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Improving Data Dissemination and Use in Pacific Island Countries:

Official Project Launch Workshop

Summary Report

5 to 7 November 2018

Tanoa International Dateline Hotel

Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Prepared by the

Statistics for Development Division (SDD) of the

Pacific Community (SPC)

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Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional Offices: Suva, Fiji;
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Introduction

The project titled “Improving data dissemination and use in the Pacific Island countries” is funded by the World Bank, through the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, and implemented by SPC’s Statistics for Development Division (SDD) in partnership with SPC Members. The project will run until the end of 2019.

This document is written to summarise the activities and discussions from the workshop titled “Improving Data Dissemination and Use in Pacific Island Countries: Official Project Launch”, which was held in Nuku’alofa, Tonga, from 5 to 7 November, 2018. The workshop was designed to provide a high level introduction to the project for Government Statisticians and representatives from national statistical agencies.

Acknowledgements

The World Bank’s Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building is gratefully acknowledged for funding the project and the workshop. Tonga Statistics Office is gratefully acknowledged for hosting the workshop. SPC is acknowledged for facilitating the workshop and for the provision of secretariat services.

Workshop resources

The workshop concept note, agenda and presentations are accessible through the following link: <https://sdd.spc.int/en/news/latest-news/210-workshop-on-improving-data-dissemination-and-use-in-the-pacific-island-countries>.

The list of participants is provided in Appendix 1.



Figure 1: Representatives from Pacific national statistical agencies and SPC

Summary of proceedings

Below is a summary of the discussions held during each session. The presentations for each session can be downloaded via the above link.

Session 1: Introduction to the workshop and agenda

Presentation: 2. Intro to project

SPC gave a general introduction to the above referred project. The following discussions points were raised:

- Interest in knowing more about the Data Access License and Terms of Use that will facilitate microdata use and what the process is for the NSO to identify what variables need to be suppressed or anonymised.
- NSO sees that the project is a great way to raise the profile of the NSO and the use of nationally representative microdata, which can be achieved through the citations database.
- There is a disconnect between current microdata sharing vehicles that are implemented by the NSO and those implemented by line ministries (where they exist).
- It was collectively agreed that the datasets that are to be prioritised for metadata documentation and publishing, and dissemination, would be: Census, HIES, LFS, MICS, DHS, agricultural census.
- SPC is a trusted partner to curate and preserve data and SDD is already performing this function, albeit unofficially.
- People aren't using microdata to guide policy and planning, which is a function of limited avenues to discover and access data and capacity to analyse complex census and survey data.

Session 2: Round table discussion – NSOs sharing experience in microdata storage, preservation and documentation

- Samoa presented their National Data Archive (<http://110.5.112.59/index.php/home>) and their Census and Statistics Dissemination platform, REDATA (<http://110.5.112.59/redatam/>).
- Vanuatu presented on resource and capacity constraints limiting the full documentation of microdata and publication of metadata.

Session 3: Data preservation and curation

Presentation: 3. Data preservation and curation

SPC gave a presentation on the importance of data preservation and curation, potential problems with the current state and the benefit to Pacific NSOs to be involved in the project. The following discussions points were raised:

- The project presents opportunity to monitor the use of microdata to demonstrate the value of statistics to ministries of finance.
- There are cases where national data archived (e.g., Samoa) exist and others where they're centralised at the Pacific Data Library (<http://pdl.spc.int>). The project will support either case, or through producing a country-specific "front end" of the Pacific Data Library for each NSO's website.

Session 4: Data stocktake

Presentation: 4. Inventory

SPC gave a presentation on the inventory of microdata sets that SPC has collated. The inventory consists of 500+ nationally representative surveys across 22 Pacific Island countries and territories. The following next steps for verifying the inventory and "pushing" the collections into the data deposit system of the Pacific Data Library were identified as:

- i. NSOs to verify the inventory;
- ii. NSOs to deposit data to the Pacific Data Library and concurrently execute legal documentation;

- iii. NSOs to reach out to other national data producers to extend the inventory beyond core national statistical collections to include sectoral microdata;
- iv. SPC to reach out to other regional data producers to extend the inventory beyond core national statistical collections to include sectoral microdata;
- v. The inventory should include, as a minimum: Dataset title; data type; geographic coverage; frequency of collection; owner identification; collection dates; metadata availability; microdata availability and format; and any information on data access formalities.

Session 5: Processes involved from data deposit through to data dissemination

Presentation: 5. Data deposit to dissemination processes

SPC gave a presentation on the processes from depositing data through to disseminating microdata through the Pacific Data Library, which generally involves:

- Stage 1: Data License Agreement (legal);
- Stage 2: Data deposit;
- Stage 3: Data validation;
- Stage 4: Dataset archiving (file version control, formats);
- Stage 5: Documentation & metadata publishing;
- Stage 6: Anonymization (data disclosure risk control);
- Stage 8: Dissemination of data;
- Stage 7: Data use (citations); and
- Stage 9: Provide feedback.

Session 6: Data deposit, use and dissemination policy

SPC gave a presentation on the draft: a) SDD-NSO MOU; b) Data License Agreement; and c) Terms of Use. The following discussions points were raised:

- Scope of SDD-NSO MOU should be broadened to include administrative data.
- All agreed on the term “Data License Agreement”.
- Request that SPC provides examples of other Data License Agreement when the final draft is circulated.

Session 7: Policy and protocols for data deposit, anonymization and dissemination

Presentation: 6. Anonymization

SPC gave a presentation on the processes involved from data deposit through to dissemination, including a practical example of the anonymization processes. The following discussions points were raised:

- It is a positive step for the project to develop guidelines for each process to make the process fully transparent.
- Recommended that small NSOs are guided through the data deposit process.
- Concerns regarding the amount of work required (i.e., numerous fields to complete) just to deposit data.
- Some external resources may also need to be suppressed, so these would not be published through the Pacific Data Library.

Session 8: Microdata harmonisation

Presentation: 7. Harmonisation

SPC gave a presentation on the harmonisation component of the project.

Session 9: Data liberation

Presentation: 8. Data liberation

SPC gave a presentation on data liberation. The following discussions points were raised:

- What is an acceptable risk disclosure threshold?
- The project presents an opportunity to justify the millions of dollars spent on collecting data and to start to analyse data that are available, yet underexploited.
- The process for small NSOs is still a little unclear and the smaller NSOs need support.
- Data preservation is storage of all survey instruments from beginning to end and the project is an opportunity for backup (e.g., due to human error or disaster).
- It was recommended that the data preservation aspects adopted a whole project view (e.g., where all documents from project concept, budgeting to very end of a collection are curated).
- There's a need to review statistics acts to ensure that the project aligns with national legislation.
- Once leaders are exposed to the dissemination process and that we're able to demonstrate that disclosure risk mitigating procedures are in place, data will be liberated.
- The project will help with microdata version control to avoid multiple users using (and drawing policy implications) different datasets.
- The data documentation can guide the planning phase and reporting phase of a statistical collection.

Session 10: Monitoring and evaluation – citations

Presentation: 9. Citations

SPC gave a presentation on establishing a citations database.

Session 11: Next steps

Presentation: 10. Next steps

The following next steps were agreed:

Participants

- Sign letter of engagement;
- Confirm/update inventory;
- Deposit data and external resources,
 - priority on most recent PHC, HIES, MICS, DHS, LFS and agriculture census/survey;
- Establish a project focal point in your NSO;
- Participate in workshops and capacity enhancement initiatives; and
- In-country deposit and DDI.

SPC

- Engage regional organisations;
- Consult and finalise legal framework;
- SDD-NSO MOU to include admin data;
- Data License Agreement;
- Terms of Use;
- Provide examples of other DLAs;
- Document procedures and protocols;
- IT team to document our ICT security measures;
- Set up IT infrastructure;
- Set up citations database; and
- Meeting report and package presentations, publisher, and papers.

Appendix 1: Participant list

Table 1: Workshop participants and facilitators

Name	Country	Gender	Email
Participants			
Mr Junior Ah Yen	Samoa	M	junior.ahyen@sbs.gov.ws
Ms Grace Alapati	Tuvalu	F	gsenalaalapati@gmail.com
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Apologies			
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Appendix 2: Evaluation

Table 2: Average score (out of 100) for each component of the workshop

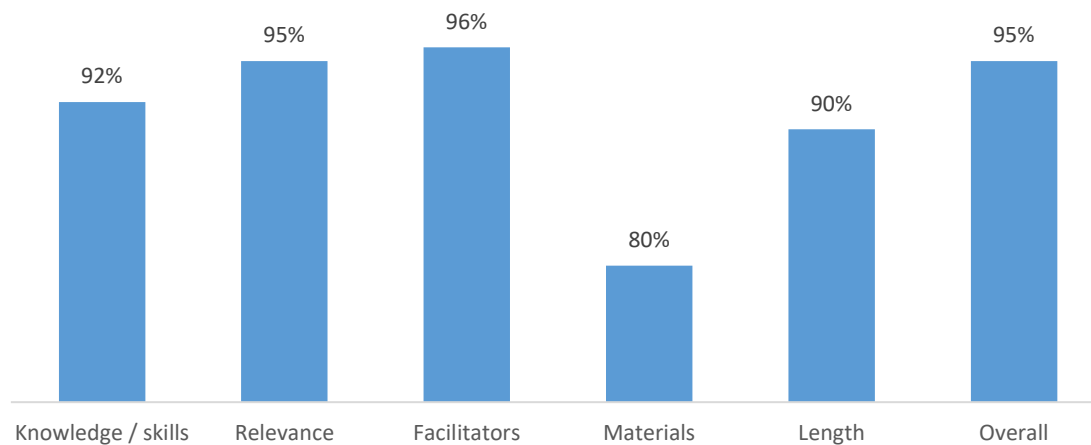


Table 3: Themes that participants liked

Liked	Frequency
Anonymization	5
Verified project	2
Letter of agreement	1
Data deposit through to dissemination	1