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## 2018 PSSC MEETING

### DOCUMENT N° 2:

# KEY DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEN-YEAR PACIFIC STATISTICS STRATEGY (TYPSS) PHASE 3 AND THE DECISIONS OF THE 2017 HEADS OF PLANNING AND STATISTICS (HOPS) MEETING

Prepared by the  
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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper provides an update on key developments following the implementation of the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) Phase 3 and decisions of the 2017 Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) Meeting. It is important to note that the key decisions and activities approved during the 2017 HOPS Meeting form a large part of the key activities prescribed under TYPSS Phase 3 Roadmap. Over the last 12 months, Statistics for Development Division (SDD), together with partners, has worked very hard to deliver on a number of key milestones that I would like to highlight during this meeting.

The achievements which will be described have been realised despite a reduction in the resources available to SDD to deliver on all the responsibilities prescribed under TYPSS Phase 3, including its system leader role. The resource limitation has been one of the key constraints faced by SDD over the last 12 months. This was a point noted by members during the 2017 HOPS discussion of TYPSS Phase 3.

PSSC is invited to endorse the following recommendations:

- To note the key developments following the implementation of the Ten-Year Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) Phase 3 and the recommendations of the 2017 HOPS Meeting;
- To note the financial constraints and consider options for mobilising additional resources for Pacific statistics development;
- That a mid-term review of TYPSS Phase 3 takes place at end of 2019 to be funded by DFAT as in previous years; and
- That PSSC considers a regional strategic framework beyond 2020 for final consideration at the next HOPS Meeting in 2020.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The 5<sup>th</sup> HOPS Meeting was held in November 2017. Representatives of National Statistics Offices (NSOs), planning offices, donors and development partners attend the three-day meeting. A number of key proposals and papers were submitted for consideration and endorsement during the Meeting. These included the following:

- Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) Phase 3 design and priorities for 2018-2020;
- Regional Statistics Governance Framework
- Pacific Statistics Methods Board
- SDD Business Plan (2018-2020)
- Improving Pacific data dissemination (microdata)
- Regional Data Dissemination Strategy Framework
- Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program

The next section discusses what has been done under each of the above proposals since the meeting of HOPS in 2017.

## 3. KEY DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 2017 HOPS MEETING

### a. Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS): Phase 3 design and priorities for 2018-2020

TYPSS Phase 3 had five main objectives:

- PICTs have technical capacity and statistical capability (either in-house or through TA) to manage and implement core statistical collections, including great utilisation and integration of key administrative databases;
- PICTs are producing and disseminating (either in-house) on agreed core set of high-quality economic, social and environmental statistics in a timely and user-friendly manner and in line with national priorities;

- All PICTs have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan that articulates priorities in line with their national development strategies and are aligned with the agreed core set of statistics;
- National statistics stakeholders are advised on an ongoing basis about emerging statistical tools, systems and international standards, and scaled-down methodologies and approaches that are fit-for-purpose for the Pacific
- Regional governance and coordination of statistics are both functioning efficiently and effectively

Table 1 below depict the level of staffing in Pacific NSOs, including both technical and non-technical staff. While the technical capacity and statistical capability differ greatly from large to small NSOs, the volume of data collections, analysis, dissemination and reporting requirements are very similar to all of the NSOs. Many studies on statistical capacity show that this is a major challenge for Pacific NSOs. Coupled with a high rate of staff turn-over this makes long-term statistical development a major issue that the region will continue to face in the foreseeable future<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 1: Staffing at Pacific National Statistics Offices (NSOs)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>2018</b>
Nauru	3
Niue	3
Tokelau	3
Marshall Is	4
Palau	5
Tuvalu	5
American Samoa	7
Northern Marianas	8
Cook Is	10
Wallis and Futuna	10
Kiribati	11
Guam	17
FSM	19
Solomon Is	25
Vanuatu	31
Tonga	33
New Caledonia	41
Samoa	85
Fiji	140
PNG (preliminary)	148

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<sup>1</sup> TYPSS Mid-Term Review (2017); Pacific Sustainable Development Report (2018).

