

# Concept note: Workshop on populating labour market indicators and standardising microdata

This note is written to support the preparation for the above referred workshop, which is to be delivered in partnership between the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Pacific Community (SPC), with funding support from the World Bank through the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), for the benefit of multiple Pacific Island countries (PICs).

## Introduction

The Pacific region has been collecting labour market data for many years. Despite the fact that only 12 labour force surveys have been conducted across seven Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) since 1990, numerous censuses and surveys collect labour market data. These data largely remain underexploited, which is evidenced by the fact that only eight (of the 22) PICTs have unemployment data reported in ILOSTAT (<https://www.ilo.org/ilostat>).

The long time series of underexploited labour market data sets, which are often in common format as PICTs have been implementing a standardised labour force module in census and survey, presents an opportunity to fill gaps – where they exist – in labour market indicators while building the capacity of national statistical agencies in the Pacific region to analyse and disseminate labour market data.

The collaboration between ILO and SPC in the delivery of the proposed workshop falls under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ILO and SPC that was executed in October 2017. The MOU identifies the following areas of mutual concern:

- i. Improved analysis of data from existing surveys and censuses to feed into labour market information systems;
- ii. Improved collection of labour market statistics, through surveys and censuses;
- iii. Strengthening the capacity of PICs to collect labour market data to provide timely, credible and internationally comparable labour statistics;
- iv. Increased compilation, documentation, and sharing of labour related microdata;
- v. Enhanced sharing of information on events dealing with labour statistics; and
- vi. Enhanced capacity development and transfer, such as the gathering and producing of labour market data, including the production of joint publications.

The proposed workshop will specifically serve to achieve (i), (iv), (v) and (vi), but it will also serve to guide improvement in the collection of labour market data through data user feedback to improve statistical collection methodologies, thereby, albeit indirectly, achieving (ii) and (iii).

Participation of representatives from PIC national statistical agencies will be financed through the SPC implemented project titled “Improving Data Dissemination and Use in Pacific Island Countries” which is funded by the World Bank’s TFSCB.

One component of the TFSCB project is to establish guidelines to harmonise (standardise) census and survey datasets, which will be an outcome of the proposed workshop. *Ex post* standardisation of microdata is proposed in recognition of the significant progress that the Pacific region has made in *ex ante* standardisation of statistical collection instruments for census and household income and expenditure survey. In consideration of the significant progress made in *ex ante* harmonization of statistical collections, to achieve the objective of improved accessibility and dissemination of data, it is proposed that *ex post* statistical collection harmonization of data sets is conducted.

The *ex post* harmonization initiative will develop guidelines for harmonization of the numerous data sets that are available in the Pacific and will aim to meet multiple data user needs, including ILO, to provide an efficient platform to disseminate data and to report against various indicators.

The proposed workshop with ILO allows for the identification of key variables and their naming conventions in order to guide SPC and the Pacific region to construct harmonised datasets to produce internationally comparable labour market indicators.

## Workshop objectives

The objectives of the workshop are:

- i. Strengthen capacity (of PIC national statistical agencies and SPC) in the use of census and survey data to populate key labour market indicators, including SDGs;
- ii. Strengthen capacity in data processing, classification and analysis of labour market data;
- iii. Strengthen capacity to standardize microdata to publish derived labour market variables in ILOSTAT;
- iv. Coordinate with ILO to plan to draft a comprehensive set of harmonization guidelines, including conforming to ILOSTAT variable naming and structural conventions; and
- v. Draft labour market brief/fact sheet to disseminate indicators for each participating PIC.

## Workshop outputs

It is anticipated that the workshop will result in the following outputs:

- i. Strengthened capacity of the Pacific region to populate labour market indicators using census and survey microdata;
- ii. Strengthened capacity of the Pacific region in data processing, classification and analysis of labour market data;
- iii. Improved collection of labour market data through data use feedback;
- iv. Population of indicators in ILOSTAT to reduce the gaps in the Pacific region;
- v. Knowledge generated to produce guidelines to harmonize labour market data to rapidly populate labour market information systems; and
- vi. Dissemination of labour oriented knowledge products.

## Workshop logistics

Date:	3 to 7 December, 2018
Location:	Noumea, New Caledonia
Facilitators:	ILO and SPC
Target PICs:	Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States), Nauru, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
Language:	English
Financial:	Travel arrangements for participating countries will be funded, in accordance to SPC's travel policy, by SPC through the World Bank TFSCB

## Participant profile

Participants must have:

- i. Access to at least one full microdata set from a recent census or survey, including labour market and demographic data;
- ii. Knowledge of the use of Stata;
- iii. Knowledge of labour market statistics;
- iv. Enthusiasm to learn and be challenged; and
- v. Willingness to continue to implement learnings after the workshop to populate and disseminate labour market statistics and knowledge products.