

PACIFIC COMMUNITY

PACIFIC STATISTICS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (PSSC)
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 30-31 October 2019)

PACIFIC GENDER STATISTICS ROADMAP
(Document prepared by the Pacific Community and UN Women)

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The meeting is asked to endorse the conceptual framework for the Pacific Roadmap for Gender Statistics, specifically the:
 - a. Core values,
 - b. Strategic priorities,
 - c. Goals,
 - d. Specific activities,
 - e. Priority thematic areas, and
 - f. Results framework, with the caveat that this will be adapted to specific country contexts and priorities.
2. The meeting is requested to note:
 - a. The final Pacific Roadmap for Gender Statistics will be presented by PSSC to HOPS for endorsement in 2020.

PURPOSE

3. The Pacific Community (SPC) Social Development Programme (SDP) has engaged with the Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) since 2007¹ to promote the dissemination of gender data and statistics to inform progress towards gender equality. In 2019, SDP partnered with UN Women's flagship programme initiative, Making Every Woman and Girl Count, to formally elaborate regional priorities for gender data in the Pacific Roadmap for Gender Statistics ('the Roadmap'). The purpose of this session is for PSSC to endorse the underlying conceptual framework for the Roadmap, noting that there has been insufficient time to receive feedback from Pacific Island Country and Territory (PICT) gender and statistics focal points as well as development partners for the full roadmap to be presented for endorsement.

BACKGROUND

4. SPC gender statistics support to PICTs and development partners is realised through the Social Development Programme (SDP) under the government of Australia funded Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific (PGEP) project, in close coordination with the Statistics for Development Division (SDD). HOPS endorsed the regional set of gender statistics in 2007 (aligned with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action), with progress updates presented to HOPS in 2013 and 2017.
5. PGEP technical assistance has supported PICTs to disseminate knowledge products and analysis including the SPC 'Guide to Gender Statistics and their Presentation' publication; as well as a series of evidence based analysis pieces including the 'Gender Equality: Where do we Stand?' for Solomon Islands; Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and Tonga, with drafting underway for Tuvalu and FSM. The Kiribati Statistics Office produced a gender statistics profile that PGEP assisted to finalise and publish. PGEP provided technical assistance for the Palau HIES Gender Profile and would like to extend this work to include the analysis to gender and social inclusion publications from Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) in partnership with SDD. PGEP partnered with ADB to produce the and 'Gender Statistics The Pacific and Timor Leste' in 2016.

¹ SPC/HOPS 2007/Working Paper 6.1.

6. However, PICT government gender offices and not NSOs have initiated most of this work, with some notable exceptions. SDP reflected on the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of PGEP, noted that initiatives were ad hoc and opportunist, and realised that there was no ‘formal’ ownership of gender data and statistics in the regional statistics strategy infrastructure.
7. In 2018, the UN Women’s flagship programme initiative, Making Every Woman and Girl Count, consulted with SDP about priorities for gender data and statistics in the region, one of the gaps identified was the lack of a specific and detailed agenda for gender data and statistics endorsed by PICT National Statistics Offices (NSOs). The first workshop to draft the Pacific Gender Statistics Roadmap was convened in Fiji in early 2019, and the workshop to finalise the Roadmap was held in Vanuatu in September 2019, with the core group working on drafting the Roadmap meeting one day prior to the regional convening to review the draft prior to presenting to gender and statistics focal points. The draft of the Roadmap has been circulated to PICs.

PACIFIC GENDER STATISTICS ROADMAP

8. It has not been possible to finalise the substantive text of Roadmap post September, however the core elements of the Roadmap have been agreed by all stakeholders including the goals, strategic priorities, and the results framework. PICTs are currently providing feedback on the substantive text, including the recommendation that the Roadmap include specific reference to culture in relation to gender data and statistics. The following excerpts from the Roadmap have been endorsed by stakeholders.

Core values

Through the endorsement of this Roadmap, we commit to produce gender data that is in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics² and with emphasis on the following core values:

- Integrity: We commit to ensure trust in official statistics by ensuring that they reflect phenomena impartially and present results honestly and openly regarding gender equality and human rights.
- Timeliness: We value the importance of producing gender data in a timely manner to guarantee the figures represent the best possible picture of the reality they intend to capture.
- Quality: We strive to provide quality gender data to our users, by ensuring it is reliable, comparable, accurate and, to the extent possible, aligns with international standards, definitions and classifications.
- Confidentiality: We pledge to guarantee the privacy of individuals and other forms of data providers as well as the confidentiality of the information they provide and its use only for statistical purposes. In cases when statistics might allow for uniquely identifying individuals, we commit to using anonymization techniques to meet our promise of full confidentiality.
- User focus: We agree to engage with data users at all stages of the gender data production process, from design to dissemination, as we believe gender data must be accessible and relevant for use in informed decision making, accountability and advocacy purposes. Beyond communication and involvement of users, we commit to disseminate gender data in a transparent and user-friendly manner.
- Transparency: We commit to release, along with all gender data, detailed information on data sources, methodology and computation methods to ensure full transparency and facilitate user’s interpretation.
- Accountability: We pledge to remain accountable for releasing quality gender data and for ensuring the quality of the information we release to the best of our knowledge.