Despite the limited capacity within Pacific NSOs, they still manage to continue with their core statistical activities, namely the implementation of core statistical collections such as Population and Household Census (PHC), Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), Labour Force Survey (LFS), Agriculture Census (AG) and Disability Survey (DS). Production of economic statistics, such as merchandise trade, prices, balance of payments, government finance and monetary statistics, also continue in most Pacific NSOs. Table 2 below shows that about 42 surveys and censuses were completed in the Pacific region over the first 8 years of TYPSS.

**Table 2: Statistical Collection Completed Since 2010**

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES	PHC	HIES	DHS	OTHER
<b>MELANESIA</b>				
Papua New Guinea	2011			
Fiji				
Solomon Islands		2012	2014	Agr 2017
Vanuatu	2016	2010	2013	Hybrid 2012-13
<b>MICRONESIA</b>				
Kiribati	2010, 2015, 2018 Listing			
Fed. States of Micronesia	2010	2013-14		Agr 2016
Marshall Islands	2011	2017 (test)		
Nauru	2011	2013		
Palau	2012, 2015	2014		
Guam				
CNMI	2010			
<b>POLYNESIA</b>				
American Samoa				
Samoa	2011			
Tuvalu	2012, 2017	2010, 2015-16		
Cook Islands	2011	2015-16		
Niue	2011	2015-16		
Tokelau	2011, 2016	2015-16		
Tonga	2011, 2016	2015-16	2012	Agr 2015, Disability 2018
<b>FRENCH TERRITORIES</b>				
Wallis and Futuna	2013, 2018			
New Caledonia				
French Polynesia				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

TYPSS Phase 3; Objective 3 emphasised that “all PICTs have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan that articulates national priorities in line with their national development strategies and are aligned with the agreed core set of statistics”. Progress towards achieving this objective was initially slow as some smaller NSOs struggled to meet the required consultative and drafting schedules. However with additional support from SDD, good progress is now being made. Table 3 below shows the different status for each member country in their NSDS process. In 2018, four NSDS will be completed (Fiji, FSM, Tonga, Tuvalu); this is a major achievement when compared to previous years.

**Table 3: NSDS Progress in the Pacific (2010-2018)**

PICT	NSDS	Timeframe
Samoa	Completed	2011-2021
Cooks Is	Completed	2014-2024
Vanuatu	Completed	2014-2020
Solomon Is	Completed	2015-2035
Papua New Guinea	Completed	2015-2024
Tonga	Completed (Nov 2018)	2019-2023
Fiji	Completed (Nov 2018)	2019-2023
Federated States of Micronesia	Completed (Nov 2018)	2019-2023
Tuvalu	Completed (Nov 2018)	2019-2023
Tokelau	Under development	2019-2023e
Kiribati	Planned for 2019	
Nauru	Planned for 2019	
Marshall Island	Not yet planned	
Niue	Not yet planned	
Palau	Not yet planned	

**b. Regional Statistics Governance Framework**

The 2017 HOPS Meeting endorsed the Secretariat’s proposal for an enhanced Pacific statistics governance framework. The need for such a governance framework took into account discussions that had taken place on this matter over the previous several years, and recognised the need to ensure that a robust, fit-for-purpose system was put in place. The approved governance structure had five primary components: i) Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM); Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS); Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC); Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB); and a Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG). 2018 FEMM in Palau endorsed that HOPS reports to FEMM as its ministerial meeting on matters that are strategically significant to the region. Table 4 below shows the different components of the statistics governance framework and their objectives.

