

## 4<sup>th</sup> Pacific Statistics Standing Committee Meeting (PSSC)

8<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> of November 2022

SPC Headquarters', Noumea, New Caledonia

### Summary Report and Outcomes

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#### Introduction

The Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC) Meeting was held on 8 and 9 November 2022 at SPC headquarters, Noumea. Participants attended in-person and online (details in Annex 2). The meeting was chaired by the CEO of the Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Maria Musudroka.

The agenda and presentations are available at: <https://sdd.spc.int/events/2022/11/4th-PSSC-meeting>

#### Keynote address

Peter Ellis, SDD Director at SPC, highlighted that the PSSC meeting is an opportunity to reboot statistics governance, including HOPS. Ambitions for the meeting include: i) establishing NSO ownership over Pacific statistics; ii) endorsing strategic directions; iii) exchanging information and enabling coordination; and iv) building personal connections.

There are also opportunities to accelerate development through statistics, using new data sources, data science and computing power.

Resources, however, are a challenge. The core collections that NSOs want to carry out are beyond current resources. NSOs collectively have a budget of USD 24 million, with aid realistically contributing USD 10 million per year. Plans need hence to be aligned with budgets. There is also a need to take a broad view of the regional statistics system, including reserve banks and other entities.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> PSSC Meeting, November 2020 (virtual)

Presenter: Peter Ellis (SDD Director, SPC).

The outcomes of the meeting<sup>1</sup> were noted.

#### End-of-TYPSS review and evaluation: summary findings and recommendations

Presenter: Peter Ellis (SDD Director, SPC)

Sustineo conducted the review of the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS), which included wide consultation with NSOs, partners and donors. Many of the review's recommendations came from Government Statisticians, especially regarding capability and coordination. The review noted there had been improvements since the previous review and concluded that NSOs showed significant progress, with statistics going in the right direction.

The review suggested that TYPSS cannot control all statistical activities and investment. Rather, the emphasis should be on capacity, effective use of data and partnerships, with specific objectives to

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<sup>1</sup> Available [here](#).

include: statistics leadership; statistics production; dissemination and use; effective implementation; and innovation.

### Discussion

NSO representatives noted the difference between the overall framework and the requirements placed on NSOs by their various systems, and asked whether the framework could connect better with NSOs. They were also interested to see what focus was given to smaller PICTs and the matter of scale, and also noted the need to better understand PSSC's responsibility and authority. Fiji and Kiribati are looking to implement the new framework.

### Outcome

The review will be distributed to PSSC participants.

## New Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022–2030 (TYPSS II)

Presenter: Peter Ellis (SDD Director, SPC)

TYPSS II – Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022–2030 focuses on development of NSO capacity and capability, and national and sectoral policy analysts. It has two key pathways:

- statistical production, management, and use;
- statistical support services

Under these pathways, there are five Key Focus Areas (KFAs):

- improved quality, coverage, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of statistical collections and data processing;
- analysis and interpretation of data;
- data availability, dissemination and access;
- monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL);
- regional statistical governance and coordination.

There are identified actions under each KFA. Partners will support NSOs according to their individual needs and environments.

Basic principles include country-focused, coordinated, sustainable (adapted to different PICTs) and adequately resourced implementation, and MEL. The strategy recognises the need for investment in implementing new statistical methods with capacity development part of all processes. World Bank statistics performance indicators are built into the strategic results framework.

TYPSS II is **not** a substitute for regional and national planning, though the framework could provide a basis for a business case to donors. It is also not an SPC document. Rather it should be endorsed and owned by HOPS following its endorsement by PSSC, after changes if necessary.

The strategy has passed through consultation and revision. An early draft was presented to Government Statisticians at the Pacific Statistics Leadership Forum (PSLF) and their feedback was incorporated. SDD would now like to finalise the strategy, noting that mid-term reviews will ensure it evolves and adapts over its lifespan.

### Discussion

Participants stressed that TYPSS II is a regional strategy that has to encompass 22 NSOs with different levels of capacity and systems. It is complicated to capture that, while also enabling NSOs to develop their own national strategies. That was one of the reasons for choosing to use the World Bank indicators to provide a monitoring framework.

It was also highlighted that the strategy is not a list of actions, but rather a framework, suggesting changes and likely benefits. The next version could include stories of change underneath the theory of change.