Strategic priorities

Five strategic areas are the backbone of the Roadmap to advance gender equality. They are necessary for the achievement of the production and dissemination of quality, relevant and timely gender data that responds to users’ needs.

² See E/RES/2013/21; <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/FP-Rev2013-E.pdf>.



These five strategic areas have been identified as key enablers for producing gender data that responds to four important drivers, namely:

- National priorities, strategies and policies
- Regional and global reporting requirements
- Meeting the needs of users
- The need to mainstream gender across different areas of statistics and policies

Goals

By endorsing this Roadmap, we commit to focus our efforts towards achieving five goals, in line with each of our five key strategic areas.

Strategic areas	Priorities are identified	Quality gender data is produced	Data is analysed	Gender data gets disseminated and used	Knowledge management and learning are enhanced
Goals	Priority gender indicators are identified at the regional and national level.	The availability, quality, comparability, timeliness and relevance of gender data is enhanced.	Data is transformed into statistical information together with the national context needed to understand it	Gender data is communicated effectively and in line with user’s needs, to inform policy decisions, research and be useful for advocacy and accountability to achieve gender equality.	A knowledge management system that is user friendly, promotes learning through a shared or open access platform and strengthens institutions is designed and implemented.

We believe that:

1. If guidelines are provided to countries to assist in the process of identifying priority gender indicators, the links between national strategies, priorities and plans will be better aligned with the gender data produced, and gender statistics will become an essential tool for each country’s policy-making and accountability processes.

2. If the availability, quality, timeliness and relevance of gender data is enhanced, user's trust in official statistics will improve, and the figures will be more likely to be used to advance gender equality.
3. If data is transformed into statistical information and presented within the national context needed to understand it, it can be better understood by expert and non-expert audiences and it can be more effectively used to enhance the lives of women and men.
4. If gender data is communicated effectively and in line with user's needs, awareness of it will improve and it will be more likely to inform policy decisions, research and be useful for advocacy and accountability to achieve gender equality.
5. If a knowledge management system that is user friendly, promotes learning through a shared or open access platform and strengthens institutions is designed and implemented, then the gender data produced through this system is more likely to be of higher quality and therefore more likely to be used.

Specific activities

In order to achieve each of the five goals, a number of activities need to be implemented. Each of the proposed activities are set out below and organized by strategic area.

1. Priorities are identified:
 - a. A set of guidelines is developed to assist countries in finalizing a list of priority national gender indicators
 - b. A regional set of priority gender indicators is identified by assessing commonalities between Pacific countries' national priorities³ and by looking at existing global and regional indicator frameworks (SDGs, Global Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, Asia-Pacific Regional Set of Gender Statistics and Indicators).
 - c. *At the national level:* A Gender Statistics Taskforce is either established or related tasks are integrated in existing governance mechanisms; and co-chaired by the NSO and Women's Machinery to identify priorities in terms of gender data production. It's Terms of Reference should include:
 - i. Identifying all current policies and plans with a gender component
 - ii. Listing all key national gender related priorities and train users and producers to design indicators to monitor progress towards each of them
 - iii. Reviewing existing national indicators on gender data
 - iv. Identifying who the key users of gender statistics are and their key needs
 - v. Identifying existing data gaps to meet key user's needs
2. Quality gender data is produced
 - a. Training is provided to users and producers on specialized survey methods, including survey design and implementation with a gender lens.
 - b. Training is provided to national statisticians and data users on gender related indicator data production and methodologies.
 - c. Symposiums on sharing lessons learned in connection with gender data production across countries are organized.
 - d. Guidelines are produced to ensure gender metadata is available in a standardized way across Pacific countries.
 - e. *At the national level:* Quality gender data on key priority indicators in the Pacific is collected periodically.
 - f. *At the national level:* Existing data is reprocessed to obtain new estimates on sex-disaggregated and multi-level disaggregated key priority indicators in the Pacific.
 - g. *At the national level:* Quality metadata is produced and released alongside gender data in a timely manner.

³ Process to be guided by SPC through the NMDIs.

- h. *At the national level:* Gender data produced in Line Ministries is generated with the involvement of National Statistics Offices, acting as “clearing houses” by providing seal of approval for all official statistics.

