



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

SPC Headquarters
95 Promenade Roger Laroque
BP D5, 98848 Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia
Email: spc@spc.int
Phone: +687 26 20 00
Fax: +687 26 38 18

Siège de la CPS
95 Promenade Roger Laroque
BP D5, 98848 Nouméa Cedex
Nouvelle-Calédonie
Email : spc@spc.int
Tel : +687 26 20 00
Fax : +687 26 38 18

2018 PSSC MEETING

DOCUMENT N° 5:

PACIFIC STATISTICS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (PSDPP)

AND

FIVE-YEAR NATIONAL STATISTICS COLLECTION PLAN

Prepared by the Secretariat
on behalf of
Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG)



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Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional Offices: Suva, Fiji; Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia; Port Vila, Vanuatu. Country Office: Honiara, Solomon Islands.

www.spc.int spc@spc.int

Siège de la Communauté du Pacifique (CPS) : Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie). Antennes régionales : Suva (Fidji) ; Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie) ; Port-Vila (Vanuatu). Bureau de pays : Honiara (Îles Salomon).

www.spc.int spc@spc.int

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ACRONYMS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ANU	Australian National University
AgrC	Agriculture Census
BAG	Brisbane Accord Group
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interview
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DDPG	Donor and Development Partners Group
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
DHS	Demographic and Health survey
DS	Disability Survey
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations
FBoS	Fiji Bureau of Statistics
FEMM	Forum Economic Ministers Meeting
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Surveys
HOPS	Head of Planning and Statistics
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LFS	Labour Force Surveys
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
NMDI	National Minimum Development Indicators
NSOs	National Statistics Offices
NZ-MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PFTAC	Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PICTS	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PRISM	Pacific Regional Information System
PSDPP	Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program
PSMB	Pacific Statistics Methods Board
PSSC	Pacific Statistics Standing Committee
RMI	Republic of Marshall Island
SAMOA Pathway	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SDD	Statistics for Development Division
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPC	Pacific Community
SPTO	South Pacific Tourism Organisation
SNZ	Statistics New Zealand
TYPSS	Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHDRO	United Nations Human Development Report Office
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
USP	University of the South Pacific
VNR	Voluntary National Report
WB	World Bank

1. Executive summary

The 2017 Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) meeting endorsed the establishment of a Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program (PSDPP) and a Five-Year National Statistics Collection Plan¹ to provide a very clear and transparent program that could be shared with all Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), development partners and donors. This would then facilitate the development of partnerships for fund-raising and resource mobilisation, and improve planning and coordination among all development partners providing technical support to PICTs' National Statistics Offices (NSOs).

Once established and institutionalised across PICTs, development partners and donors, the PSDPP would be expected to strongly support the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) objectives of coordinated data collection technical support and standardised tools, methods, systems and processes. Further, it would be expected to support the improvement in the quality, efficiency and timeliness of producing statistical outputs.

The PSDPP would be supported through the regional statistics governance framework, also approved during the 2017 HOPS meeting, which has five key components:

- Finance and Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM)
- Heads of Planning and Statistics Meeting (HOPS)
- Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC)
- Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG)
- Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB)

The following sections discuss the progress in achieving the implementation of the TYPSS, the establishment of the regional statistics governance framework and of the PSDPP, as well as the continuing challenges being faced by NSOs and the regional statistics system. The paper concludes with a summary of recommendation for the way forward.

Finally the paper proposes that PSSC members consider the following recommendations:

- i. that the Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program (PSDPP) and Five-Year Collection Plan guide donors, development partners and Pacific national statistics offices (NSOs) on all technical support programs and resource mobilisation initiatives related to national official data collection activities;
- ii. that members of the Donor-Development Partner Group (DDPG) support the PSDPP and Five-Year Collection Plan through their technical support and funding program;
- iii. that Secretariat continues to work with Pacific NSOs to ensure an optimal data collection plan is development for each of their main data collection activities; and
- iv. that Secretariat continues to coordinate, update and disseminate this document to Pacific NSOs, donors and development partners on a regular basis.

2. Statistics in the Pacific Region

Timely and reliable statistical information is crucial for the benefit of society and the economy as a whole – not only in policy-making and the evaluation of performance – but also in directing economic and social activities and providing valuable data and evidence for analysts, researchers, civil society

¹ Supporting Statistical Collections through Coordinated Partnerships and a 5-Year Plan; SPC/HOPS 2017/Session 7 – Working Paper 5; 5th Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS), (Noumea, New Caledonia, 14-16 November 2017)

and the general public. It is, therefore, essential that statistical systems are well planned, resourced and sufficiently robust to respond to the challenge of meeting these diverse data demands in a sustainable way.

