

## Statistics for Development Division (SDD)

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## SESSION 8 – GENDER STATISTICS UPDATE

*(Document presented by the Secretariat)*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. HOPS 2013 discussed key issues regarding the role of statistics and planning agencies in enhancing the availability of statistics on gender equality, social cohesion, youth empowerment and cultural capital, and supported the work of the Social Development Division to deepen knowledge and increase information about gender equality issues through gender statistics and analysis.
2. The Social Development Division has been implementing the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)-funded Progressing Gender Equality in Pacific Island Countries (PGEP) project since 2013. In 2014, a gender statistics advisor was recruited, and since then the following results directly related to gender statistics have been achieved:
  - Approximately 425 people trained in gender statistics and data analysis in 3 regional workshops and 12 different in-country workshops.
  - The recruitment of a research officer to assist the gender statistics advisor in late 2016.
  - Knowledge products and analysis disseminated, including the 'Guide to Gender Statistics and their Presentation'; 'Gender Equality: Where do we Stand? Solomon Islands'; 'Cook Islands Gender Profile'; 'Palau HIES Gender Profile' and 'Gender Statistics for the Pacific and Timor Leste' (with the Asian Development Bank). Gender equality publications are also being drafted for the Marshall Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.
3. Lessons learned over the past three years include inclusive consultative processes at all stages of work, from the design of publications to gender analysis and the presentation of statistical information. These have resulted in effective networks of gender focal points across governments and more thorough gender analysis and evidence to support gender mainstreaming. The mid-term evaluation of the PGEP project recommended a number of measures to increase efficiency, including focusing on a number of priority Pacific Island countries (PICs), increased in-country coaching and mentoring for better 'on-the-job' results, providing a wider range of gender statistics knowledge products from a broader range of data sources, and working more closely with civil society organisations.

## BACKGROUND

4. In 2013, SPC's Social Development Division began implementing the five-year PGEP project with funding from DFAT under the Pacific Women Programme called the PGEP project. The programme comprises two main components: i) strengthening PICs' capacity to mainstream gender, and 2) monitoring progress towards achieving gender equality. The first component focuses on capacity building, policy advice and identifying mechanisms, while the second component concentrates on generating information, producing knowledge and developing monitoring tools. The majority of gender statistics outcomes relate to the second component, with work to support gender mainstreaming involving evidence-based gender analysis of policies, programmes and projects under the first component.

## IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS TO DATE

5. There are three main streams of gender statistics work:
  - capacity strengthening in **gender statistics and gender analysis** to support gender mainstreaming processes;
  - support for the regular collection, compilation and analysis of statistics for monitoring progress and implementing national gender equality policies; and
  - producing regional statistical summaries.
6. These three main streams of work are interconnected and integrated with the gender mainstreaming component of the project. For example, the outcome of capacity strengthening has been a PIC publication using statistics and gender analysis to assess progress towards national gender equality goals and strategic objectives. A lesson learned over the first three years of implementation is that gender statistics capacity strengthening is most effective when it is a means to an end, such as in the production of evidence-based publications focusing on gender equality and gaps, and is not an end in itself.
7. The second area involves supporting PICs in developing and updating monitoring and evaluation frameworks and reports examining results, outcomes and lessons learned with statistics and indicators used to measure activities and processes as well as higher level outcomes. The statistics and indicators reflect national priorities and regional reporting requirements, such as the indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, relevant SDG indicators and others.
8. In 2018, a regional statistical summary will be published, drawing on statistics from PIC publications about the United Nations Minimum Set of Gender Indicators that will be compiled, largely based on the most recent census data. This work is underway in Tonga and Kiribati. In response to the large number of requests for gender statistics capacity strengthening and support for gender statistics publications, in late 2016 a research officer was appointed to support the higher level 'technical' work of the advisor, with a key role in supporting PICs to produce 'Gender equality: Where do we stand?' publications. Annex 1 to this paper contains a summary of activities and outputs to date, with approximately 425 people trained in gender statistics and data analysis in 3 regional workshops and 12 different in-country workshops.

## ACTIVITIES AT THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

9. In addition to working within PICs, PGEP works at the regional and international level to deepen knowledge and increase information about gender equality issues through gender statistics and

analysis. When time and work scheduling permits, PGEP staff have various roles and responsibilities in the following groups and forums:

- Pacific Women Advisory Group on Research (AGR), member: the AGR supports high-quality, locally appropriate and sustainable research that addresses and informs responses to gender inequality in the Pacific Islands region.
  - Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) Gender Working Group, co-chair: advance gender mainstreaming and increase information about gender equality issues in CROP agencies and the work of CROP agencies, including PLGED; coordination of activities in the broader partners group.
  - Inter-Agency Expert Group – Gender Statistics (UN IAEG-GS), observer: The Global Gender Statistics Programme is mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission, implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division and coordinated by the IAEG-GS. Meetings are attended where and when practical; the last one was in Bangkok in 2015 following the ESCAP dialogue on finalising the SDG indicators.
10. Support is provided as required for a number of other regional and international commitments, including the Pacific Headline SDG Indicators and associated quadrennial reporting, with the report including an assessment of progress made towards achieving PLGED. PGEP works closely with the Asian Development Bank, and most recently, this has involved coordinating activities for health sector gender reviews in Tonga and Samoa. PGEP presented updates of activities and outputs to the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee meeting in 2015 (PSSC 11).