3. Data is analysed

- a. Users and producers are trained to ensure a gender lens in data analysis. Notably:
 - i. Training is provided to data producers on analyzing data with a gender angle and conducting analysis on gender-specific thematic areas.
 - ii. Training is provided to data users on data literacy.
- b. Communication channels are created/strengthened to promote dialogue between users and producers.
- c. A training calendar on gender-data analysis for users and producers is prepared and disseminated.
- d. *At the national level:* User’s needs are assessed in order to identify a set of priority areas for gender analysis.
- e. *At the national level:* Concrete and detailed plans and calendars of activities are developed indicating who does what and ensuring stakeholder involvement in analysis.
- f. *At the national level:* Formulas and syntaxes utilized to calculate indicators are made available so line Ministries and CSOs can replicate the analysis.

4. Gender data gets disseminated and used

- a. Data sharing standards are developed to facilitate exchanges and dissemination by countries; including to report on regional and global commitments such as the SDGs.
- b. Statistical products that are accessible and inclusive (e.g. remote access, language disability, etc) are developed and disseminated across the region.
- c. Guidelines on gender data communication strategies based on generic audience models/groups are developed, including information on innovative approaches to data dissemination.
- d. Training is facilitated and guidelines are developed on communicating gender data and working effectively with the media.
- e. A calendar of global and regional events where gender data could be relevant is put together and used to put gender data on the agendas.
- f. The regional data hub (NMDI and its replacement) is expanded to include gender indicators and analysis.
- g. *At the national level:* Factsheets with explanations and interpretation of priority gender indicators in the Pacific are developed and disseminated (to then be incorporated into *regional level* factsheets).
- h. *At the national level:* Feedback mechanisms on whether gender data gets used and what else is needed are established.

5. Knowledge management and learning are enhanced

- a. A gender related knowledge management strategy template for Pacific countries’ National Statistical Systems is developed.
- b. Training programmes are developed and facilitated to build a culture of informed decision making through the use of gender statistics.
- c. Lessons learnt events are organized to support quality improvements to gender-related knowledge management systems.
 - a. *At the national level:* Knowledge management implementation plans are developed for gender data, including sections on National Statistical System Coordination.
 - b. *At the national level:* Governance arrangements for Knowledge Management Systems are set up and implemented.
 - c. *At the national level:* National knowledge management systems incorporate gender data and metadata for evidence-based monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning.
 - d. *At the national level:* Knowledge management systems include directories of sources, data collections and calendars of release.

Priority thematic areas

To align priorities at the regional level and narrow down the vast scope of data production and use that is comprised under the umbrella of gender statistics, we agree to prioritize the production and use of gender data in the following thematic areas where gender data is not currently available, in addition to any other that might arise as national priorities. In order of relevance, the areas of **Gender and Environment Statistics, Women’s Economic Empowerment, and Violence Against Women** have been identified as the top thematic priorities for the region. The selection of these three areas was based on a combination of their relevance for Pacific Island Countries and Territories, and the degree of urgency to fill existing related data gaps. As such, areas where more and better data is already available in the Pacific, were considered of lower priority despite of their thematic relevance.

Cluster area (in descending order of priority)	Specific thematic areas
Gender and the environment	Land and Biodiversity Natural resources including food, energy, minerals and water Climate change and disasters Sustainable consumption, production and waste Health, Wellbeing and Sanitation Environmental decision making Environment-related migration, displacement and conflict
Economic empowerment	Time Use Asset ownership (incl. credit) Work and employment (incl. informal, vulnerable work and underemployment) Wage gaps
Violence against women	Prevalence of violence Access to justice Access to services Costing of violence
Women in decision making	Political participation (in parliaments and at the local level) Women in managerial positions
Education ⁴	Educational attainment Participation in STEM education
Health ⁵	Hunger/Anemia SRHR Non-communicable diseases

Population and demographic data, statistics and indicators (including population projections and vital statistics) are required to derive indicators across all thematic areas, for example incidence rates for NCDs are calculated using incidence as the numerator and the population ‘at risk’ to NCDs as the denominator. Besides producing gender data on each of these thematic areas, we commit to further disaggregate the data, to the extent possible, for various population groups to meet the 2030 Agenda’s promise to Leave No One Behind. This, in practice, translates into consistently disaggregating gender data by age, wealth, ethnicity, location, disability status and other variables as relevant, given sample sizes and sampling methods allow for reliable estimates.

⁴ For analytical purposes, Health and Education are considered cross-cutting areas and therefore could contribute to the remaining priority areas (e.g. Women’s access to education may contribute to increased inclusiveness in decision-making).