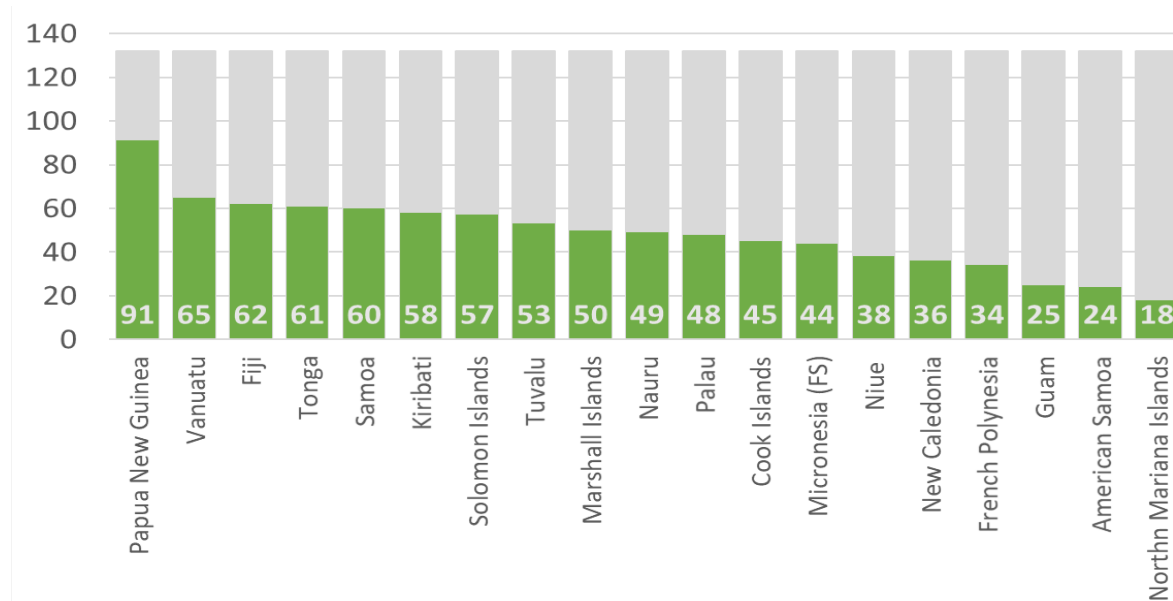
In reality, NSOs in the Pacific region are generally small and under-resourced in terms of finance, skills and capacities. Partnerships, coordination and cooperation between NSOs, technical assistance agencies, including SPC’s Statistics for Development Division (SPC-SDD), funding partners and other stakeholder agencies are essential for the successful undertaking of the core national statistical collections.

PICTs are highly dependent on household-based statistical collections, such as censuses and surveys, to generate development statistics to guide evidence-based policy formation, monitoring and evaluation. Household-based statistical collections including population and housing census (PHC), agriculture census (AgrC), household income and expenditure surveys (HIES), demographic and health surveys (DHS) and multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS), labour force surveys (LFS) and disability surveys (DS) are the core national statistical collections. These collections provide the basis for disaggregated data relating to spatial, gender, age and all other similar statistical needs. However, these key national collections are costly exercises for countries.

Over the next five years, between 2019 and 2023, over 50 censuses and surveys are scheduled to be conducted around the region in order to ensure that up-to-date social and economic national statistics are available for national decision-making. Annex 1 provides a detailed timeline of these collections while Annex 2 provides an estimated costing for conducting these various census and surveys.

Under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – and through global, regional, national and sectoral-specific policy frameworks, such as the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway) and the Pacific Regionalism Framework – there is an unprecedented demand for timely and reliable statistics. Meeting the demand for disaggregated population and related data is highly dependent on the core national statistical collections. For example, 95 of the 231 indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), distributed among 14 of the 17 goals, require high-quality disaggregated population data generated from the census; a further 71 are household-based and mainly informed through household survey data.

Table 1: Pacific 132 SDG Indicators – Number of Indicators Available by Country



Recognising the difficulties that PICTs would have in compiling the global SDGs; the Pacific SDG Task Force, in consultation with member countries, selected 132 indicators as the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development. The majority of these 132 indicators are categorised as Tier I indicators, for

which a methodology exists and there is sufficient data coverage across the region. Table 1 above provides details of the number of indicators available by country. Approximately one-half of the Pacific indicators require information derived from the key national household collections. Data is being sourced from multiple areas, including SPC-SDD’s National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) database, UNESCAP’s Asia-Pacific Report, the UN global database, WHO, UNICEF, national census and survey collections, and administrative datasets held in each country.

The Pacific set of indicators includes 30 Tier III indicators, with no accepted methodology, and 10 of these are in the priority regional areas of Climate Action (Goal 13) and Life Below Water (Goal 14). These are viewed as important to tell the Pacific story, and it is important that the UN and other agencies responsible will develop the necessary indicator definitions to enable countries to measure and report on these indicators in time for the second regional report in 2022. Table 2 below provides details on the classification of priority indicators and data availability in PICTs.

Table 2: Pacific 132 SDG Indicators – Number of Indicators by Priority Goal and Tier

Goal	Name	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Data in ≥ 50% of Pacific SIDS
3	Good Health and Well-being	13	2	1	13
4	Quality Education	1	4	3	1
5	Gender Equality	3	7	1	3
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	1	2	0	2
13	Climate Action	1	0	4	0
14	Life Below Water	2	1	6	1
		21	16	15	20

3. The Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2010-2020 (TYPSS)

Recognising the constraints and challenges facing PICTs in their statistical development the TYPSS was formulated to address the challenges in a systematic manner. The TYPSS was funded by Australia and came into effect in 2010. The overall objectives of TYPSS focus on improving PICT national data collection activities including coordinated data collection technical support, and standardised tools, methods, systems and processes. In its first two phases (2010-2017), TYPSS gave high priority to ensuring that high-quality data, conforming to international standards, were being collected on a timely basis.

Despite significant progress towards these objectives in its first two phases a number of significant challenges remained. Prominent amongst these was that many PICTs continued to conduct unplanned or ad hoc statistical collections that were often driven by funding availability and funder-agendas rather than in accordance with planned national collection cycles.

These ad hoc and unplanned collections often result in an inefficient allocation of scarce NSO resources and potentially undermine data quality and comparability. Furthermore, conducting unplanned statistical collections creates challenges for technical assistance providers (including SPC-SDD) because they require urgent reallocation of scarce TA resources to support the NSO. In addition unplanned and ad hoc collections inhibit the ability of partners working within the TYPSS framework to plan, mobilise resources and coordinate technical assistance activities in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

In order to minimise these constraints it was agreed during the HOPS meeting in 2017 that there was a need for a stronger statistical coordinating mechanism². Such a mechanism would aim to: a) align collection activities conducted by PICTs with work plans and funding cycles of technical assistance

² Supporting Statistical Collections through Coordinated Partnerships and a 5-Year Plan; SPC/HOPS 2017/Session 7 – Working Paper 5; 5th Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS), (Noumea, New Caledonia, 14-16 November 2017)

providers and donor funding sources, and b) to seek the agreement of all partners to work within this framework. It was recognised that in certain circumstances one-off collections might be required in response to emergencies or specific events. These would be accommodated in an open and transparent manner and in consultation with relevant partners. In furtherance of this, the TYPSS Mid-Term Evaluation (2016) recommended that the SPC-SDD should take on the role of coordinating technical partners, donors and member countries in the planning and management of statistical collections in the region.