**Table 4: Regional Statistics Governance Framework**

Committee/Meeting	Objectives (s)	TORS
1. Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM)	Provide strategic guidance and decision-making body in significant regional statistics development matters, including governance. It has the ability to push significant issues to Pacific Island leaders via the traditional PIFS process.	Nil
2. Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) Meeting	Provide senior-level strategic oversight, guidance, recommendations and decisions on all statistical matters placed before it.	Yes
3. Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC)	Monitor implementation and progress of the TYPSS and other essential statistics-related processes; make decision on operational matters and make recommendations to HOPS on strategic issues of importance for statistics development in the Pacific region. PSSC meets in years when there is no HOPS meeting.	Yes
4. Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB)	A technical body with the role of reviewing technical proposals on methodologies, identifying areas requiring research to identify best practices and making appropriate decisions on technical matters or, in cases where it cannot make a final decision, make recommendations to PSSC and HOPS for further discussion and a decision.	Yes
5. Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG) Meeting	Ensure that all relevant donors and development partners were provided with a means to better coordinate their action and resources and provide concrete input into statistic governance in the Pacific. It is not a decision making body but it can make recommendations to PSSC and HOPS on relevant statistical matters and issues.	Nil

## **Committee/Meeting**

All these various governance bodies have now been established and have become operational within one year. Both the PSMB and DDPG will update PSSC members on their progress.

### **c. SDD Business Plan (2018-2020)**

The SDD Business Plan 2018-2020 was developed to reflect the key recommendations from a number of important reviews and assessments. These included SDD's Performance Improvement Framework (PIF) Review (2016); Pacific Statistics Steering Committee Meeting (PSSC-13) (2016); Sustineo Pacific Statistics Assessment (2016) and the Ten Year Pacific Strategy (TYPSS) Phase 2 Review (2017), while also being aligned to the SPC's Strategic Plan 2016-2020. SDD commenced implementation of its new business plan in 2018.

The Plan placed high priority on SDD's system leader role aimed at coordinating statistical activities among technical partners, donors and member countries. This continues to be a significant challenge, made more difficult by the increased demand for statistics driven by the 2030 International Development Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) reporting requirements.

Despite its financial resource constraints, SDD delivered a large volume of activities during the year across a wide spectrum of economic and social statistics. These included the establishment of the revised enhanced governance framework; the Republic of Marshall Island (RMI) HIES Test; World Bank Microdata Access Project; Data Dissemination Improvement Project and completion of three NSDS. These are in addition to the Division's normal operations. 2018 has been a busy, but successful year for SDD.

### **d. Improving Pacific data dissemination (microdata)**

Part of improving access to Pacific statistics is better access to microdata. During the year, the World Bank agreed to fund the "Microdata Access Project" which will assist many of the Pacific NSOs to have their microdata properly curated, archived and disseminated. Currently, there are only forty-seven datasets ready for users in the Pacific Data Library and the objective is to increase this figure significantly in the coming years. A number of NSOs have signed up for this project including – Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu; Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, FSM, Nauru and Kiribati. The project will be officially launched in Tonga at the beginning of November where many the Government Statisticians will attend. Part of this project is capacity development for SDD staff in the area of data curation which will then be shared with NSOs.

### **e. Regional Data Dissemination Strategy**

The 2017 HOPS meeting endorsed a paper for a Regional Data Dissemination Framework. In 2018, this paper has been developed into a full Pacific Regional Data Dissemination Strategy (PRDDS) Proposal that comprises four elements: governance arrangements for data acquisition; the development of a regional data repository; guideline for national data dissemination strategy; and the coordination of regional data dissemination.

The PRDDS acknowledged that there were two over-riding considerations that needed to be taken into account: the ownership of statistical data and associated metadata resides with the national producers, in this case national statistics offices, and the confidentiality of an individual's information must be protected, in line with requirements set out in each member country's Statistics Act.

The Strategy is there to guide how regional agencies can assist member countries' NSOs in the timely dissemination of Pacific statistics and data. It also provides an avenue for better coordination among different agencies that are disseminating Pacific statistics and data. Leading from this the PRDDS is expected to also support improvements in the quality, efficiency and timeliness of the production of user-friendly statistical outputs in support of evidence-based policy, planning and development.

