority through emphasizing national policies, MDGs and statistics strategies, and consolidating the relationship between statisticians and politicians. To achieve this, PARIS21 requested that national policies and development plans have statistics included as a key element and include strengthening their NSSs.

Discussion

Mr Lafaele, American Samoa, observed that none of the U.S. territories were mentioned in the PARIS21 presentation, and asked if the U.S. territories were eligible for assistance.

Representatives of the following countries also requested that they be included in PARIS21 workshops: CNMI, FSM, Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Tokelau.

Mr Blazyk, PARIS21, expressed thanks to the countries that asked to be included in future workshops. Responding to American Samoa, Mr Blazyk stated that he believes it is possible to find a solution to allow the U.S. territories to also participate in the workshops, or the regional discussions. PARIS21 is planning to organise a regional workshop to roll out the new NSDS guidelines in 2014.

Ms Campbell, UNESCAP, stated that UNESCAP is a strong believer in the NSDS process. She also encouraged PICTs to incorporate action plans on economic, environmental and agricultural statistics into their NSDSs, and to use a core set of indicators to determine priorities.

Ms Katafono, PIFS, emphasized the need to match NSDSs with countries' national development plans, and national and sectoral monitoring and evaluation frameworks. She also offered to help match statisticians to policymakers at the Forum.

Concluding the discussion, Mr Blazyk responded to the comment from UNESCAP, stating that the key element of NSDSs is to bring together all of the statistical components of the countries. NSDS creation is sometimes the first time when all statisticians within a country work together.

Session 9.8: Information and Communication Technologies

Presentation: ABS

Jonathan Palmer, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Statistician with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, began the session on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) by remarking that ICT, a tool, is a vital part of the ‘statistics dog’, but the ‘tail should not wag the dog’. He had expected more feedback about challenges relating to ICT and statistics. He noted that in general ICT challenges in the region included lack of skills, absence of clear standards and guidelines, and superficial consultancies providing insufficient emphasis on sustainability in terms of skills and budget. Opportunities include emerging standards that should lead to ‘plug and play’ solutions and the rapid cycle of improvement and lower prices in technology. As an example of improvements in technology, he noted that many tasks that used to require dedicated hardware (such as a scanner) could now be performed on a tablet or smartphone. He also observed that Google provides an inexpensive dissemination infrastructure that PICTs can use, allowing them to use resources in other areas. He said that PICTs could make good use of other free tools such as Facebook and Wikipedia for getting data out. Concluding his presentation, Mr Palmer reiterated that a lack of IT and information management knowledge is a major gap in university official statistics programs and introduced a proposed course on ‘IT and Information Management for Official Statistics’ to fill the gap.

Discussion

Mr Feary, New Zealand, said that his country exploits Twitter as a public relations tool before the release of reports. He said that it was a particularly good way to get media attention, and that overall results for Statistics New Zealand was very good, with positive feedback coming from the public.

Mr Rogers, PFTAC, noted that one critical issue in the region concerns irregular backing up of statistical databases. Another common issue was problems with links in Excel spreadsheets, which could lead to old data being used in error. He said that guidelines in the areas of data and use of Excel spreadsheets would be helpful.

Mr Chigiyal, FSM, said that problems in ICT were common, and that people often got overwhelmed. A forum in which to discuss ICT challenges and exchange information on how to overcome them is lacking. He said he hoped that the meeting would recommend the establishment of an ICT technical working group, and that PSSC would handle the details.

Mr Palmer of Australia responded that spreadsheets are not good tools for data management. He recommended the data management tool used by the World Bank Institutional Development Fund. Regarding ICT challenges in statistics, he said that the proposed recommendations included responses in several areas.

After the participants generally approved ABS’s ICT recommendations, Mr Palmer concluded the discussion remarking that the outcomes of the meeting would allow NSOs to deliver more with existing resources. He noted, however, that management discipline would be necessary since leaders get distracted in ICT by doing what they can do, rather than doing only what is needed, which in this case is to implement a common set of sustainable tools.

Session 10: Review and adoption of conference recommendations & Synopsis of working group exercise

Adoption of Conference Recommendations

The participants discussed, adopted, and modified (when necessary) the recommendations and actions proposed in the conference working papers and presentations. While certain recommendations or actions were dropped or not approved by the participants, some additional recommendations and

actions were also proposed and adopted. The conference concluded the session by adopting 59 recommendations and 40 action points (with 3 recommendations and 5 action points having new or additional budget implications).

Appendix 1 of this report contains the table of recommendations and related action points proposed and adopted by the conference participants. Appendix 2 contains the recommendations emanating from the *Mid-term Review of Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan Phase*, which were also adopted by the conference participants.

Synopsis of working group exercise from day three

Following the adoption of conference recommendations, Nicholas McTurk, Demographer-Social Statistician with SPC, gave a presentation summarising the working group discussions about the *Mid-term Review* of the TYPPS Phase-1 implementation, which occurred two days earlier. Each of the Review Team's twelve recommendations was mentioned at least once by one of the three working groups within their summaries of their themes (collections, administrative data, and dissemination and analysis). In total, there were 184 issues identified by the three working groups. 'Challenges' was the domain with the highest number of issues identified, at 65 across the five domains and three functional areas addressed by the review. 'Collections' was the theme with the highest number of issues identified, at 78.