Notwithstanding the continuing challenges, TYPSS has been the cornerstone for the strong progress in regional statistics development in the region. During the third phase of TYPSS (2017-2020), the focus has been extended to include timely dissemination of Pacific data and statistics in a “fit-for-purpose” manner. This is critical for national policy makers, regional and international partners who are also investing in Pacific member countries to make well-informed decisions based on timely and quality Pacific data and statistics.

It is envisaged that TYPSS will continue beyond 2020, especially with the increased demand for Pacific statistics under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. TYPSS provides a framework where NSOs, development partners and donors coordinate and understand clearly their roles in meeting the demands of users, national, regional and global, for timely, dis-aggregated and quality statistics.

4. Regional statistics governance and system leader

The 2017 HOPS meeting³ approved a revised governance structure for statistics in the Pacific region with the aim of creating a clear governance framework with a strong strategic, oversight and guidance component. This governance structure would have five primary components:

- Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM)
- Heads of Planning and Statistics Meeting (HOPS)
- Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC)
- Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG)
- Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB)

HOPS’s preferred option was that statistics and data should become a formal, annual standing agenda item at the FEMM, as most Pacific Ministers in charge of statistics are also those in charge of economic issues. By strengthening the FEMM’s focus in statistics and data, it would become the strategic guidance and decision-making body in regional statistics governance with the ability to push significant issues to Pacific Island leaders via the traditional PIFS process. FEMM 2018 in Palau approved this proposal.

At the next level in the regional statistics governance structure is the HOPS meeting. HOPS would meet every two to three years at the most senior officials’ level possible and thus provide a regular institutional interface between NSOs, development partners and SPC to help build the relationships which are crucial to the successful implementation of the TYPSS and other statistics initiatives in the Pacific. The role of HOPS is to provide senior-level strategic oversight, guidance, recommendations and decisions on the matters placed before it. These recommendations would then, through active cooperation and collaboration between SPC and the PIFS, be discussed during the standing agenda item on statistics at the FEMM.

The PSSC would evolve into an official subsidiary body of HOPS, as the “Pacific Statistics Standing Committee”. PSSC would meet in years when HOPS does not meet and would be a space for members to share updates on progress in various statistics related activities, monitoring implementation and progress of the TYPSS and other essential statics-related processes and identifying priorities for NSOs and development partner attention. The PSSC would be able to make decisions on operational matters

³ 5th Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS); Working Paper 2 – p. 2

and is also empowered to make recommendations to HOPS on strategic issues of importance for statistics development in the Pacific region.

The fourth element of this regional governance structure was to formally create a donor and development partner group (DDPG). This group would ensure that all relevant development partners were provided with a means to provide concrete input into statistic governance in the Pacific, better coordinate their action and resources. The DDPG would meet annually, prior to the meeting of PSSC and HOPS meetings, thus also providing a platform for greater and more consistent engagement with PICTs and NSOs. SPC-SDD, as an intermediary between its Member States and development partners would be responsible for convening the development partner group.

The final aspect of this revised governance structure would be to create a Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB)⁴. The PSMB would be 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. The purpose of PSMB would be to standardise statistical methods, systems, classifications and processes with the aim of fostering greater harmonisation across the region and generating efficiencies for NSOs and agencies delivering support.

The proposed governance model would allow all parties to have far greater and more regular strategic engagement around statistics issues. Moreover, by formalising a development partner group as part of Pacific statistics governance, it would foster deeper understanding and cooperation between the members of the DDPG and the beneficiaries of development assistance in the statistics field. The revised governance framework would also create a platform where the statistics agenda in the Pacific is driven by the countries themselves, with inputs and support from the DDPG and regional agencies.

An external review of SDD in 2016, recommended that the Division should assume the role of a system leader for regional statistics development in addition to providing direct technical support to member countries. The 2017 HOPS meeting approved this recommendation.

As part of its system leader role, SDD is the principal agency responsible for the implementation, coordination and reporting on TYPSS. It is also responsible for coordinating the Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program and of the Five-Year National Statistics Collection Plan. In addition, SPC-SDD provides secretariat services to HOPS, PSSC, PSMB and DDPG. In its broader role, SPC-SDD also provides secretariat services for the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) with its work on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and to the Pacific SDG Taskforce Data Working Group.

SPC-SDD also participates and supports Pacific NSOs in many of the regional and international statistics fora such as the UN Statistics Commission Annual Meeting; UNESCAP Committee of Statistics Annual Session; UNESCAP Steering Committee on Population and Housing Census, CRVS and Economic Statistics; PARIS21 Steering Committee Annual Meeting; ABS-led Pacific Statistics Leadership Forum; and Pacific SDG Taskforce Meeting, to name only a few.

SDD has 18 technical staff⁵ and an annual operating budget of about EUR3.1 million (US\$3.6 million) for 2018. The budget is currently funded about one-third from SPC's core budget and two-thirds from external partners. Approximately 57 percent of the external funds are provided by DFAT, 26 percent by MFAT and the balance of 17 percent by World Bank, UNICEF and UNFPA.

5. Developing partnerships

As mentioned above, the 2017 HOPS meeting endorsed the establishment of the Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program (PSDPP) and of a Five-Year National Statistics Collection Plan,

⁴ 5th Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) Working Paper 2 – p. 3

⁵ Includes one vacant position

aimed at providing a very clear and transparent program that could be shared with all partners and stakeholders. This would then facilitate the development of partnerships to improve planning and coordination among all partners and TA providers, as well as fundraising and resource mobilisation. The Australian and New Zealand Governments continue to be the two main funding agencies for regional statistics development in the Pacific.