#### **f. Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program (PSDPP)**

The 2017 HOPS Meeting endorsed the establishment of a Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program (PSDPP) as part of responding to member countries NSOs' concern over lack of coordination among development partners and donors of the support to statistics development in the Pacific. Subsequent to HOPS 2017 decision, donors and development partners formulate the Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG), which held its inaugural meeting in Brisbane in August, 2018. The Group also endorsed the PSDPP and the proposed Five-Year National Collection Plan as guideline for this partnership and their technical and financial support to statistics development in the region.

### **4. CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD**

Significant developments have taken place in Pacific statistics in the twelve months since the HOPS meeting last year. However there are still challenges that need to be addressed. Lack of adequate financial investment is one of the key constraints faced in Pacific statistics development. HOPS 2017 Meeting noted that the design of TYPSS Phase 3 was quite ambitious and unless it was properly resourced, there could be significant delays in implementation. PARIS21<sup>2</sup> has noted that the Pacific region is among those with a very low level of EOCED funding. The increasing demand for timely, accurate and disaggregated Pacific statistics means that additional investment will need to be directed to statistics development at national, regional and international levels.

Pacific national statistics systems (NSS) are expected to produce statistics in areas where data was never previously collected on a systematic basis, including in areas such as climate, disasters, environment and oceans. This will require additional investment to enable the development of a fit-for-purpose methodology for the collection of the required information, as well as the actual collection, analysis and dissemination of the data.

A general pro-forma estimate of the likely costs indicates that over the next 5 years (2019-2023) a total of around USD230 million will be required to cover the 5-Year Data Collection Plan for the Pacific. The reporting requirements placed by 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals on small NSOs is quite significant. The urgency to produce up-to-date core statistics, sourced from national censuses and surveys, puts pressure on both Pacific NSOs and also on SDD's very limited technical support team. There needs to be new and additional resources for NSOs in the conduct of these surveys and censuses and also for SDD to enable it to provide the necessary technical assistance and support.

As system leader, coordinating all stakeholders that are engaged in Pacific statistics development is quite a major undertaking and this requires a devoted resource to take up this responsibilities. Coordination is required at different levels: governance, strategic and operational levels. The coordination of HOPS, PSSC, PSMB and DDPG requires a substantial amount of the Director's time and this leaves very little time for strategic engagement. There are also still some development partners and agencies which are not coordinating fully through the DDPG. This has given rise to cases where the production, analysis or dissemination of Pacific statistics and data has been undertaken without any effort to consult with NSOs or SDD as the system leaders. This situation continues to put pressure and cause some degree of confusion among NSOs on who does what at regional and international levels.

Given the increased demand for new data, users are starting to develop new surveys and censuses to capture these additional information. It is very important that Pacific NSOs, development partners and the UN system consider rationalising the information requested via censuses and surveys. There are already a large number of existing surveys and censuses and any additional information required should be integrated to these existing surveys/censuses wherever possible.

Looking into the future and the increased demand for disaggregated, timely and accurate statistics there has to be additional investment in Pacific statistics development not only in the NSOs but also in the NSS aimed at enhancing the use of administrative data. There is also a need for SDD to be

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<sup>2</sup> PARIS21 Press 2018;

properly resourced to deliver its system leader functions as well as maintaining its technical support program to member countries. Key users and producers of Pacific statistics will need to get together and rationalise all the different existing surveys and censuses so as to eliminate the respondents' burden on Pacific communities.

In conclusion, this paper wishes to acknowledge the number of significant developments that have taken place in the Pacific on statistics. However, with the increased demand for new statistics to be produced at disaggregated level, additional investment will be needed to fund these additional statistical needs.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

PSSC is invited to endorse the following recommendations:

- To note the key developments following the implementation of the Ten-Year Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) Phase 3 and the recommendations of the 2017 HOPS Meeting;
- To note the financial constraints and consider options for mobilising additional resources for Pacific statistics development;
- That a mid-term review of TYPSS Phase 3 takes place at end of 2019 to be funded by DFAT as in previous years; and
- That PSSC considers a regional strategic framework beyond 2020 for final consideration at the next HOPS Meeting in 2020.