Number of TYPSS Recommendations linked with issues by Functional Area and Domain

Functional Area	Domain				
	Challenges	Risks	Opportunities	Priorities	M&E
Collections	25	17	18	18	–
Administrative Data	14	3	6	10	–
Dissemination and Analysis	26	16	14	7	10
Totals	65	36	38	27	10

The four *Mid-term Review* recommendations that were mentioned most often by the working groups in their discussions were:

- Rec. 1. TYPSS overall structure and objectives should be maintained.
- Rec. 4. The PSSC should identify NSDS development as a major priority.
- Rec. 7. The PSSC should develop guidelines for endorsing common definitions and standards, along with technical working group operations.
- Rec. 11. Donors should provide longer term rolling funding.

In conclusion, the exercise of discussing the recommendations from the *Mid-term Review* of TYPPS Phase-1 was useful for the participants' understanding of the report because each of the report's recommendations was discussed by the groups.

Final Remarks

Mr Haberkorn thanked his team and various conference support staff for their hard work and dedication to make this a successful conference. He also thanked donor and technical partner agencies for their active contribution and ongoing support, also acknowledging the many suggestions received from NSO colleagues and partner agencies alike for helping to shape a challenging and rich conference agenda. The conference chair thanked the outgoing chair for his inspired dedication to statistics in the region. He also said that he was looking forward to collaborating on achieving the conference's recommendations. Concluding his remarks, the chair welcomed continued suggestions from colleagues, on what can be done to increase the importance of statistics in the region.

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

**4th Regional Conference of Heads of Statistics and Planning
Noumea, July 22 – 26, 2013**

Implementation of Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, Phase 1

Appendix 1: RECOMMENDATIONS and ACTION POINTS

This summary report makes reference to titles of working papers, information papers and other presentations, without detailed reference to the full presentations. A full set of all working and information papers, as well as of all PowerPoint presentations will be made available to participants on USB keys and is available on the Internet at www.spc.int/sdd. The focus of this report is to capture comments from meeting participants which addressed specific discussion points and recommendations listed in the working papers.

NB: (*) Represents recommendations presented orally, and accepted by HOPS, as compared to being derived from working papers.

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
<p>PART 1</p> <p>SESSION-1</p> <p>Objective 1: <i>PICTS are undertaking key statistical collections as scheduled</i></p>	<p>Working Paper 1.1: <i>Progress Population and Housing Censuses, 2010 – 2013</i></p>	<p>REC. 1. In the lead-up to the 2020 Round of Population and Housing censuses, SPC to circulate the Pacific Statistics Strategy Technical Assistance Plan (subset related to the Census), so countries are aware of how and from whom to request specific technical assistance.</p>	<p>Action 1. HOPS to note a census planning meeting to be convened by SPC in the early half of 2014.</p>
		<p>REC. 2. Adopt key recommendations from the 2010 round censuses as contained in the 2012 SPC/UNFPA workshop report reviewing the 2010 round of censuses.</p>	<p>Action 2. (*) HOPS to note UNFPA intention to promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Engagement of young people to develop interest in statistics; ii. Engagement of new graduates in statistics and census operations; iii. Substantive engagement with parliamentarians and legislators; iv. Enhanced coordination among partners; and v. Engagement with sectors on planning and use of statistics.
	<p>Working Paper 1.2: <i>Progress in Adopting a Standardized Pacific HIES Methodology</i></p>	<p>REC. 3. All countries to subscribe to the regional HIES methodology, which was developed in line with the Pacific Leaders’ call in the Pacific Plan, for a greater harmonization of statistical concepts, classifications and systems, and which has been endorsed by the <i>Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy</i> and the Pacific Statistics Steering committee. SPC is requested to identify the common core set of economic and social indicators that can be derived from this new regional HIES methodology. <i>(Additions proposed by FSM)</i></p>	<p>Action 3. Reach an agreement on a list of common desirable outputs upon completion of HIES, including a poverty assessment and CPI rebase within an acceptable timeframe, and the conduct of a data analysis and report writing workshop with key staff from national statistical and planning agencies. The outputs would address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPI • National Accounts • Poverty measures (pertaining to MDG Goal 1) • all population-based NMDIs that can be compiled from data generated by HIES • Additional sectoral outputs <i>(Additions proposed by SPC).</i>

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
		<p>REC. 4. SPC to conduct a data analysis and report writing course within 4-5 months of completion of field-work. Such a course would produce short informative pamphlets (similar to DHS) across a range of sectors.</p>	
		<p>REC. 5. SPC requested to develop a regional HIES survey plan for the coming years to provide opportunities to look for national and external funding support.</p>	
	<p>Working Paper 1.3: <i>Recent Progress on Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)</i></p>	<p>REC. 6. Given the technical and operational complexities of DHSs, SPC to continue to provide technical assistance to countries with DHS survey implementation.</p>	<p><u>Action 4.</u> (*) HOPS noted UNFPA proposal to commission a comparative study of past DHSs in the Pacific, in collaboration with other technical assistance providers.</p>
		<p>REC. 7. SPC to review current coordination and communication modalities amongst and between national, regional and international stakeholders to improve overall efficiency and effectiveness of survey planning and implementation management.</p>	
		<p>REC 8. Countries are requested to seek early confirmation of financial support from their governments and key development partners.</p>	