The implementation of the PSDPP has already led to positive steps towards establishing and enhancing coordination among technical partners and the realisation of synergies achieved through partnerships. Some of these partnerships have been formalised and others remain informal. Table 3 below provides a high-level summary of the existing statistics partnerships in the region.

During the first half of 2018, a number of notable agreements have been finalised and others are being negotiated among partners to ensure their technical assistance programs are better coordinated. For example, UNFPA and UNICEF have entered into an agreement with SPC-SDD on a combined technical support program to member countries conducting PHC, MICS and DHS. The World Bank and SPC-SDD joined forces in conducting the HIES experiment in the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), with the objective to continue this partnership in the implementation of proper HIES among member countries.

PFTAC continues to take a lead role in promoting economic statistics development. ABS and Statistics NZ continue to take a lead role in areas where they have provided technical support to the region including some bilateral arrangements with some of the Pacific NSOs. Both agencies also provide technical support to SDD or to member countries through partnership with the Division. Both ABS and Statistics NZ are members of the Methods Board and PSSC. CRVS work continues to be strengthened through the support of members of the BAG. Some of the more advanced Pacific NSOs are now starting to provide technical support under the south-to-south corporation program and NZ-MFAT has been instrumental in funding this program.

Table 3: Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program (PSDPP) – Principal Partners

Area of statistics work	Principal Partners
National Statistics for Development Strategy (NSDS)	SPC-SDD, PARIS21 (minimal remote support)
Economic Statistics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Accounts; Balance of Payments; Government Finance; Monetary statistics 	PFTAC, IMF, ABS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade, Prices 	SPC-SDD, ABS, NZ Statistics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other economic statistics (incl. Business Register) 	PFTAC, SPC-SDD, IMF, SPTO, South to South collaboration
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)	Brisbane Accord Group (BAG), SPC-SDD, ABS
Compilation of data related to 132 Pacific SDGs Indicators; support to member countries' national voluntary reporting and regional sustainable development report	SPC-SDD, PIFS, UNESCAP, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and Pacific SDG Taskforce
National core household-based census and surveys	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Housing Census (PHC) 	UNFPA, SPC-SDD, ABS (bilateral)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 	World Bank and SPC-SDD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) and Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 	UNICEF, UNFPA and SPC-SDD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Census and Surveys (AgrC)-(AgrS) 	FAO and SPC-SDD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Force Survey (LFS) 	ILO and SPC-SDD
Regional short-term statistics training and workshops	All development partners and SIAP

Short-term attachment and Pacific junior professional development program	Statistics NZ, SPC-SDD
Long-term official statistics degree courses	USP (MFAT and DFAT provides scholarship to member countries under their bilateral program)
Regional statistics system leader and secretariat to Pacific Statistics Methods Board, HOPS, PSSC and Donor and Development Partners Group	SPC-SDD

The following sections provide a more detailed summary of the main partnerships in statistics development that are currently being undertaken in the region.

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade

- **DFAT Australia**, provides direct funding to a *Program to Strengthen Pacific Statistics* in support of the TYPSS; TYPSS is now in Phase III (2018-2020):
- **Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)** Pacific Regional Program, through DFAT funding, comprises three separate but complementary streams of work:
 - i. **Statistical institutional strengthening, improved planning and governance through:**
 - hosting an annual Pacific Leadership Forum for up to 14 Pacific Island Countries;
 - attending the PSSC and HoPS meetings as part of TYPSS governance processes;
 - being an inaugural member of the PSMB.
 - ii. **Improving statistical production and processes to ensure ready access to quality and timely statistics through support to:**
 - CRVS - ABS is a partner of the BAG, a consortium of Australian and international aid partners which assists countries in developing their CRVS systems; the ABS Health and Vital Statistics team has recently provided, or is providing, assistance to the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Tuvalu and Kiribati;
 - Price Indices – the ABS Prices Branch is currently undertaking work in the Solomon Islands to reweight the national CPI and deliver other capacity building initiatives.
 - iii. **Strengthening relationships with development partners and enhancing use of statistics through:**
 - working with development partners to improve coordination in delivery of technical assistance and maintaining close relationships with the SDD, University of the South Pacific (USP), IMF PFTAC, Statistics New Zealand and the MFAT, and other international organisations;
 - collaboration on the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - delivery of a joint Prices training workshop; and
 - the development of a third year undergraduate course on ‘IT and Information Management for Official Statistics’ at USP.

ABS - Fiji Bilateral Program

The ABS delivers bilateral support to the Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS) through the ABS-FBoS Statistical Capability Development Program (SCDP), which aims to build the capacity of FBoS to produce accurate, timely and relevant statistics.

During 2017, ABS worked collaboratively with the SPC-SDD to assist FBoS with planning and operations support for the Fiji 2017 census. This included: planning, leadership and risk management advice; operations and enumeration monitoring and reporting support; and IT support. Through the

implementation of tablet-based enumeration and effective Census planning and operations, FBoS achieved significant improvements to data release timeframes and quality in comparison to the last Fiji Census in 2007.

In 2018, the focus of ABS support to FBoS will include:

- A review of FBoS' International Trade Price Index rebase work;
- Statistical leadership training to senior and middle management;
- Assistance with seasonal adjustment through a 'train the trainer' approach;
- Review and recommendation of improvements to IT and dissemination processes.

ABS - PNG Bilateral Program

In 2015 ABS commenced its support of PNG NSO with a focus of support on National Accounts production and building statistical capability. Technical assistance has been provided through both long-term placements of ABS staff in country and also short term missions.

The Program has three interrelated streams:

i. National Accounts

- Supporting the release of 2015 and 2016 GDP figures, including industry level data GDP estimates for key industries as well as improving the quality of GDP dissemination;
- Building capability of NSO National Accounts staff through small group and one on one coaching.

ii. Prices

- Improving the accuracy of CPI estimates and processes of dissemination;
- Introduction of a PPI for the Administration and Support Services Industry.

iii. Capability Development

- Coaching of NSO staff to develop of statistical training material in order to better understand economic statistics concepts.