## MONITORING PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY

11. A learning focused mid-term evaluation of PGEP was commissioned by DFAT to determine the progress made during the first three years of project implementation (1 July 2013–30 June 2016). The evaluation explored questions related to relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the project, with specific objectives to identify progress made, effective approaches and strategies, success factors, lessons learned, and barriers and challenges to progress.
12. The evaluation found that the PGEP project remains highly relevant, and that SPC remains the best-placed organisation to deliver this project given its technical capacity and networks in the region. The evaluation also concluded that PGEP is achieving positive and demonstrable gains in gender mainstreaming and gender statistics in seven countries, and in an additional three countries where assistance has been more sporadic. All PIC stakeholders interviewed provided overwhelmingly positive feedback about the type of assistance provided through PGEP. Comments highlighted the level of the team's technical expertise in gender mainstreaming and gender statistics. PGEP's approach of 'partnerships' when working with countries was well received.
13. The evaluation provided considered recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the 4.5 full-time (approximate equivalence) SPC staff to support gender mainstreaming and gender statistics in PICs, including leveraging planned activities with existing opportunities and increased coordination with other partners. The evaluation recommended that PGEP should work more intensively with a smaller number of priority countries while supporting other PICs through South-South exchanges, regional efforts or coordinated efforts with other development partners. In terms of gender statistics work, there will be three levels of support that PICs will be grouped into after consultations about country priorities:
- statistics are produced but support is needed for analysis and interpretation;
  - support is needed to produce, analyse and interpret gender statistics; and
  - no support is planned until the next phase of the project.

14. Within these groupings, PGEP will develop strategic priorities specific to each outcome and PIC, and develop country work plans and outputs with PICs that have clear links between planned activities and strategic priorities, as well as between country-level indicators and program-level results.

## ANNEX 1: SUMMARY OF PGEF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MONITORING PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY

PIC	Capacity strengthening and technical assistance (TA)	Monitoring	Regional summaries
<b>Regional</b>	Gender and Human Rights Statistics, 2014 (38 pax) – RRRT, UNSD  Analysis and Use of Gender Statistics for Post-2015 Development Workshop, 2015 (35 pax) – ADB  Guide to Statistical Indicators for Human Rights Reporting 2016 (20 pax) – ADB	Beijing +20: Review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories  Guide to Gender Statistics and Their Presentation, 2015  Gender Statistics Policy Brief, Forthcoming	Gender Statistics: The Pacific and Timor Leste, 2016 (with ADB).
<b>Cook Islands</b>	Finalise Cook Islands Gender Profile, 2014 (8 pax)	Cook Islands Gender Profile, 2014  Gender Equality: Where do we Stand? Cook Islands, 2015  Ministry of Health MEL framework	
<b>Federated States of Micronesia</b>	Microsoft Access and Data Analysis Introduction 2015 (8 pax)  TA FSM HIES data analysis, 2015	National Gender Policy MEL framework	
<b>Fiji</b>	Census Area Coordinator Training Workshop – Gender Statistics Session, Fiji Bureau of Statistics, 2017 (85 pax)		
<b>Kiribati</b>	Excel Basic Training for KSO and MYWSA, 2017 (9 pax)  Gender Statistics and Data Analysis Workshop, 2017 (15 pax)	Support for statistical annex for CEDAW report, 2017	
<b>Nauru</b>			
<b>Niue</b>			
<b>Palau</b>	Analysis and use of Palau HIES data for Gender Statistics, 2016 (20 pax)  TA FSM HIES data analysis, 2015	Palau HIES Gender Profile	
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>			

PIC	Capacity strengthening and technical assistance (TA)	Monitoring	Regional summaries
<b>Marshall Islands</b>	Gender Statistics Mentoring (PDNA), 2016 (4 pax) Gender Statistics and Data Analysis Workshop, 2017 (21 pax) TA to Micronesian Women’s Conference Secretariat and Drafting Committee, 2017	Gender Analysis Chapter in the PDNA Gender Equality: Where do we Stand? Marshall Islands, Forthcoming	
<b>Samoa</b>	Gender Statistics Introduction, 2016 (45 pax) TA Samoa gender statistics Framework, 2016		
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	Gender Statistics and Data Analysis Workshop, 2015 (16 pax) Excel Training for MEL for MWYCFA, 2015 (8 pax)	Gender Equality: Where do we Stand? Solomon Islands, 2015 National Gender Policy MEL framework and report outline	
<b>Tonga</b>	Gender Statistics Introduction, 2016 (19 pax) Gender and Education Statistics – SDD, 2016 Census Data Analysis, 2017 (2 pax) Consultation for Contents of Gender Equality: Where do we Stand? Tonga, 2017 (23 pax)	Gender Equality: Where do we Stand? Tonga, Forthcoming Tonga Gender Statistics Fact Sheet, Forthcoming	
<b>Tuvalu</b>	Gender Statistics/Excel Introduction, 2016 (23 pax) TA Tuvalu Gender Statistics Framework, 2016	Gender Equality: Where do we Stand? Tuvalu, Forthcoming National Gender Policy MEL framework and report outline, 2016	
<b>Vanuatu</b>	Introduction to Excel (Basic Excel Skills) Workshop CARE Vanuatu, 2017 (25 pax) Data Analysis Workshop for Baseline MEL Report, 2017 (8 pax)	National Gender Policy MEL framework and report outline, 2015 Water for Life Project, Baseline Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice Survey Report (CARE Vanuatu), 2017	