A suggestion was made about developing a summary of the strategy to facilitate understanding and, in relation to the theory of change, including problem statements that could be presented to donors to clearly indicate the problems faced.

Prioritisation, finally, will be a big part of the strategy. Matching regional priorities with support and national priorities is not simple. While HOPS will oversee the framework, SDD will require more resources to provide support to NSOs.

### Outcome

PSSC agreed to endorse **TYPSS II – Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022–2030** subject to the amendments discussed, i.e. a concise summary, inclusion of actual problems to be addressed under the theory of change, text on how the strategy translates into action, and a defined mid-term review.

## Report from the Chair of the Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB): Main issues since 2019

Presenters: Vince Galvin (Chair, PSMB) and Michael Sharp, SPC

PSMB identifies regional best practice and adapts international best practice to methods applicable to Pacific countries. PSMB's challenges include promoting its work better to NSOs and advocating for a Pacific perspective in international standards.

At its recent meeting, PSMB discussed revision of its original TOR. The main change is an increase in PICT representatives to five (from four), including at least one from each subregion (Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia) and one from Small NSOs.

Topics covered by PSMB include HIES sampling, measurement of monetary and non-monetary poverty, and assessment of research proposals put forward under the PACSTAT<sup>2</sup> project. Examples of PSMB action are:

- Sampling workshops and development of sampling guidelines.
- HIES experiment in Marshall Islands and development of guidance for implanting the method.
- Monetary poverty measurement – interim guidelines developed and tested in four PICTs with extensive support from the World Bank.
- Review of microdata access and recommendations for improving access.
- Vanuatu experiment on data science.

PSMB acknowledged the support of the World Bank, SDD and consultants.

### Discussion

Participants noted that PSMB looks at methods for everyone and offers real guidance and support to most NSOs; they encouraged PICT NSOs to consider employing technical specialists who could take part in collaboration between ABS and Stats NZ, similar to Fiji's methodology unit.

Peter Ellis, SPC, was interested in the idea of disseminating PSMB findings, not just to NSOs, and suggested allocating more resources to communication and adding this dissemination to the SDD work programme. Stats NZ aims to support PSMB and dissemination of its findings and methods.

## Report on the 2021–2022 implementation of SDD's Business Plan (2018–2020) as extended through 2021–2022

Presenters: Michael Sharp (SPC), David Abbott (SPC)

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<sup>2</sup> Statistical Innovation and Capacity Building in the Pacific Islands. See: <https://sdd.spc.int/innovation-sdd/statistical-innovation-and-capacity-building-pacific-islands-project-pacstat>

Despite pandemic lockdowns, censuses and surveys continued in PICTs and SDD adapted to provide online assistance. Current work includes Kiribati's integrated HIES, the Tuvalu long-form census, the Samoa FAFH experiment, and analysis of the results of the Marshall Islands HIES.

SDD supported 11 censuses, and 7 HIES with the support of partners including UNFPA. SDD also provides training and maintains the Pacific Data Hub – Microdata Library (PDH-ML).<sup>3</sup> The Microdata Library holds 145 fully documented datasets. NSOs were asked to archive their datasets in the ML to ensure their safekeeping and to enable research for PICTs that agree to make their microdata available, with strict conditions for data confidentiality.

PACSTAT projects are going well and driving innovation.

Samoa's NSO has led the establishment of a disability statistics group. The group requires funding for one person to provide a secretariat.

### Discussion

Participants highlighted that a considerable amount of census support was provided with MFAT funding. A regional approach allowed economies of scale, for example via the use of a common questionnaire.

Data utilisation is important. NSOs should use analyses as tools for their own advocacy and promotion. Most indicators require population data and additional funding would allow more work in this area.

Tonga noted the denial of requests to access data held in the PDH-ML. It was clarified that there are protocols for access based on agreements between the NSO and SPC. If a request meets the criteria, then a decision on granting access can be taken. It was suggested reporting on requests to SDD for microdata access and reasons for granting access or denial.

Kiribati is supportive of access and is reaping the benefits of research on its microdata.

## Data analysis and dissemination – 2021–2022 activities and 2023 provisional workplans

Presenter: David Abbott

This presentation covers a wide range of topics – SDGs, PDH.Stat / SDMX database, visualisation (PopGIS), economic statistics, including the impact of COVID; modernisation of business processes; gender and human rights; data analysis; civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS); MEL; and information and publications – and provides an exhaustive list of actions and outline of plans for 2023. The team, however, was not able to support the prices side of economic statistics due to the departure of a staff member.