The ABS also has bilateral statistical capability development programs with the Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia and the Directorate General for Statistics of Timor-Leste.

➤ **NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)**, provides direct support through Statistics New Zealand to:

- Pacific Annual Attachment Program;
- Training and other capability building support to Pacific-based statisticians and NSOs, e.g. Certificate of Official Statistics;
- Strengthening trade statistics systems and capability.
- **SPC SDD through:**
 - Core funding of SPC-SDD;
 - Program funding for the Division;
 - Chair of Pacific Statistics Methods Board;
 - One-off Incubator Fund support last year for Statistics Dissemination strategy;
 - One-off Incubator Fund support this year for development of improved methodology for HIES;
 - One-off funding support in 2018 to cover travel cost of 4 Pacific Government Statisticians at the 1st meeting of the newly established PSMB (chaired by Stats NZ);
 - Support for the trial of a new and more efficient method for the HIES in RMI.
- **Assistance in Sector Statistics:**
 - PFTAC for economic and finance statistics;

- NZ Tourism Research Institute for 4 PICTs;
 - Education sector budget support to some PICTs;
 - Health e.g. STEPs survey NCD risk factors, SPC public health surveillance.
 - **NZ Institute of Pacific Research:** collaboration between NZ Universities, and partners in Pacific e.g. SPC, USP, ANU.
 - Core funding to multilateral agencies which work in a wide range of sectors including providing technical support in statistics e.g. UNICEF, World Bank, ADB, UNFPA, UNDP etc.
 - **Future Priorities:**
 - More strategic and coordinated support through both regional and bilateral engagements to increase availability and use of Pacific Statistics;
 - Support and reinforce SPC's role as system leader and coordinator of Pacific statistics;
 - Continue to reinforce importance of evidence-based decision-making in engagement with PICTs across all ministries;
 - Continue to advocate for stronger engagement between line ministries, planning ministries and NSOs.
- **World Bank**, with which several activities have been partnered including:
- **Support to capacity building for NSOs and SPC-SDD in the use of:**
 - Survey Solutions software, which has facilitated the implementation of computer assisted personal interview (CAPI)-based collections in the region;
 - Stata econometric software for more transparent and efficient data processing and analysis.
 - **RMI HIES Experiment in partnership with SPC-SDD:**
 - This will guide future HIES methods using CAPI methodology.
 - **Improving Data Dissemination and Use in Pacific Islands Countries:**
 - An SDD-implemented project (funded through the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building) that will lead to improved documentation and preservation of datasets, increased data use and dissemination through harmonisation, and more significant data production through improved sample design and methods;
 - As an important donor and fund raiser for conducting HIES in the region.
- **Pacific Financial technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC)**
- PFTAC provides technical assistance to its member countries in the compilation and monitoring of macroeconomic statistics (including National Accounts, Government Finance, Balance of Payments, Money and Banking Statistics. A provisional schedule of support to economic statistics collections and compilations for the period 2018 – 2020 is in Annex 4.
- **SPC-Statistics for Development Division (SDD)**
- provides system leader/coordinator role to regional statistics development program; including secretariat to HOPS, PSSC, DDPG and PSMB;
 - Prepare and present key regional statistics development strategic issues to FEMM on behalf of HOPS;
 - Coordinate technical assistance to NSOs in all aspects of the core statistical collections, including census and survey planning, design, sampling, household listing and mapping, training and fieldwork, data capture, processing and cleaning, quality checking, archiving and anonymization (refer to Annex 3 for details);
 - provides direct technical support to member countries in the implementation of HIES (in partnership with WB for WB's member countries) and of PHC (in partnership with UNFPA for UN's member countries);

- produces regional population projections; DHS, PHC and HIES reports for SPC's 22 member countries and territories upon completion of relevant censuses and surveys;
 - support NSOs to compile their national statistics for development strategies (NSDS) in close collaboration with PARIS21; currently SDD is actively supporting Fiji, FSM, Tonga, Nauru, Tokelau and Tuvalu to prepare their statistics strategies;
 - in collaboration with the members of the SDG Technical Working Group and SDG Task Force, lead the data-compilation and database management for the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development and its 132 indicators drawn from the SDGs, the quadrennial report and in support of the VNRs being prepared by PICTs;
 - maintain and update the Pacific regional database of the National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI)⁶ and supports NSOs to update the Pacific Regional Information System (PRISM)⁷;
 - support the development and improvement of CRVS systems and processes in NSOs and provides training in CRVS for civil registration staff; and provides secretariat services for the Brisbane Accord Group;
 - conduct the User Focus Survey which informed SDD in developing products and services that are “fit-for-purpose” and relevant for users’ need.
 - cooperating with PFTAC and other partners in the compilation of economic statistics, including Prices, Trade and Business Register; and
 - in collaboration with relevant development partners, hosting regional training workshops to Pacific NSOs in various areas of statistical development; including data processing, systems and procedures, CRVS, Prices, Trade, GIS, website maintenance and data dissemination products and services.
- **University of the South Pacific (USP)**, through the development and provision of courses on official statistics that will directly benefit the region in terms of producing more qualified statisticians from the region.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** provides bilateral technical support to member countries in the development of economic statistics.
- **UN Agencies through their Pacific Regional Offices:**
- **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** will lead the implementation of MICS and work in collaboration with SPC-SDD and UNFPA in the implementation of DHS and Disability Survey. A multi-year contract has been finalised; which formalise the partnership between UNICEF and SPC-SDD in conducting DHS, MICS and disability surveys. Refer to Annex 3 for details.
 - **United national Population Fund (UNFPA)**, through partnership with SPC-SDD to provide technical support on the conduct of PHC and DHS for UN member countries. An Agreement has been finalised between UNFPA and SDD to formalise this partnership. Refer to Annex 3 for details.
 - **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP): support** the regional SDG Task Force and SDG Steering Committee in the formulation of the Pacific Roadmap for sustainable development. UNESCAP also provided technical assistance, in consultation with SDD and PIFS and other UN agencies, toward the preparation of the Pacific Regional Sustainable Development Report and for the preparation of the VNRs to member countries that needed support. SPC-SDD has also worked closely with UNESCAP on the Asia-Pacific Disaster-related Statistics Framework⁸. UNESCAP is also providing technical

⁶ <http://www.spc.int/nmdi/>

⁷ <http://prism.spc.int/>

⁸ <http://communities.unescap.org/asia-pacific-expert-group-disaster-related-statistics/content/drsf>

support to some of the UN member countries in the development of a national set of development indicators.