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
<p>SESSION-2</p> <p>Objective 2: <i>PICTS are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors</i></p>	<p>Working Paper 2.1: <i>Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)</i></p>	<p>REC 9. Countries are encouraged to formalise their CRVS committees, and ensure CRVS is explicitly included in national statistics strategies.</p>	<p><u>Action 5.</u> SPC to develop guidelines to be submitted to countries for endorsement out of session.</p>
		<p>REC 10. Countries are encouraged to endorse development of a regional guideline on what data they should generate from their CRVS systems and how frequently, and in what format this should be reported.</p>	<p><u>Action 6.</u> Priority actions for countries to consider should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. If not already done, conduct an assessment of the CRVS systems. ii. Develop detailed national CRVS improvement plans. iii. Obtain high-level endorsement and support for the improvement plans. iv. Ensure CRVS is embedded in the National Statistics Strategy. v. Ensure vital statistics are routinely updated in NMDIs.
			<p><u>Action 7.</u> HOPS to note SPC current work on developing a draft legislation framework for civil registration, which once completed would be provided to countries for review, discussion, and further action.</p>
			<p><u>Action 8.</u> HOPS to note, BAG partners commitment to continue to support in countries to improve their CRVS systems under the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan, with this commitment confirmed by all partners at the BAG strategic planning meeting in Noumea.</p>
		<p>REC 11. HOPS is invited to endorse the TYPSS Phase 1 Mid-Term review recommendation Number 12, which calls for continued funding for Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) activities, recognising the need to sustain regional CRVS work.</p>	

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
	<p>Working Paper 2.2: <i>Health Statistics and Health Information Systems (HIS)</i></p>	<p>REC. 12. SPC should seek funding support to resource a joint SDD/PHD specialist HIS position. <i>(Recommendation proposed by Nauru, and endorsed by HOPS)</i></p>	<p>Action 9. HOPS to take note of SPC’s decision to create a joint SDD/PHD specialist HIS position recognising improvement to health statistics and information systems as one of two strategies priorities in the second half of TYPPS Phase 1 action plan.</p>
	<p>Working Paper 2.3: <i>Education Statistics</i></p>	<p>REC. 13. SPC should seek funding support for the establishment of a regional EMIS support facility, with an emphasis on introducing the EMISs to the countries that do not yet have this facility. <i>(Recommendation proposed by Nauru, and endorsed by HOPS)</i></p>	<p>Action 10. HOPS to note the establishment of a regional EMIS support facility at SPC, commencing in early 2014, given the importance of education statistics and information management systems as the second of two strategies priorities in the second half of TYPPS Phase 1 action plan.</p>
			<p>Action 11. HOPS to note that, in line with SPC intention to streamline regional statistical classifications and systems, the development of a Pacific Education Development Framework (PEDF) monitoring database to be linked with SPC, NMDI, and present systems.</p>
	<p>Working Paper 2.4.1: <i>Developing Price and National Accounts Statistics</i></p>	<p>REC. 14. NSOs encouraged reinvigorating user-producer dialogues or establishing such fora in the first place to form good working relationships with the primary producers of economic statistics pertaining to the compilation of national accounts.</p>	<p>Action 12. (*) NSOs should ensure a strong advocacy component in the development the NSDSs. <i>(Proposed action point by Samoa)</i></p>
		<p>REC. 15. HOPS endorses the joint recommendation by PFTAC and SPC at the most recent Finance and Economic Ministers meeting (FEMM) in Nuku’alofa, 3-5 July 2013, “inviting Ministers to note and consider provision of appropriate financial and technical resources to National Statistical Offices through national budgets and/or development partners’ support to enhance national statistical systems”. <i>(Latest joint recommendations by PFTAC and SPC to FEMM meeting, 3-5 July 2013).</i></p>	

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
		<p>REC. 16. NSOs are requested to enhance statistical advocacy to ensure key national policy makers are aware of resource needs and challenges in the production of regular and quality statistics.</p>	<p>Action 13. In the process of developing their NSDS, NSOs should ensure advocacy for relevant statistical areas, given the fact that NSDS is an advocacy vehicle. <i>(Proposed action point by Samoa)</i></p>
	<p>Working Paper 2.4.2: <i>Progress of work on International Merchandise Trade Statistics in PICTs</i></p>	<p>REC. 17. With customs records being the main and normally the preferred data source, to improve the quality and timeliness of IMTS compilation, HOPS is invited to recommend that countries strengthen their working relationships between NSOs and Customs offices, to enable NSOs to regularly source all required data from Customs.</p>	<p>Action 14. SPC to continue its technical assistance and capacity building support regarding the compilation and of analysis of IMTS. This will also include for SPC to continue its dialogue with technical partners, in particular the Oceania Customs Organisation and Statistics New Zealand.</p>
	<p>Working Paper 2.4.3: <i>Progress of work on Business Statistics in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)</i></p>	<p>REC. 18. Given the importance of private sector led economic development, it is imperative for Governments to have regular access to up-to-date business registers. HOPS are invited to recommend that countries engage in greater public-private sector partnerships and to allocate sufficient resources to allow for regularly conducted establishment surveys.</p>	<p><i>(See reference to Action point 28)</i></p>
		<p>REC. 19. Access to administrative data is sometimes hindered by legislative, technical or practical issues and NSOs are requested to engage with relevant government authorities to try to overcome these barriers.</p>	
		<p>REC. 20. HIES data, census data and other key data sources used for the compilation of national accounts should be incorporated in periodic benchmarks which enable regular reconciliation of extrapolated data with collected data. <i>(revised text supplied by PFTAC, 27/7/13)</i></p>	