There is now a gender statistics adviser in SDD and a staff member to promote data literacy. SDD's CRVS specialist resigned and recruitment for the position is underway. There has been progress on reporting causes of death with ABS support; this is important to assess the impact of Covid.

### Discussion

It was asked what the team learnt from dealing with the pandemic. The presenter replied that the team looked at PICTs that were able to share ministry data enabling monitoring of events, such as trade and finance ministries. The pandemic was different from dealing with a natural disaster.

## Reports from NSOs on issues, challenges and developments in 2021–2022

Presenters: Vanuatu, Tonga and Kiribati

**Vanuatu:** The NSO is now called the Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics (VBoS). The bureau is fully staffed and has an increased budget and revised structure.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://sdd.spc.int/microdata-library>

*Recent events and actions:*

- 2022 Business Establishment Census and Agriculture Census.
- New Statistics Act and NSDS review.
- Rebasement of national accounts; CPI reweights; reproducible analytical pipeline for IMTS.<sup>4</sup>
- Visitor arrival data.
- Parliamentary civil servants trained to understand statistics and develop evidence-based policy briefs linked to the NSDS. There is support for the next phase of the programme.
- Artificial intelligence and agriculture – a coconut monitoring system was developed and is being field tested. It may be applicable to other crops.
- A capacity building programme is being supported by the University of the South Pacific (USP).

*Challenges*

- Strategy, capacity, technical skills. A current focus is on management and leadership.
- Reliance on outside agencies for analysis – VBoS would like to develop greater capacity in this area.
- Prioritisation of resources.
- Telling a story with data.
- Ownership of the NSDS.
- Disseminating user-friendly statistics – improving how data is packaged.

*Way forward*

- Establishment of a Statistics Advisory Committee; disaster statistics strategy; regulations and ministerial orders.
- Development of Data Innovation Laboratory.
- National disaster and climate change information management system.
- National Sustainable Development Plan indicator-tracking platform.
- Strengthening the capacity of parliament, building on the first phase of the programme.

**Tonga:** The volcano eruption and tsunami in January 2022, and the onset of COVID disrupted the Tonga Statistics Department's (TSD) plans and communication in 2022.

*Challenges*

- Following the devastation caused by the eruption, including destruction of villages, government and NGOs were trying to collect data with six surveys conducted since February 2022. TSD has no authority over entities running surveys and respondent fatigue is an issue due to the lack of a synchronised approach.
- Data sharing: Tonga does not have capacity to anonymise data. The NSO wants to do a Vital Statistics report but is waiting for a consultant to assist. Data producers are sometimes reluctant to share data.
- Legislation needs amending to give TSD a say over all statistics.

*Way forward*

- Operationalisation of the Statistics Coordination Programme (SCP), which will lead the National Statistics Strategy and the implementation of the NSDS.

**Kiribati:** The NSO had a role in Kiribati's Development Plan, providing metadata for indicators relevant for the plan.

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<sup>4</sup> International Merchandise Trade Statistics.

*Recent events and action*

- Kiribati has a PACSTAT project – Innovation and capacity building in data collection.
- The Statistics Act of 1977 is due for review.
- The NSO has developed the NSDS 2022–2030. Items in the plan are funded.
- HIES 2023–2024.
- Data collection for economic statistics.
- Institutional strengthening.
- Data coordination and integration.
- An e-government system is being set up by the Digital Transformation Office of the Ministry of Information, Communications and Transport.
- Capacity building: the government agreed to buy Stata 17; the NSO is learning how to use it.

*Way forward*

- There are plans to increase the NSO's staffing to match the increase in Kiribati's population.
- The Dept. of Justice's IT department is assisting data integration. The NSO has to negotiate with other ministries on sharing data.

**Discussion**

Participants commended the NSOs on their achievements and initiatives, and noted the potential to apply them in other PICTs. The most useful form of support is likely to be assistance in overcoming technical obstacles.

**Five-Year Collection Programme and pro-forma costing**

Presenter: Michael Sharp

The presentation was aimed at stimulating discussion and consideration of resourcing core Pacific collections. NSOs are conducting numerous collections; PSMB has been a helpful vehicle for household surveys and SDD has provided capacity to members using methods vetted by PSMB.