- **United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP)** provides statistical training for NSO staff in areas of high demand. This is done in consultation with development partners.
- **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)**, through the preparation of the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics. FAO also provides technical support to member countries when conducting Agriculture censuses and surveys.
- **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, provides regional training workshops and technical support to member countries when conducting Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The following agencies also provide support to regional statistics development either on a bilateral basis or in partnership with other agencies and the countries themselves, these are summarised in Annex 5.

- **Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)**, provides support through the regional SDG Task Force and SDG Steering Committee which: a) have formulated the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development; b) coordinate the compilation of the first Quadrennial Regional SDG Progress Report; and c) are providing assistance to the PICTs which have nominated for Voluntary National Reports (VNRs) in 2018 and 2019.
- **UN Human Development Report Office (UNHDRO)** through an informed dialogue with NSOs, and to support NSOs to collect and compile data in accordance with global best practice.

6. Funding of statistics for development in the Pacific

There are over 50 national statistics collections scheduled for PICTs over the five-year period of the PSDPP (2019-2023). See Annex 1 for details. Over this period almost every country is scheduled to have at least one PHC, one HIES and a DHS/MICS plus other targeted surveys. Whilst this may seem a large number of collections, the data collected would be needed to support the SDGs, other international reporting commitments and the needs of national policy-makers and planners. These core collections are therefore essential for national planning and policy-making and for meeting global and regional reporting commitments, as well as for monitoring and reporting commitments to donors and development partners. Their importance cannot be overestimated.

In terms of normal operating costs of the NSOs included in the annual recurrent budgets of their respective countries, SPC-SDD has estimated that across the Pacific region NSOs are allocated, on average, only around 0.2% of national budgets each year. This is a very small amount of resources when considered alongside the importance of statistics for policy-making across the whole-of-government, and for international reporting.

The funding gap between the normal recurrent allocations and the estimated cost of the core collection program is therefore large. Filling this gap requires a strong commitment from both national governments and development partners to jointly provide the necessary resources for the core collections. New technologies are being introduced to help to make collections more efficient and cost-effective but they can still be expensive in highly fragmented archipelagic countries such as PNG, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, as well as in the scattered-islands of the atoll nations of the region. Ever-more statistics are needed for ever-more reporting and analytical commitments.

It may also be noted that SPC-SDD's operating budget is equivalent to only about 8.5 percent of the average annual cost of the core collections⁹. At the present time SPC-SDD has nine professional staff in each of the Data Analysis and Dissemination and the Census and Survey Technical Support Teams. These staff are

⁹ A general rule-of-thumb indicates that technical assistance/project management should be equivalent to around 9-15% of the cost of an activity; see <https://www.pmi.org/learning/library/project-management-much-enough-appropriate-5072>

supported by the Director and three finance and administration staff. With this small team SPC-SDD is expected to provide support to all twenty-two member states and territories of SPC.

Although the availability of statistical training has been enhanced by the USP's Official Statistics Program, further capacity building is required. The region needs more graduates from this program and from other regional statistical training opportunities provided through SPC, Australia, New Zealand, IMF/WB, ADB and UNSIAP amongst others. A brief survey of NSOs current staffing shows that about 50 percent of Pacific NSOs have only 10 or less staff. Of that total number only a very small proportion are qualified statisticians.

Table 4: Pacific NSOs staffing – July 2018¹⁰

Country	2018
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	157

Funding of the Five-Year National Statistics Collections Plan

It is estimated that to fully fund the Five-Year National Statistics Collection Plan would require a total commitment of around US\$210 million over the period to 2019 - 2013, or approximately US\$42 million per annum on average, to be shared between national government budgets and funding from development partners, see Annex 2¹¹. The split between national government and development partner contributions will need to be determined on a country-by-country basis. This estimate is broadly in line with globally derived estimates¹² of the cost in \$US for producing SDG Indicators in IDA

¹⁰ At the request of SDD, all Pacific NSOs provided the data on core staffing. The numbers may include short-term temporary or casual staff engaged on recurrent activities but exclude short-term personnel directly engaged on census or survey related work.

¹¹ Using information on the costs of previous census in Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, SDD has estimated that, on average, it has cost approximately US\$10 per capita to undertake a census. Adjusting for inflation to 2018 prices, and applying scaling factors for each type of survey the annual costs by country/collection are illustrated in Annex 2.

¹² Source: 'The State of Development Data Funding 2016', Resource Mobilization and Alignment Working Group of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data - <https://opendatawatch.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/development-data-funding-2016.pdf>

and IBRD¹³ countries. This gave an estimated funding gap in statistics work of \$US2 to 3 million per country per year (based on 2017 funding levels). The costs included in these estimates relate only to the direct costs of the census and surveys and do not include the indirect costs of the technical assistance that is provided to the NSOs, or the core operating costs of the NSOs themselves.

In addition, it is essential that quality and consistent administrative data is collected by sector ministries and agencies to complete the SDG indicators and other reporting commitments. The critical nature of administrative data can sometimes be overlooked, but it is essential for reporting on civil registration and vital statistics, health, education, environment, public safety and governance. It is, therefore, essential that statistical systems, not just in the NSOs but also in the collection of administrative data are well planned, resourced and sufficiently robust to respond to the challenges of meeting these diverse data demands in a sustainable way.