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
<p>SESSION-3</p> <p>Objective 3: <i>PICTS have their own capacity or are accessing regional capacity to undertake agreed core and some specialist statistical functions</i></p>	<p>Working Paper 3.1: <i>Update on Statistics for Development Division (SDD) Training Activities since last 2010</i></p>	<p>REC. 21. SDD is requested to integrate data analysis and report writing workshops as integral components of all census and household survey technical assistance activities.</p>	
	<p>Working Paper 3.2: <i>Report on the 2011 Skills Audit</i></p>	<p>REC. 22. Following from, and supporting the recommendations of Working Paper 3.1, HOPS should consider a revised Skills-Audit to be administered a second time, to determine if the training gaps have increased, which types of training are in highest demand, the extent of staff turnover, and also to give PNG another opportunity to participate.</p>	
		<p>REC. 23. Following from, and supporting the recommendations of Working Paper 3.1, HOPS should consider requesting PSSC to convene a Statistical Training technical working group to develop a long-term Pacific statistical training strategy, acknowledging statistical capacity gaps and training needs apparent from the Skills-Audit, and statistical training programs/capacity building undertaken by other developing countries' NSS.</p>	
	<p>Working Paper 3.3: <i>Report on South-South technical collaboration</i></p>		<p>Action 15. 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, SPC to finalize the compilation of a list of NSOs' subject matter expertise by the end of 2013, which can be used for short-term south-south type technical deployments.</p>

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
		<p>REC. 24. HOPS to endorse the implementation of the Official Statistics (OSS) Certificate proposal, with New Zealand committed to deliver the certification course for another 2-3 years in other Pacific countries. <i>(Recommendation proposed by Nauru, and endorsed by HOPS)</i></p>	
		<p>REC. 25. HOPS to endorse providing USP with urgent feedback on the proposed curricular changes for its course on official statistics. <i>(Recommendation proposed by Nauru, and endorsed by HOPS)</i></p>	
<p>SESSION-4 Objective 4: <i>Pacific national and regional statistics are accessible and being utilised</i></p>	<p>Working Paper 4.1: <i>Pacific National and Regional Statistics are Accessible and are being utilised</i></p>	<p>REC. 26. After the success of the metadata projects and national data archives thus far, countries are requested to continue documenting census and survey datasets, as an integral output of their census and survey programs.</p>	<p><u>Action 16.</u> SDD to translate entire PRISM/NMDI/MDG website into French, populate territory data, release NMDI Version 2, and consider the inclusion of additional thematic folders (such as food security, environment, and education).</p>
		<p>REC. 27. NSOs are requested to include more spatial representation of data in their publications, online and in reports.</p>	<p><u>Action 17.</u> SDD to enhance its GIS systems, and ensure PopGIS is populated with latest Census data, and integrate this technology into data user workshops.</p>
<p>SESSION-5 Objective 5: <i>New and innovative statistical tools and systems have been introduced</i></p>	<p>Working Paper 5.1: <i>CAPI - Computer Assisted Personal Interviews</i></p>	<p>REC. 28. Given demonstrated gains in data quality and overall gains in enumeration effectiveness and efficiency, CAPI technology could be readily implemented during the 2020 round of censuses, pending careful NSOs' consideration of cost-benefits relative to traditional paper-based interviews.</p>	<p><u>Action 18.</u> SPC to continue with the work currently being undertaken (with the experiences of Tuvalu) and consider CAPI applications for other surveys, such as HIES, and also look at other partners that can provide technical expertise. <i>(Proposed action point by Nauru)</i></p>

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
	<p>Working Paper 5.2: <i>HIES Field Based Data Capturing and Monitoring</i></p>	<p>REC. 29. NSOs are requested to consider adoption of <i>Computer Assisted Field Editing (CAFE)</i> methodology for future HIES field work regardless of data entry location, as evidence derived from the proposed new common Pacific HIES methodology applied thus far shows substantial improvements in data quality. NSOs adopting this methodology need to ensure adequate logistics and IT support.</p>	
	<p>Working Paper 5.3: <i>New and innovative statistical tools and systems have been introduced - Implementation of Pacific Living Condition (Hybrid) survey prototype in Vanuatu</i></p>		<p>Action 19. NSOs commit to review their survey field management procedures and request a facility to update training for use of CAFE tools and methodology.</p>
	<p>Working Paper 5.4: <i>New and innovative statistical tools and systems have been introduced - Testing of new thematic modules in the Vanuatu Pacific Living Condition (Hybrid) survey</i></p>	<p>REC. 30. With all countries undertaking regular household surveys, and the Pacific people proud of their cultural roots and heritage, NSOs are invited to consider including cultural practice questions in regular household surveys that would provide an important barometer of social and cultural development.</p>	
<p>SESSION-6 Objective 6: <i>National and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively</i></p>	<p>Information Paper 6.1.1: <i>Terms of Reference: Statistical Steering Committee (SSC)</i></p>	<p><i>(No recommendation)</i></p>	<p>Action 20. HOPS members to review draft Terms of Reference of existing PSSC, and agree on new ToR and PSSC membership. <i>(Note by SPC: this has already been implemented on Days 4 and 5.)</i></p>
	<p>Information Paper 6.1.2: <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics: TYPSS Briefing for HOPS Meeting</i></p>	<p>REC. 31. In light of the recent success of ABS's mentoring program for government statisticians in three selected countries, ABS is requested to consider extending mentoring to others expressing interest in benefiting from this type of training. <i>(text change proposed by Samoa)</i></p>	

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
<p>PART 2</p> <p>SESSION-7</p> <p><i>Reflection by PSSC Chair on TYPPS implementation 2010-2013 and statistical developments in the region, followed by plenary discussion</i></p>	<p>Working Paper 7.1: <i>Reflections on the Future Directions of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, 2011 - 2020</i></p>	<p>REC. 32. Introducing a proposal for a restructuring of PSSC, the outgoing chair made several recommendations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. He suggested that for TYPPS to be more actively driven, rather than just happen, PSSC Secretariat needs strengthening and a Project Coordinator should be appointed to assist the PSSC Chair and SDD Manager, and that the chair should also be supported by a small budget for travel and communication. ii. To facilitate a more continuous engagement between statisticians and planners, the latter should be represented on PSSC alongside their government statistician counterparts. 	<p><u>Action 21.</u> Within this framework PSSC would be responsible for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Setting the work-programme for the Project Coordinator, and ii. Monitoring the progress of TYPPS implementation, and iii. In doing so, the Project Coordinator reports to the PSSC Chair and works under day-to-day supervision of the SDD Manager.
		<p>REC. 33. For statisticians to assist in implementing the Pacific Plan recommendations, there is a need for more attention to be given to the institutional aspects of statistics development in the region. In this regard there is a need for more governments to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establish their own national statistics development strategies in accordance with Paris 21 recommended principles; ii. Review their statistics legislation to ensure it meets the needs of today’s electronic age; iii. Strengthen links between NSOs and the users of statistics at national and regional levels; iv. Improve analytical capability in order to be able to meet the needs of users for statistics that are meaningful in a policy context and sufficient to enable countries to meet their reporting needs under international agreements and conventions; v. To continue to develop and implement NSDSs in the region, with strong links to national development plans; and 	<p><u>Action 22.</u> SDD would continue to be the principal supporting agency, and the work programmes of both SDD and TYPPS would need to be integrated and mutually supportive.</p>

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
		<p>vi. Build institutional and human capacity in all aspects of statistics compilation and use. <i>(text change /amendments proposed by Paris21)</i></p>	
		<p>REC. 34. A further recommendation for HOPS' consideration by the outgoing PSSC Chair was for a small regional institutional strengthening and capacity building team (a core team of perhaps 2 or 3) to be established with access to additional funding resources in order to be able to conduct training courses at regional, sub-regional and national levels and call on other specialist inputs as necessary; this team would, inter alia, assist countries to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop their national statistics strategies; ii. Provide institutional development support to smaller NSOs (and others as requested); iii. Conduct regular country or sub-regional based training, calling on specialist inputs as necessary; iv. Promote the use of statistics for policy analysis, and reporting at regional and international levels (MDGs/NMDI); and v. Bring about the harmonisation aspects of the Pacific Plan and TYPSS strategies. 	<p><u>Action 23.</u> Meeting the Pacific Plan expectations will be greatly facilitated through stronger linkages between Pacific statisticians as a group and Ministers responsible for statistics acting collectively. To make this happen the PSSC Chair could attend major annual regional governance meetings such as FEMM and SPC's annual CRGA meetings.</p> <p><u>Action 24.</u> Thanking the outgoing PSSC Chair for his thoughtful reflections and pragmatic recommendations to HOPS, SPC Director General Jimmie Rodgers acknowledged to take on board recommendations that can be fully integrated into SPC work, such as Recommendation 34, which fits well with his strategic vision of establishing technical country support teams across various SPC divisions.</p>
		<p>REC. 35. (*) SPC consider establishing dedicated country support teams to assist specific statistics-related activities at country level, which SDD is about to pilot in one country. <i>(Recommendation by SPC Director General)</i></p>	

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
<p>SESSION-8 <i>Mid-term review of TYPSS Phase 1</i></p>	<p>Working Paper 8.1: <i>Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan Phase 1 (2011 – 2014): Mid-term Evaluation Report</i></p>	<p>Following extensive discussions of the recommendations contained in the Mid-term Review of Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan Phase 1 (see Appendix 1), HOPS endorsed all twelve recommendations with minor proposed suggested amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Regarding Mid-term Review Recommendation 1, while acknowledging the importance to address many of the newly emerging issues recommended by the review, several countries noted that adoption of these recommendations should be left to the discretion of countries to ensure additional statistical work is in line with national policy priorities. ii. Regarding Mid-term Review Recommendation 2, on advocacy and communication, reference was made to leveraging the technical expertise of Paris21 in this area. iii. Regarding Mid-term Review Recommendation 3, on data analysis and dissemination and associated comments about training, HOPS noted to also include a focus on statistical methodology (for example, sampling). iv. Regarding Mid-term Review Recommendation 6, to engage a part-time coordinator, HOPS noted that a decision on whether or not this position should be part-time or full-time would ultimately become more apparent once the exact Terms of Reference have been established and agreed upon, and also be dependent on available funding. v. Regarding Mid-term Review Recommendation 12, on the sustained financial support SPC's CRVS activities, SPC noted that the reference to the UQ Health Information Systems Knowledge Hub is no longer relevant given its pending closure at the end of 2013, necessitating other administrative arrangements. 	<p><u>Action 25.</u> Consultants to undertake further evaluations, at the mid-term and end of Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan Phase 2. These evaluations should entail a broader coverage of countries than present review, asking not just NSOs for feedback but also include users and producers of statistics, making efforts to address the full statistical system. <i>(Proposed action point by Nauru)</i></p>

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
		vi. A further recommendation proposed by SPC was <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To replace the reference to “PSSC” in recommendations 2, 3, 4, 7, and 10 with “HOPS”. b. Regarding Mid-term Review Recommendation 6, it is HOPS that recommends engagement of a part-time Coordinator of PSSC. c. Regarding Mid-term Review Recommendation 9, it is HOPS that reviews the Terms of Reference of PSSC. 	
PART 3 SESSION-9 <i>Discussion of pressing and newly emerging policy challenges impacting on statistical activities</i>	Session 9.1: <i>International Comparison Program</i>	REC. 36: NSOs are requested to classify all products priced in the ICP round as either important or unimportant based on whether or not they are purchased by the majority of the population or just high-end purchasers <i>(revised text supplied by Bruce Hockman, ABS, 30/7/13)</i>	<u>Action 26.</u> NSOs to complete data validation for the Pacific International Comparison Program. Each NSO will be asked to sign off on their data by late August before final data are submitted to the World Bank. <i>(revised text supplied by Bruce Hockman, ABS, 30/7/13)</i>
		REC. 37. For fuller participation in the next ICP round, NSOs are requested to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Expand price collection beyond household consumption items; ii. Expand outlet and location coverage; iii. Develop GDP expenditure estimates for BHs; and iv. Harmonise statistical concepts and classifications. v. 	
	Session 9.2: <i>National accounts as an integrated framework for economic statistics</i>	REC. 38. Governments are requested to consider strengthening their compilation of source data and use a phased out approach to compile SUT.	<u>Action 27.</u> SPC commits to work with PICTs and the technical support agencies wishing to compile a Supply and Use Table (SUT) in a step-by-step approach to compile the SUT in accordance with best practices.

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
		<p>REC. 39. NSOs are requested to liaise with tax offices, and other tax-related administrative offices, for better data integration and for better coverage of statistical needs where VAT is developed (for capital formation). <i>(Added rec language from Nauru)</i></p>	<p>Action 28. Technical and Financial partners are requested to assist NSOs wishing to conduct business surveys.</p>
		<p>REC. 40. NSOs are requested to create business registers or improve them if already available.</p>	<p>Action 29. PFTAC and SPC commit to provide financial and technical assistance to business surveys in questionnaire design, planning, sampling, and data analysis.</p>
		<p>REC. 41. Governments are encouraged to conform to the higher G-20 Gaps Initiative standards of data comprehensiveness, timeliness, and dissemination from market participants (ratings agencies, investors, banks). NSOs could consider using the core set of economic statistics. (Added proposed language from FSM, UNESCAP)</p>	<p>Action 30. PFTAC is requested to provide guidance to NSOs and governments on the G-20 Gaps Initiative standards. <i>(Added action language from FSM)</i></p>
		<p>REC. 42. NSOs are requested to utilise business surveys as much as possible to obtain economic statistics not available from administrative and other data sources.</p>	<p>Action 31. PFTAC and other technical assistance providers are invited to collaborate with SPC in providing trainings for NSOs on the use of business surveys to obtain economic statistics not available from other data sources.</p>
	<p>Session 9.3: <i>Environmental-Economic Accounting</i></p>	<p>REC. 43. Recognising the need for better policy-relevant indicators on sustainable development and the environment, representatives of National Statistical Systems are encouraged to consider implementing the SEEA in order to mainstream environmental data into the NSS and to improve the production and dissemination of policy-relevant environment indicators. <i>(proposed new language by UNESCAP)</i></p>	<p>Action 32. The SEEA is an international standard and thus UNSD is mandated to develop tools to help with national implementation. Samoa, ESCAP, ABS and UNSD, along with SPC, PFTAC and SPREP, will conduct a workshop to develop views on SEEA implementation in the Pacific. The PSSC will review the outcome from that workshop and provide further direction for the inclusion of this area in the TYPSS action plan. <i>(proposed by UNESCAP)</i></p>

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
	<p>Session 9.4 – Food security</p>	<p>REC. 44. WHO, FAO, USP, UNICEF and other technical assistance organisations are requested to collaborate in the collection, storage, processing, analysis and dissemination of food security information.</p>	<p>Action 33. SPC to formalise general consensus within the <i>Food Secure Pacific Working Group (FSPWG)</i> regarding SPC’s leadership of the regional design work on food security indicators.</p>
		<p>REC. 45. To effectively address the growing importance of food security in the context of rising food prices, the exposure of many Pacific island countries to regular disasters and climate change, and in ongoing discussions pertaining to the post-2015 international development agenda, countries and their development partners are requested to show stronger commitments to ongoing national and regional efforts in this field.</p>	<p>Action 34. To effectively address the growing importance of food security in the context of rising food prices, the exposure of many Pacific island countries to regular disasters and climate change, and in ongoing discussions pertaining to the post-2015 international development agenda, SPC is committed to continue its work on food security with the latter representing one of its multi-sectoral corporate priorities (2013-2017).</p>
			<p>Action 35. SPC, in collaboration with FAO and NSOs, will develop a core set of food security indicators relevant to Pacific island countries’ circumstances as well as FAO’s global and regional agricultural statistical priorities under the regional action plan for Asia and the Pacific, and develop survey modules that can be integrated in regular household surveys by countries requiring information in this area. <i>(Added language requested by UNSIAP)</i></p>
	<p>Session 9.5: Disability Statistics</p>	<p>REC. 46. National government agencies are requested to revisit and assess their data collection methods for adult and childhood disability in light of international standards, and consider including standard disability questions into regular household survey activities. <i>(Added language proposed by Tonga)</i>. ILO has for some time encouraged and supported the measurement of disability through labour force surveys (LFS), which provides a useful illustration for other household surveys (ILO, SPC).</p>	<p>Action 36. UNICEF and WHO are requested to continue the dialogue and engagement with NSOs on the topic of disability statistics, including on secondary analysis of census data to obtain information on social inclusion and “equalization of opportunities,” in collaboration with NSOs, SPC, PDF, and other stakeholders. <i>(Added language proposed by UNICEF & FSM)</i></p>

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
		<p>REC. 47. NSOs are requested to re-analyse existing census data on disability to obtain richer information, such as on “equalization of opportunities”.</p>	
		<p>REC. 48. SPC is requested to include disability as a theme in the NMDI database.</p>	<p>Action 37. HOPS to note that PIFS, PDF, and WHO will be hosting a regional workshop on disability statistics for country statisticians and economic planning officers in November 2013. <i>(Added language proposed by UNICEF)</i></p>
	<p>Session 9.6: <i>Human Development – Culture Statistics</i></p>	<p>REC. 49. With NSOs undertaking regular household surveys, and Pacific people proud of their cultural roots and heritage, NSOs might wish to include a module/add questions (to address national cultural “specifics”) in regular household surveys to provide an important barometer of social and cultural development. <i>(Kept in favour of Working Paper 5.3 Rec. 27)</i></p>	
		<p>REC. 50. HOPS notes the work carried out so far by SPC and partners and endorses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The integration of cultural statistics into TYPSS according to the recommendations of the 2011 Pacific Region Cultural Statistics Meeting; ii. The integration of cultural statistics into the NSDS of countries; and <p>The development of national cultural statistics frameworks in countries.</p>	
	<p>Session 9.6: <i>Human Development – Gender Statistics</i></p>	<p>REC. 51. Representatives of national statistical systems are requested to regularly collect and analyse sex-disaggregated data across all data collections and disseminate gender indicators and analysis to support gender-mainstreaming initiatives.</p>	

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
		<p>REC. 52. Representatives of national statistical systems are requested to produce sex-disaggregated data in HIESs where feasible. <i>(Wording proposed by SPC)</i></p>	
		<p>REC. 53. Technical assistance providers are requested to include these indicators in monitoring and evaluating frameworks for national development strategies and sector policy frameworks, and in their capacity building and skills development initiatives, and involve both the users and producers of statistics.</p>	
		<p>REC. 54. SDD is requested to strengthen its capacity to provide technical assistance to PICTs by recruiting a designated gender statistician to provide training, and technical assistance, and contribute to the timely and regular compilation, analysis, and dissemination of gender statistics (with data warehousing support through the NMDI).</p>	
	<p>Session 9.7: <i>Busan Action Plan for Statistics and its implication for statistical development in the Pacific Island region</i></p>	<p>REC. 55. Paris21 is requested to continue to develop and implement NSDSs in the region with strong links to national development plans. <i>(proposed wording by Paris21)</i></p>	<p>Action 38. Paris21 in collaboration with SPC to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Support countries to develop and implement NSDSs ii. Assist countries in undertaking statistical advocacy programs
		<p>REC. 56. Paris21 is requested to promote the dialogue on statistical concerns in the overall context of the post-2015 development agenda. <i>(proposed wording by Paris21)</i></p>	<p>Action 39. Paris21 in coordination with SPC to organise user-producer dialogue as part of the debate on the Post-2015 development agenda. <i>(proposed wording by Paris 21)</i></p>
	<p>Session 9.8 - Information and Communication Technologies: Increasing access to, and enhancing the use of statistical information</p>	<p>REC. 57. Establish an ICT Working Group, comprised of selected ICT experts. It should be tasked with recommending to PSSC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Standards and guidelines, ii. Priorities, and iii. The case for shared facilities and infrastructure, modalities for South-South ICT cooperation. 	<p>Action 40. ABS and SDD to develop a draft on the structure and Terms of Reference for the ICT Technical Working Group for consideration by the next PSSC.</p>

TYPSS OBJECTIVES	WORKING PAPERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION POINTS
		<p>REC. 58. TYPSS should include more ICT-specific outputs to drive the implementation of sustainable IT and the adoption of common systems. <i>(As stated in ABS Presentation.)</i></p>	
		<p>REC. 59. Expand range of ICT related training and development activities. Initial priority should be on ICT and information management for Statisticians. New, "on-demand", delivery methods need to be exploited. <i>(As stated in ABS Presentation.)</i></p>	

Appendix-2

Recommendations from the Mid-term Review of Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan Phase-1

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 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.

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 1. TYPSS's 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.

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.

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 has 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 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.

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 is 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 member input, will allow members to decide the best role for the PSSC, the preferred method of operation, membership, and the 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.

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 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.

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.

APPENDIX 3:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Pacific Statistical Steering Committee (PSSC), 2013 – 2016

PREAMBLE

- Mindful of the progress made in development of the statistical capacity of the Pacific through the Pacific Regional Statistics Implementation Plan (PARSIP) and the first stage of implementation of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS),
- Recognizing the implementation of the TYPSS requires ongoing engagement of NSO leaders, and effective coordination and monitoring of activities and developments,
- Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation in the Pacific to best use our scarce resources,
- HOPS, at its meeting in Noumea, 22 – 26 July 2013, agreed to extend the term of the Pacific Statistical Steering Committee (PSSC) and revise the Terms of Reference to strengthen its coordination capacity.

OBJECTIVES

To provide guidance and direction in the strengthening of the National Statistical systems to produce and disseminate quality and timely statistics within the context of TYPSS by:

- i. Guiding the establishment and development of a framework to achieve the implementation and regular monitoring of TYPSS,
- ii. Endorsing common definitions and standards that will underpin a greater harmonization of statistical processes and outputs as mandated by the Pacific Plan, and
- iii. Providing guidance to the statistical activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, PFTAC and other statistical providers in the region.
- iv. To review the progress of implementation of the TYPSS, to consider and propose action to resolve implementation challenges including the periodic review and revisions to TYPSS based on operational experience.
- v. When required, act to represent the collective interests of the Chief Statisticians of the region.

OPERATING GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

- i. Ensure that variations in countries' positions and statistical developments are well understood, in the context of a needs assessment or Gap analysis.

- ii. Initiate relevant, evidence-based actions which will ensure objectives and targets are met, where specified in the TYPSS.
- iii. Convene, as needs arise, technical working groups on particular topics involving experienced subject matter specialists from member states' national statistical systems, including recognized providers of official statistics, such as, but not limited to, other national statistical agencies and regional and international technical partners, operating for a fixed duration for the life of a specific project.
- iv. Engage with members of HOPS when agreement to a significant course of action is deemed necessary for undertaking specific actions proposed by PSSC; this would normally only apply to proposed new additions to the TYPSS framework.
- v. HOPS members, including major financial and technical partners, will be kept fully informed by a written report within 4 weeks of each Pacific Statistical Steering Committee meeting.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PACIFIC STATISTICAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Membership of the PACIFIC Statistical Steering Committee shall comprise of:

- 2 NSO Government/Chief Statistician representatives from each of the 3 Pacific islands sub-regions (Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia), with one member explicitly entrusted with representing the special needs of small island states statistical agencies (five staff or less);
- Up to 3 representatives of Heads of Pacific Planning Agencies (at every second meeting), with members selected to cover a range of planning topics;
- 1 senior representative from an NSO of Australia, France, NZ or USA

Observers shall comprise:

- 1 representative from each of the region's key development partners : ADB, AusAID, NZAid, PIFS, PFTAC, Paris21, United Nations System in the Pacific (represented by the chair of the UNDAF M & E Working Group), UNSIAP, USP, World Bank.

Observers, and other *ex-officio* members co-opted by the Committee, will have no voting rights.

The Steering Committee elects its own chair, who should be a member of the HOPS management structure (Chair, vice-chair) to ensure a close link to HOPS. The current Chair of HOPS will assume the position of interim chair of the Statistical Steering Committee.

The Chair may be supported by a Friend of the Chair (FOC). The FOC will be a highly respected and experienced statistician of the region.

COORDINATOR

Coordination of effective implementation of the TYPSS will be supported by a dedicated, full-time, Coordinator. The Coordinator will be responsible to the Chair of PSSC. The coordinator will be an officer of the SPC operating under the supervision of the Director, Statistics for Development Division. The Coordinator will develop the agenda for HOPS meetings in consultation with members and the Director, Statistics for Development Division.

SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat for the Committee will be hosted by the SPC.

REVIEW

These Terms of Reference will be subject to review at each HOPS meeting. Rotation of the Chair and at least two heads of NSOs must take place at each HOPS.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Meetings will be held twice yearly, once at SPC headquarters, and once in a member country. To ensure cost and time management efficiency, it is proposed that the meeting at SPC headquarters coincide with other meetings normally attended by most members.

FUNDING

Funding for the work of the Committee will be sought from member countries, and also from regional and international organizations.

Project funding, where required for the operation of specific technical working groups, will be accommodated, where possible, by the SPC Statistics For Development Division technical assistance work programme budget.

Noumea, 26 July 2013