A paper on a resourcing facility was presented to PSMB and PSSC in 2019, but funding was not forthcoming. Now the 2022–2024 collections require resources of USD 15 million. PICTs finance three-quarters of this amount, so the resource gap is USD 5 million.

There are opportunities for capacity building, more logical sequencing of collections, and microdata dissemination.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)**

Presenter: Teresa Dickinson, ABS

ABS runs a number of capacity programmes funded by DFAT, which has pivoted to COVID recovery; other government branches have followed suit, with a focus on local issues. ABS will align with the TYPPS framework.

*Technical assistance*

- Assisted PICTs with CPI and national accounts (in collaboration with PFTAC).<sup>5</sup>
- Conducted regional workshops.
- Re-engaging in CRVS work, as a main building block for national statistics systems.
- Working on the NSDS with Samoa.
- Assisting Vanuatu's institutional review.

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<sup>5</sup> Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre.

The Pacific Statistics Leadership Forum (PSLF) will be held in Brisbane from 8 to 12 May 2023 (along with PSMB). The theme is *Adjusting to the new normal: setting up for success in the post-COVID world*. The agenda will include: lessons learned; role of NSOs in recovery; and a census wrap-up. (ABS requested suggestions for other agenda items.)

## Statistics New Zealand

Presenter: Ofa Ketu'u, Stats NZ

The Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022-2030 sets the context for Stats NZ's Pacific work, together with NSO and New Zealand government priorities. Stats NZ is in frequent contact with the realm countries, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. Tokelau and Niue NSOs have only two staff members.

### *Implementation*

- The Stats NZ Pacific Data Capability Programme is fully funded by MFAT, with Stats NZ staff providing expertise.
- During the COVID period, Stats NZ provided virtual support for nine Rapid Assessment Surveys (RAS) that produced instant data for government decision-making on vaccination in Niue, food security in Tokelau, and joblessness in Cook Islands and emigration to New Zealand.
- NSO staff stepped up during lockdown, with Stats NZ only able to provide remote support.
- Strong partnership is maintained with development partners, especially SDD, ABS, World Bank, UNICEF and UNFPA.

### *Plans for the next five years*

- Direct technical support/capability development for Cook Islands, Tokelau and Niue, extending to Tonga, Samoa and Fiji on a case-by-case basis.
- Direct support for PSMB operation – through providing the Chair and hosting one board meeting in Auckland each year.
- Annual regional workshop on themes determined by PSMB, in consultation with SDD and Pacific NSOs.
- Pacific Annual Attachment Programme.
- Technical advice to MFAT on issues relevant to Pacific statistics development

### *Next 12 months*

- Niue, Cook Islands and Tokelau will receive support for trade statistics, census and census report writing, and capacity assessment.

### **Discussion**

It was asked whether other PICTs, besides realm countries, could request assistance from Stats NZ. The presenter agreed that requests would be considered. Both Stats NZ and ABS agreed they want to assist on climate change data.

## Interventions by other partners

Presenters: UNESCAP, DFAT, UNFPA, MFAT, USP

### **UNESCAP – Chris Ryan**

A key element of ESCAP's work is assisting member states to implement the SDGs, including reporting progress through voluntary national reviews (VNR).

ESCAP encourages the use of a National Indicator Framework (core set) adapted to PICT situations and would like to work with countries to understand their current indicator landscape and ask the questions: Can it be simplified? What would countries like it to look like? They can then work together to develop a plan to get there.

PICTs were asked to consider having a National Indicator Framework mapped to all key national, regional, and global initiatives with well-developed metadata accompanying all indicators. There is already good work being done in PICTs on this issue.

### **Discussion**

Vanuatu noted that it will shortly discuss an SDG tracker with ESCAP. Tonga is currently working with ESCAP on an SDG tracker.

### **DFAT**

DFAT provides core funding across the region, including support for SDD – AUD 7.5 million for the next five years. It is particularly interested in governance and collaboration, and supports gender projects including Women Count.

### **UNFPA**

UNFPA's 7<sup>th</sup> Multi-country Programme 2023-2027 centres on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), gender-based violence (GBV) and youth. It aligns with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the Pacific 2023-2027. The programme includes numerous interventions. UNFPA will discuss them with PICTs to assess their interest.

Demographic transition: 50% of the Pacific population is under 24 years of age. It is therefore important to look at intergenerational transfer of wealth and investment in young people.