In this context, it is important that SPC-SDD be adequately resourced to support the scheduled increase in demand for technical assistance to support the conduct and analysis of the censuses and surveys lined up for the next five years. Based on the recommended project-management scale cited above, SPC-SDD would need to increase its annual level of budget resources by around three-quarters to meet the optimum level. With seven HIES and two census scheduled for 2019 and seven census and two HIES scheduled for 2020, the Division's resources will be extremely stretched to meet the demands for technical support and analysis, especially from the smaller PICTs with less capacity of their own. This is where the partnerships between SPC-SDD, donor and development partners and the national governments will be essential.

7. Challenges and Future Outlook

Since the inception of the Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program (PSDPP), there has been strong support and positive participation by all the donors and development agencies working on regional statistics development.

A number of partnerships agreement have been finalized while others are being negotiated. The program allowed for a formal platform where partners can discuss and negotiate their technical assistance program to avoid any duplication, improve resource allocation and ensure common standards and best practices are reinforced. It also helps with providing member countries' NSOs with a very coherent technical support program that are available to assist them in their own work. It also helps with the formulation of a coordinated resource mobilization plan for the region.

The task of coordinating the PSDPP does require a good amount of resources from SDD. This has been accommodated through building key responsibilities into one of the technical staff job description. There is also the obvious difficulty of trying to work with different agencies' financial and procurement policies and procedures, as well as different reporting requirements. These are all parts of the challenges that donor and development partners will need to work with as part of forming a long-term sustainable partnership program.

Countries and their NSOs also have an important role in keeping the DDPG informed, through SPC-SDD, of any changes in scheduling of core collections, or any other additional collections that might be required to support individual country priorities.

Although much has been achieved in establishing a strong and enhanced regional statistics governance system for the region, the challenges now move towards successful implementation. The DDPG has a critical role to play in ensuring that sufficient financial and technical support is provided and fully coordinated, in order to better support the implementation of the five-year national statistical collection plan.

¹³ IDA countries in the Pacific Region: Kiribati, FSM, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. IBRD countries in the Pacific: Fiji, Nauru, Palau and Papua New Guinea.

8. Recommendations

PSSC members are requested to endorse the following recommendations:

- v. that the Pacific Statistics Development Partnership Program (PSDPP) and Five-Year Collection Plan guide donors, development partners and Pacific national statistics offices (NSOs) on all technical support programs and resource mobilisation initiatives related to national official data collection activities;
- vi. that members of the Donor-Development Partner Group (DDPG) support the PSDPP and Five-Year Collection Plan through their technical support and funding program;
- vii. that Secretariat continues to work with Pacific NSOs to ensure an optimal data collection plan is development for each of their main data collection activities; and
- viii. that Secretariat continues to coordinate, update and disseminate this document to Pacific NSOs, donors and development partners on a regular basis.

Annex 1: Five-Year Statistical Collection Plan – PICTs Summary (2019-2023)

Five-Year Statistical Collection Plan; PICT Summary 2019 - 2023					
PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
MELANESIA					
Papua New Guinea		PHC	HIES		
Fiji	HIES, AGR	EUS		HH LISTING	
Solomon Islands	PHC			HIES	
Vanuatu		PHC		AGR	
MICRONESIA					
Kiribati	HIES	PHC	AGR	LFS	
Fed. States of Micronesia		PHC	DHS/MICS		HIES
Marshall Islands			PHC		
Nauru	LISTING, MICS-DHS (with LFS), MINI HIES		PHC	HIES	
Palau		PHC			
Guam	COFA, HIES	PHC			
CNMI	Agric / LFS	PHC	HIES; LFS	HH LISTING	
POLYNESIA					
American Samoa	AGR	PHC			
Samoa	DHS/MICS	AGR	PHC	LFS, DISABILITY, DOMESTIC	
Tuvalu	DHS/MICS	DISABILITY	HIES	PHC	DISABILITY
Cook Islands			PHC		LFS
Niue	AGR		PHC		
Tokelau	HIES / MINI CENSUS		PHC		
Tonga	MICS	HIES	PHC	DHS; Agric	
FRENCH TERRITORIES					
Wallis and Futuna	HIES	DHS			
New Caledonia	PHC				
French Polynesia	LFS, HDS	LFS	LFS	PHC; LFS	LFS
General Assumptions					
Population & Housing Census/Agriculture Census: Pro-forma cost US\$12 per capita national population (100% cost factor)					
DHS/MICS/Mini-Census: Pro-forma cost US\$9 per capita national population (75% cost factor)					
HIES/LFS/Mini-census: Pro-forma cost US\$6 per capita national population (50% cost factor)					
Disability/ICT/HH listing: pro-forma cost US\$3 per capita national population (25% cost factor)					
Notes:					
Agric = Agricultural census / survey					
Business = Business survey					
DHS = Demographic and health survey					
Disab = Disability survey					
HIES = Household income and expenditure survey					
LFS = Labour force survey					
MICS = Multiple indicator cluster survey					
Migration = Migration survey					
PHC = Population and housing census					
When more than one statistical collection occurs in the same year, the order of collection is to be confirmed by the					
	POP CENSUS				
	HIES				
	MICS / DHS				
	OTHER SURVEYS				

Annex 2: Estimated Cost of Conducting the Five-year National Statistics Collection Plan; PICTs Summary (2019-2023)