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Results framework

It is expected that this framework will remain active until end of 2030, and evaluated at the mid-point in the strategy implementation (after five years). To deliver on our goals and assess progress over time, Pacific Community and development partners will support PICTs to apply the following results framework, partially or in full depending on capacity, including ‘testing’ the relevance of the indicators to inform reporting on progress:

Strategic area	Goal	Aggregate Indicators	Indicators for country reporting
Priorities are identified	Priority gender indicators are identified at the regional and national level (Guidelines will be developed for this process and broader implementation of the Roadmap)	Number of PICTs that have identified priority national gender indicators.	1. Whether or not a set of priority national gender indicators has been formally identified within SDG localization exercises or other national strategies (yes/no).
		Number of PICTs where Gender Statistics is an area of responsibility within existing governance committees or taskforces.	2. Whether or not gender statistics is an area of responsibility ⁶ within any of the existing governance committees or taskforces (yes/no).
		Number of NSS’s data collection plans that incorporate data collection plans for specialized surveys and periodicity of collections as per international guidelines (MICS, DHS, VAW, TUS, Disaster, Environment, Disability, IDM) that address gender data gaps.	3. Whether or not NSS’s data collection plans incorporate gender data collection (e.g. information collected from both men and women within the same household) through the following specialized surveys: - MICS/DHS (yes/no) - VAW survey (yes/no) - Pre or Post Disaster surveys (yes/no) - Environment surveys or modules (yes/no) - Disability surveys or modules (yes/no) - IDM surveys (yes/no).
Quality gender data is produced	The availability, quality, timeliness and relevance of gender data is enhanced.	Proportion of gender-relevant SDG indicators with at least one data point reported to the international statistical system for 2010 or later.	4. Proportion of gender-relevant SDG indicators prioritized in national strategies with at least one data point reported to the international statistical system for 2010 or later ⁷ .
		Number of countries where at least one specialized survey (MICS, DHS, VAW, TUS, Disaster, Environment, Disability, IDM) has been completed as per schedule in data collection plans.	5. Proportion of specialized surveys implemented as per schedule ⁸ .
		Total number of countries that make data for priority gender indicators available through repositories.	6. Whether or not data for priority gender indicators exists and is openly available in a repository.
Data is analyzed	Data is transformed into statistical information together with the national	Number of countries where annual development reports include gender data.	7. Whether or not annual development reports (or equivalent) include gender data (yes/no/no report).

⁶ As specified in the TOR of any of the relevant governance committees.

⁷ Denominator for this proportion would be the total number of SDG indicators in national strategies that include a gender perspective (refer to UN Women’s 54 Gender-relevant set of indicators to complete the count).

⁸ Refer to Indicator 3 for denominator.

Strategic area	Goal	Aggregate Indicators	Indicators for country reporting
	context needed to understand it.		
Gender data gets disseminated and used	Gender data is communicated effectively and in line with user’s needs, to inform policy decisions, research and be useful for advocacy and accountability.	Number of PICTs where at least one knowledge communication product that includes gender statistics has been prepared by the NSO in the last calendar year.	8. Whether or not knowledge communication products that include official gender statistics were prepared by the NSS and other key stakeholders in the last calendar year - infographics (yes/no) - flashcards (yes/no) - brochures (yes/no) - TV materials (yes/no) - social media content (yes/no).
		Number of countries where a national data communication strategy exists and includes gender statistics.	9. Whether or not a national data communication strategy ⁹ exists and includes gender statistics (yes/no).
		Number of PICTs where NSOs are able to provide data for more than 50% of the gender data requests.	10. Percentage of requests for gender data that NSOs are able to provide data for in the last 12 months.
		Number of PICTs where the number of microdata access agreements issued specifically for gender analysis in the last 12 months has increased since the previous year.	11. Number of microdata access agreements issued specifically for gender analysis ¹⁰ in the last 12 months.
Knowledge management and learning are enhanced	A knowledge management system that is user friendly, promotes learning through a shared or open access platform and strengthens institutions is designed and implemented	Number of PICs where databases with SDG/NSDP indicator data exist, include gender statistics and are updated regularly.	12. Whether or not a national database with SDG or NSDP indicator data exists, includes gender statistics and it’s been updated at least once in the last 12 months.
		Total number of countries with at least one official dataset from specialized surveys with specific gender content (MICS, DHS, VAW, TUS, Disaster, Environment, Disability, IDM) that is openly available, accessible on-line and free of charge through on-line repositories.	13. Whether or not official datasets from specialized surveys with specific gender content (MICS, DHS, VAW, TUS, Disaster, Environment, Disability, IDM) are openly available, accessible on-line and free of charge through on-line repositories.
		Total number of PICTs where at least one data lab/training event on specialized survey analysis or survey data interpretation has been conducted in the last 12 months.	14. Whether or not at least one data lab/training event on specialized survey analysis or survey data interpretation has been conducted in the last 12 months ¹¹ .

⁹ Refer to glossary of terms at the end of the Roadmap document for “Communication Strategy”.

¹⁰ Information compiled from access agreements applications.

¹¹ If any training on gender statistics was conducted using the “Asia Pacific Gender Statistics Training Curriculum” (developed by the SGGST), please report number of trainings conducted using these guidelines as well.