### **Discussion**

It was noted that SPC does not currently have a demographer on staff, and lack of demographic capacity is a gap. UNFPA plans to recruit a demographer to support population projections and census reports. Population structure change requires demographic analysis as does climate change.

### **MFAT**

MFAT works with Stats NZ and provides funds for SPC. It is the foundational donor for PDH-ML. In terms of climate change, MFAT wants to support the availability of data and collection of indicators. Other priorities include GBV and COVID recovery.

### **Discussion**

Kiribati asked about disseminating information on disability to disabled people. ABS and Stats NZ have standards for this type of information, and there is considerable work involved in communicating well with those affected. SPC has workstreams to disseminate data and reports on disability. Some simple steps help, such as using the right colours when presenting information to visually impaired people. It was noted, however, that disabled people are often not captured in surveys, so they remain invisible.

### **University of the South Pacific (USP)**

#### **Dr Rup Singh (via email)**

USP's Official Statistics (OS) programme has been internationally reviewed and commended to be of high quality. But, as usual, there is room for improvement. USP is working on reviewing recommendations, including the merger of OS with PD majors.

SPC is keen to get its training programme endorsed by USP, and to develop a micro-qualifications framework that supports this endorsement.

Finally, USP is discussing a training workshop with the Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics (VBoS).

### **Improving microdata dissemination**

Presenter: Peter Ellis



The Pacific Data Hub-Microdata Library is little used in comparison to similar libraries. Several questions were listed for discussion to examine 'blockers' to microdata use and how to increase demand:

1. Are there 'blockers'?
2. How do we get more data documented and licensed?
3. How do we increase demand from researchers? (skills, publicity, getting more 'researchers' on board including in PICTs, funding researcher projects?)
4. Why so many pending requests – sensitivities, lack of resource, lack of interest?
5. How do we make it easier and quicker for researchers to get approval? (e.g. delegate more decisions to SPC in standard licensing? Other ideas?)

### Discussion

Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tonga and Fiji expressed concerns about maintaining the confidentiality of their data. Other issues for PICTs include the quality of the data and outdated legislation that does not mention microdata dissemination.

PICTs expressed interest in analysing their own data and requested the necessary capacity building. Fiji is looking to centralise its data, which is currently held in different locations. They have a process for UNICEF data, which requires ministerial permission, and wants to build up a Methodological Unit so they can process data. They would appreciate peer-to-peer cooperation too and are working on a data licencing agreement. Tonga wants to establish a data repository to encourage microdata research, and is interested in SPC's process for approving requests for data access.

It was highlighted that the PDH-ML is designed to make processes easier for PICTs, for example by anonymising data, and that approval processes should be built in at the start of the data collection process. Training for NSOs on microdata anonymisation can also be provided. As to whether SDD or NSOs should be involved in requests for access to microdata, it was suggested grouping data into categories based on confidentiality to avoid the need to consult NSOs on every request.

Vince Galvin noted Professor Narsey's suggestion to PSMB that willing PICTs should hold analytical workshops on their own microdata; he also mentioned that Stats NZ has to consult Maori people about access to data relating to them.

### Outcome

SDD will provide outreach in 2023 on its statistical disclosure control method and security as part of building confidence in microdata management.

## Resourcing and prioritisation

Presenter: Peter Ellis

SDD has more work to do than there is funding to do it. The shortfall of USD 5 million in collection funding is based on assuming NSOs will fund three-quarters of the total collection cost. There has been a decision to either cut back on work or seek more funding.

### Discussion

Tonga changed from a 10-year to a 5-year census and the government will fund it.

Michael Sharp said a logical cycle of collections makes sense. If NSOs could get their census funded, and surveys funded at 50% by the World Bank and other international donors, we could get the sequence right and produce huge amounts of data.

## SDD Business Plan 2022–2026

Presenter: Peter Ellis

A draft of the business plan was distributed earlier with a request for comments. The plan lists four distinct roles for SDD:

- System leader and coordinator;
- Pooled regional capacity;
- Support for ongoing operations;
- Capability building.

As per the recommendations of the TYPSS review, the new business plan focuses on:

- capability development;
- secretariat support for governance arrangements;
- coordination and brokerage of partnerships.

Other changes in emphasis include:

- recognition of the importance of 'pooled regional capacity';
- new 'ways of working' objectives to support internal reforms, including:
  - a new management structure with a more holistic view of collections;
  - a new statistics infrastructure team;
  - new demography, coordination, and climate change (not yet funded) positions.

### Discussion

A question was asked about the connection to other SPC divisions/platforms, e.g. integration with fisheries data. The presenter provided the example of the PDH-ML, which is set up to work across SPC and even other CROP<sup>6</sup> agencies. PDH.stat is part of PDH-ML. When a project is likely to create data, the aim is that the data will come to PDH, which also offers opportunities for communities of practice.

It was raised the question of Small Island Developing States and recognition of the scale of their needs. The plan could be more explicit on that topic.

Vanuatu asked if SPC could provide more capacity building for NSOs, especially in technical areas, and also a skills register to support South-South exchanges. The presenter said that if SPC funds a South-South exchange, it should also take into account the need to fill the position at home.

### Outcome

PSSC endorsed the business plan subject to revisions. SDD agreed to investigate a skills register to support South-South exchanges, with priority given to someone from the Pacific on the register.

## Pacific SDG indicators and reporting

Presenter: Alison Culpin

Since the review of the SDG framework in 2020, all indicators have now a methodology (those still too difficult were modified or dropped). PICTs are adding customised 'modules' in their census and surveys to target SDG gaps.

- The best opportunity for new indicators will come from custodian-generated values.
- There is fatigue with online SDG training. There is also ongoing discussion of validation of modelled indicators.
- The next indicator review is in 2025. Proposals may be made by May 2024.
- The poverty line has increased to USD 2.15 per day.

### *SDGs Sustainable Tourism Working Group*

There were originally three indicators, but one was dropped in the 2020 review. The existing indicators do not allow proper tracking of sustainable tourism.

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<sup>6</sup> Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific. [Link](#).

*SDGs – Regional*

- The Second Quadriennial Sustainable Development Report was endorsed by FEMM.
- Only 20 to 25 of Tier 2 indicators have sufficient data.
- Tuvalu presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2022. Fiji will present its second one in 2023.
- SDG 5 (gender equality and empowerment of women and girls) is one area that lacks good data.
- The SDG Flip-Book shares stories about the global influence of SDG indicators.

**Discussion**

UNFPA noted the challenge with indicator 5.2 and proposed the inclusion of a domestic violence module in Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). Four of the five PICTs that have done MICS have included the module. The module could become a standard part of MICS for PICTs.

**Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics**

Presenter: Akhona Nkenkana, SPC

Only 48% of the data needed to monitor SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment is available. The Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics was designed and validated by statisticians, Pacific policy-makers and civil society in 2019 to provide a framework to support national statistical systems to generate high-quality data to advance gender equality. The roadmap has five strategic areas:

- Identification of priorities
- Production of quality gender data
- Data analysis
- Dissemination and use of gender data
- Knowledge management and learning

**Gender and Human Rights Statistics Dashboard**

The dashboard themes come from the Triennial Women's Conference. The dashboard will be located within the PDH. Data will come from existing sources (census, surveys, admin data). If no data are available on some points, there may be other links to policy briefs, etc. Other official gender and human rights statistics in the region come from the UN, SDG Dashboard, regional reports, information briefs, PICT gender statistics reports and other human rights data sources. There will be consultation on the dashboard indicators with SPC's Human Rights and Social Development Division and PICTS.

*Next steps*

- Dashboard to go live at the end of 2022.
- Consultation with PICTs and NSO engagement in gender statistics, and alignment of national priorities with international and regional priorities.
- Gender statistics training in partnership with UN Women.

**Plenary discussion on SDGs, gender statistics and use of statistics for policy***Gender statistics*

DFAT acknowledged the presentations and said it is strongly interested in gender issues. Kiribati stressed the issue of GBV and said its Ministry of Women needed this data.

The presenter clarified that the dashboard will not address gaps as the data will be the same and there will be no new indicators. The idea of a time-use survey would cover some gaps. He also mentioned that PICTs were involved in developing a roadmap, after it was tabled at PSSC in 2019. Peter Ellis (SPC), chair of a coordination group on gender statistics, said it would be helpful if PSSC was able to endorse the Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics, or at least its goals, leaving the recommendations to other

bodies. ABS could welcome the framework and recognise the importance of gender statistics, but is not yet in a position to endorse it before country representatives can further consult with other PICT agencies. They could then report in two weeks to the SDD Director.

SDGs and Use of statistics for policy

UNFPA encouraged PICTs to maximise MICS as a source of data. UNFPA is doing some secondary analysis for those interested.

### **Outcome**

The meeting acknowledged the importance of gender statistics and welcomed the roadmap, but did not consider PSSC in a position to endorse the document before NSOs were able to consult other relevant PICT agencies. It was agreed that NSOs will report back to the SDD Director by mid-December.

## **Terms Of Reference for Donor and Development Partners Group and PSMB**

Presenter: Peter Ellis

### **TOR for Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG)**

At its recent meeting, the DDPG discussed its TOR and agreed to bring the revised TOR to PSSC to inform members. Originally, the DDPG was set up to coordinate partners and avoid duplication. The DDPG will now be held after PSSC, rather than before, so NSO priorities are known.

In response to the Chair asking if there was an environmental statistics representative on the DDPG, the presenter said DDPG could invite one to join if a suitable organisation was identified. He then asked PSSC if they approved the changes and were comfortable with agencies and donors meeting in the DDPG.

### **Outcome**

The meeting approved the revised DDPG TOR.

### **TOR for PSMB**

The presenter showed the TOR, including the proposed membership change, i.e. five representatives of PICT NSOs rather than four as previously.

The PSMB Chair highlighted that the TOR state the Chair holds office for three years. He has been Chair of PSMB for five years and is willing to continue if approved for three more years. Samoa's Government Statistician is now Deputy-Chair.

### **Outcome**

PPSC approved the revised TOR for PSMB. The revised TOR will be circulated to members.

### **PSSC membership**

Peter Ellis reported about requests from international organisations – the Pacific Tourism Organisation, some UN agencies, etc. – to join PSSC. Should PSSC expand its membership? Should Pacific subregions be represented?

### **Outcome**

The participants agreed that PSSC's membership will remain the same, with people called in if necessary to discuss particular areas.

## **Plenary discussion: Topics for the 2023 HOPS meeting and future focus**

HOPS has a formal governance role. It includes planners so the meeting should include content relevant to them. Apart from TYPSS II approval, what else needs to go to HOPS?

Feedback suggests that PSSC and HOPS are sometimes too centred on SPC. Participants want to avoid too much SPC reporting on activities. Rather, the focus should be on higher-level output-based reporting, such as a report on capacity development that could be discussed against World Bank indicators or similar. Because HOPS reports to FEMM, more attention should be paid to the FEMM agenda.

A greater involvement of HOPS is also desirable. How do they use statistics, support their NSOs, etc.? A meaningful discussion beyond 'not enough resources' is needed, as HOPS need to identify the constraints that their NSOs work under and be active participants. They are the links to upper levels of responsibility and the owners of Pacific statistics.

It was also suggested building in workshops before or after the three-day meeting, given there will be numerous potential participants in one place. ESCAP could arrange a two-day workshop for PICT NSOs, allowing more space for partners and enabling NSOs to report on the impacts of partners' initiatives. The meeting report should be outcomes-based against TYPSS II.

### **Outcome**

SDD will consider the suggestions for the HOPS agenda, focusing on HOPS taking an active role as owners of TYPSS II.

### **Consideration of draft outcomes from PSSC meeting**

The outcomes were approved subject to the suggested revisions being made (Annex 1).

### **Closing remarks**

Peter Ellis said the ambitions for the meeting had been achieved, and thanked the Chair, Maria Musudroka, all participants, and SDD staff, especially David Abbott, for their contributions to the meeting.

## Annex 1 – Draft outcomes

### 4<sup>th</sup> Pacific Statistics Standing Committee Meeting (PSSC)

8<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> of November 2022

SPC Headquarters', Noumea, New Caledonia

#### DRAFT Outcomes

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## PSSC

### Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022–2030 (TYPSS II)

1. Agreed to endorse the Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022-2030 (TYPSS II), subject to the following revisions, noting that it is a living document that will be further reviewed and revised over time:
  - a. Under the Theory of Change, include actual problems to be addressed by the strategy, and due highlighting of successful case studies to date;
  - b. Insert text on how the strategy translates into priorities;
  - c. Produce an easy-to-digest summary;
  - d. Schedule a defined mid-term review as part of the ongoing monitoring, learning and review process.

### Report from the Chair of the Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB)

2. Welcomed the report of the Chair and the ongoing activity of the PSMB;
3. Agreed that SDD will support dissemination of PSMB findings, not just to NSOs, including allocating more resources to communication when available.

### Reports from NSOs on significant issues, challenges and developments in 2021–2022

4. Acknowledged the impressive work carried out by NSOs, and their achievements and initiatives.

### Pacific Statisticians Leadership Forum

5. Noted that the PSLF will be held in Brisbane, 8–12 May 2023 with the theme *Adjusting to the new normal: setting up for success in the post-COVID world*.

### PSMB meeting

6. Noted the next PSMB meeting will be held back-to-back with the PSLF.

### Partner presentations

7. Noted the presentations by partners including ABS, DFAT, MFAT, Stats NZ, UNESCAP, UNFPA and USP.

### SDD Business Plan 2022–2026

8. Noted the business plan is aligned to TYPSS II and expressed an appropriate role and approach for SDD to contribute to that strategic framework;
9. Expressed confidence in the business plan (while reserving the possibility of future more detailed feedback), subject to the revisions discussed including:
  - more clarity on regional capacity building and engagement with micro-states;
  - better articulation of the roles of the different implementation partners and other actors in the region (to develop it as a separate artefact if not feasible to include in the business plan);

- SDD's agreement to investigate a skills register of potential collaborators to support South-South exchanges for NSOs.

### **Increasing access to microdata**

10. Expressed support in principle for microdata being available for re-use but noted that making this a reality requires resources and the utmost confidence in security, privacy, etc.;
11. Noted the strong desire of NSOs to fully understand and build capability for statistical disclosure control to understand and manage risk themselves;
12. Noted SDD's plans for outreach in 2023 on its statistical disclosure control method and security as part of building confidence in microdata management (aimed at both leadership and technical levels; possibly at the Pacific Statistics Leadership Forum for the former).

### **Pacific SDG indicators and reporting**

13. Noted the report and the progress being made by PICTs.

### **Pacific Roadmap for Gender Statistics**

14. Acknowledged the importance of gender statistics and welcomed the roadmap, but did not consider PSSC in a position to endorse the document before NSOs were able to consult other relevant PICT agencies.
15. Agreed that NSOs will report back to the SDD Director by mid-December 2022.

### **DDPG TOR**

16. Endorsed the proposed DDPG TOR subject to correcting SPC's name.

### **Membership of PSSC**

17. Agreed the membership will remain the same, with guests called in if required to discuss special areas.

### **PSMB TOR**

18. Endorsed the proposed PSMB TOR, with membership changed to five PICT representatives, including at least one from each subregion and one from a small state.
19. Noted that until 2025, Vince Galvin will continue as Chair, and Samoa will be Deputy-Chair.

### **HOPS agenda**

20. Agreed SDD will consider the suggestions for the HOPS agenda, focusing on facilitating HOPS taking an active role as owners of TYPSS II;
21. Noted that FEMM is the appropriate forum to raise regional statistical issues to ministers if necessary.
22. Noted SPC will consult the HOPS TOR and advise PSSC members out of session on a recommended way forward on the HOPS Chair.

## Annex 2 – List of participants

	Country	Name
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Fiji (Melanesia)	Maria Musudroka (Chair meeting)
<b>Members</b>	Kiribati (Micronesia)	Ms Aritita Tekaieti
	Tonga (Polynesia)	Ms. Mele Taumoepeau
	Vanuatu (Melanesia)	Mr. Benuel Lenge
	Statistics NZ	Mr. Vince Galvin Dr Ofa Ketu'u
	ABS	Ms. Teresa Dickinson Mr. Andrew Knott
<b>Observers</b>		
<b>Donors</b>	MFAT	Ms Yelena Hill
	DFAT	Ms Katrina Lourie Mr Jonathan Perotti
<b>Development Partners</b>		
	World Bank	Mr Sharad Alan Tandon
	1 UN Agency (UNICEF)	Mr. James Kaphuka
	UNFPA (Observer)	Ms Sandra Paredes
	UNESCAP (Observer)	Mr. Chris Ryan
<b>Other partners</b>		
	University of South Pacific (USP)	Dr Rup Singh (via email)
<b>Secretariat</b>		
	SDD	Mr Peter Ellis, Director, SDD, SPC Mr David Abbott, Manager, SPC Mr Michael Sharp, Manager, SPC Mr Phil Bright, Manager, SPC Ms Alison Culpin, Statistics Adviser, SPC Ms Akhona Nkenkana, Statistics Adviser, SPC