Estimated Cost of Conducting the Five-Year Statistical Collection Plan; PICT Summary					
2019 - 2023					
PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
MELANESIA	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Papua New Guinea		102,696,000	51,348,000		
Fiji	5,330,400	2,665,200		2,665,200	
Solomon Islands	8,190,000			4,095,000	
Vanuatu		3,654,000		3,654,000	
MICRONESIA					
Kiribati	720,600	1,441,200	1,441,200	360,300	
Fed. States of Micronesia		1,263,600	1,263,600		631,800
Marshall Islands			666,000		
Nauru	99,000		132,000	66,000	
Palau		214,800			
Guam	1,034,400	2,068,800			
CNMI	674,400	674,400	505,800	168,600	
POLYNESIA					
American Samoa	680,400	680,400			
Samoa	2,360,400	2,360,400	2,360,400	590,100	
Tuvalu	122,400	30,600	61,200	122,400	30,600
Cook Islands			182,400		45,600
Niue	18,240		18,240		
Tokelau	12,600		16,800		
Tonga	891,000	594,000	1,188,000	1,188,000	
FRENCH TERRITORIES					
Wallis and Futuna	70,200	105,300			
New Caledonia	3,426,000				
French Polynesia	2,493,900	831,300	831,300	4,156,500	831,300
Total Estimated cost	26,123,940	119,280,000	60,014,940	17,066,100	1,539,300
					224,024,280

Annex 3: Service proposition of technical of technical assistance providers in different phases of statistical collections

STATISTICAL ACTIVITY PHASE	PHC	HIES	DHS*	MICS*	Disability*	Agriculture*	LFS*
Collection design, budgeting and planning	UNFPA, SDD, ABS, SNZ	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	FAO, SDD	ILO, SDD
Questionnaire design and user engagement	UNFPA, SDD, ABS, SNZ	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD, WG	FAO, SDD	ILO, SDD
Collection cartography and household listing	SDD, UNFPA	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	SDD, UNICEF	SDD, UNICEF	FAO, SDD	SDD, ILO
Selection of data capture and processing technology	SDD, UNFPA	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	SDD, UNICEF	SDD, UNICEF	FAO, SDD	SDD, ILO
Field work training and management	SDD, UNFPA	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD, WG	FAO, SDD	ILO, SDD
Data processing and cleaning	SDD, UNFPA	SDD, WB	SDD, UNFPA, UNICEF	SDD, UNICEF	SDD, UNICEF	SDD, FAO	SDD, ILO
Secondary data assurance	UNFPA, SDD, ABS, SNZ	SDD, WB	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD, WG	FAO, SDD	ILO, SDD
Data archiving and anonymisation	SDD	SDD	SDD	SDD	SDD	SDD	SDD
Data analysis, dissemination and use	UNFPA, SDD, ABS, SNZ	SDD, WB, PFTAC, ABS	UNFPA, UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD	UNICEF, SDD, WG	FAO, SDD	ILO, SDD

* indicates that the Statistics for Development Division's services are provided on a cost-recovery basis

The order of technical partner proposes the leader for the activity for within each statistical collection.

ABS= Australian Bureau of Statistics, FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization, ILO = International Labour Organization, PFTAC = Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center, PHC = population and housing census, SDD = Statistics for Development Division, SNZ = Statistics New Zealand, UNFPA = United Nations Development Fund, UNICEF = United Nations Children's Fund, WB = World Bank, WG = Washington Group

Annex 4: PFTAC Workplan for economic statistics (2018-2020)

Provisional: Work is done on a request basis																						
Country	2018								2019								2020					
	National Accounts	External Sector	Gov Finance	Prices	IMTS workshop	IMTS TA	Business Stats	Regional Tables	National Accounts	External Sector	Gov Finance	Prices	IMTS TA	Business Stats	Regional Tables	National Accounts	External Sector	Gov Finance	Prices	IMTS TA	Business Stats	Regional Tables
American Samoa																						
Cook Islands																						
Federated States of Micronesia																						
Fiji Islands																						
French Polynesia																						
Guam																						
Kiribati																						
Marshall Islands																						
Nauru																						
New Caledonia																						
Niue																						
Northern Mariana Islands																						
Palau																						
Papua New Guinea																						
Pitcairn																						
Samoa																						
Solomon Islands																						
Timor Leste	(i)								(i)							(i)						
Tokelau	(i)								(i)							(i)						
Tonga																						
Tuvalu																						
Vanuatu																						
Wallis and Futuna																						
TA Providers: IMF (PFTAC/TAOLAM/HQ) and SPC																						
In Country																						
Remote TA																						
(i) Invitation to PFTAC workshops/remote asst																						

Annex 5: Areas of lead and secondary technical assistance responsibilities in economic statistics - summary table

	ABS	ADB	IMF/ PFTAC	IMF/ TAOLAM	IMF HQ	SPC	SNZ	US Graduate School	UNSD/ ESCAP	SIAP	USP
Institutional setting											
Strategic planning for Economic Statistics (National strategy for the development of statistics)		S	S	S	S	L		S			√
Economic Data dissemination	S	S	S	S	L	L		S			
Statistical Infrastructure											
Setting-up of statistical business registers	S		S			L		S	S	√	
Regional standards and classifications	S		S			L		S			√
Inter-agency data sharing			L	L	L	S		S			
Prices and costs											
Consumer Price Index	S	S	S		√	L	S	S		√	√
Producer Price Index	S		S		√	L		S			√
Trade Price Index	S		S		√	L		S	S		√
Demand and output											
National Accounts	S	S	L		√	S	S	S	S	√	√
International Merchandise Trade Statistics						L	S	S	S		√
Income and wealth											
External Sector Statistics (Balance of payments, International investment position (IIP) and External debt)			L	L	√			S			√
Money and banking											
Monetary Statistics (Broad money and credit aggregates)			L					S			√
Government											
Government Finance Statistics (General government operations and General government debt)	S		L		√			S			√
Natural resources and the environment											
Environmental Economic Accounting (Natural resources)			S						L	√	√
Number of staff	*	5	5	3	n/a	2	1	2	5	4	4
L=Lead agency; S=supporting agency											
√= discipline in which learning opportunities are provided											
* Mix of economic statisticians work in the region and other ABS staff assist in conjunction with their domestic work program											
Source: Coordination paper on Technical Assistance on Pacific Core Set of Economic Statistics for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories											