

Workshop report: South-South exchange in Metadata and Microdata management

The South South collaborative exchange was recently held in Noumea, New Caledonia from 4 to 8 March. Participants were invited from seven countries from around the Pacific Islands region.

The workshop was facilitated by the Statistics for Development Division at the Pacific Community (SPC). The workshop and South-South initiative was made available with funding support from the New Zealand Aid program (MFAT) and the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB).

The details of the workshop were:

Date:	4 to 8 March, 2019
Location:	Noumea, New Caledonia
Facilitators:	SPC
PICs:	Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
Agenda:	See below
Language:	English
Financial:	Travel arrangements for participating countries were funded by the New Zealand Aid Program (MFAT)

Workshop objectives

The objectives of the workshop were:

- i. Introduce both South South provider and recipient counterparts to each other and set the scene for ongoing collaboration, and opportunity for sharing of practical experience and lessons learned;
- ii. Reinforce both the capacity of South South provider and recipients prior to technical assistance missions;
- iii. Introduce the development of documentation, dissemination and preservation of micro data sets and manage microdata efficiently using some International standards, tools and guidelines for better documentation and dissemination; and
- iv. Metadata documentation and publication in accordance with international standards.

Workshop outputs

The workshop resulted in the following outputs:

- i. Preparation of an inventory of available Microdata;
- ii. Getting ready for the incoming mission in-country: administrative work covered (availability of each participant, identification of the datasets that will be documented...etc)
- iii. Strengthened capacity of the Pacific region in data management to preserve and archive micro-datasets;

- iv. Strengthened capacity of the Pacific region in metadata documentation and publication of census and survey microdata in accordance with international standards; and
- v. Established foundation for ongoing collaboration, and opportunity for sharing of practical experience and lessons learned between providers and recipients of South-South.

Participant profile

Seven Pacific Island participants (5M, 2F), with two representatives from SPC.

Pre-South-South exchange evaluation MEL

SPC's Strategy, Planning and Learning (SPL) Division undertook a pre-exchange evaluation.

All workshop materials and the evaluation forms are available via the following links:

<http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/SDD/Events/South%20South%20Capacity%20Workshop>

Challenges noted included having the necessary communication skills and technical ability, time away from other work priorities, working in a new environment – different cultures, access to resources, some of which is related to meeting expectations (self, host, recipient, SPC) and potential impacts on productivity.

SPC can best provide support through remote support, logistical arrangements and in terms of communication:

- i. Notification of skills development opportunities prior to the exchange
- ii. Notification of changes in practice and procedures
- iii. Keeping communication open between the countries.

The workshop was successfully carried out and the participants expressed their appreciation for the hands-on training and indicated that it was very relevant, particularly the practical aspects of using NESSTAR to document their own datasets. The New Zealand Aid Programme and the World Bank were gratefully acknowledged for their financial and technical contribution.

Promoting statistical South-South Cooperation in the Pacific Islands region

From 4 to 8
March 2019
Concept Note

Measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of development policies and programs remains a serious challenge in many Pacific Island countries and territories. National statistical agencies, line ministries, and other organizations in the Pacific produce valuable datasets through their censuses, surveys, and administrative data collection activities. However these data remain largely under-exploited. Most data producers in the region do not have the resources, technical expertise, or mandate to conduct in-depth analysis of the data, and researchers outside these organizations do not have easy access to the microdata. A broader dissemination of the data and related metadata will increase the quantity and diversity of the uses of these resources. In addition to not being sufficiently disseminated, many datasets are not properly documented and preserved. This results in loss of data and institutional memory and low accessibility by policy makers and the research community and under-utilization of data.

These issues are partly being addressed by the Pacific Community (SPC) with the assistance of the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) project and the establishment of the Pacific Data Library, which will be responsible for acquiring and documenting data - survey and census microdata, geospatial data, and selected administrative datasets - to ensure their long-term preservation, and for maximizing their dissemination and use.

In addition, SPC with support from the New Zealand Aid Programme will provide technical assistance and capacity building through South to South cooperation. The South-South capacity building exchange is facilitated by SPC and supported by NZ 2019 funding.

South–South Cooperation is a term used to describe the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries. South-South cooperation is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Following the recent success of statistical South-South exchange programs in the Pacific Islands region, SPC believes that significant advances towards institutional and individual capacity-building can be gained by promoting South-South and sharing the experiences of other Pacific Island National Statistics Offices (NSO).

The exchange will help expedite the documentation and publishing of metadata for the existing 500+ national censuses and surveys ever conducted in the Pacific region. It will give opportunity for line ministries to curate and make sector-based microdata discoverable to form an evidence base targeting various sociodemographic and economic groups. The exchange will generally cover aspects from preservation of Pacific development microdata through to dissemination of well-documented and reliable data on Pacific populations.

Building capacity and implementing international good practices for survey data management involves development of documentation, dissemination and preservation of micro-datasets. The objective of the upcoming South-South collaborative workshop is to build sustainable capacity

in the region to manage microdata efficiently using international standards, tools and guidelines for better data documentation and dissemination. The workshop will also:

- Introduce both South-South provider and recipient counterparts to each another and set the scene for ongoing collaboration, and an opportunity for sharing of practical experience and lessons learned;
- Reinforce both the capacity of South – South provider and recipients prior to technical assistance missions;
- Introduce the development of documentation, dissemination, anonymisation and preservation of micro-datasets and manage microdata efficiently using some of the international standards (IHSN, DDI), tools and guidelines for better data documentation and dissemination;
- Work towards a greater harmonization of statistical classifications and systems; and
- Assist the region in disseminating statistics more effectively, including making greater use of unit-record census and survey data.

The training will be hands-on and will encourage participants to work together on documenting data during the workshop (at least 1 survey by each participant). Participants from recipient countries will also identify specific country needs for further capacity development and draft an action and support plan to help guide upcoming work at the country level with South-South providers.

South-South exchange will also include strengthening (or establishing) capacity in the:

- Preparation of an inventory of available microdata;
- Validation of microdata through reconstruction of aggregates;
- Metadata documentation and publication in accordance with international standards; and
- Engagement and advocacy for the publication of sectoral metadata with line ministries.

The training will be held at the SPC headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia.

After the workshop and in-country South-South provision, SPC will follow-up with participants and their agencies to insure documentation plans are implemented to finalize the documentation of all inventoried surveys. SPC will also promote quality standards in documentation.

Workshop agenda:

Day	Time	Topic
Monday 4 th March Focus: Introduction to the TFSCB Project and its main objectives	08:30	Opening prayer Welcome remarks and introduction to the workshop and agenda
	08:50	Round table: introduction by participants
	09:00	Introduction to the TFSCB and South-South Project
	10:00	Morning tea
	10:30	Benefits of documenting, preserving and curating datasets
	11:30	Stocktake of datasets
	12:00	Lunch break
	13:00	NADA and Data Deposit tool
	14:00	Introduction to Data License Agreement (DLA) and Terms of Use (ToU) Workshop example: data deposit through dissemination: Tokelau 2015 HIES example
	15:00	Folder structure & organizing your datasets
	15:30	Installation of the toolkit
	16:00	Workshop close
Tuesday 5 th March Focus: Confidentiality of datasets & Metadata Editor	08:30	Review session
	08:45	Execution of data access license
	09:30	De-identification of microdata: Tokelau 2015 HIES example
	10:00	Morning tea
	10:30	De-identification of microdata: Tokelau 2015 HIES example
	11:00	Preview on how to anonymize a dataset
	12:00	Lunch break
	13:00	Metadata Editor: organizing your documentation
	13:30	Document description
	15:00	Study description
	16:00	Workshop close
	Wednesday 6 th March Focus: Documenting your dataset	08:30
08:45		Study description
10:00		Morning tea
10:30		Adding External resources
11:30		Datasets
12:00		Lunch break
16:00		Workshop close
Thursday 7 th March Focus: South-South admin and legal frame	08:30	Review session
	08:45	Validating & exporting metadata on Metadata Editor
	09:30	Live demonstration: publishing together metadata on NADA
	10:00	Morning tea
	10:30	TORs for exchange missions
	12:00	Lunch break
	13:00	South-South evaluation forms
Friday 8 th March Focus: Review and discussion	08:30	Review session
	08:45	Discussion on microdata dissemination
	10:00	Morning tea
	10:30	Project work

List of participants:

Name	Country	Sex
Jim Nimerota	Cook Islands	M
Mosese Qaloewai	Fiji	M
Ramrakha Detenamo	Nauru	M
Iapi Jasperse	Tokelau	M
Vaimoana Soakimi	Tonga	F
Grace Alapati	Tuvalu	F
David Talo	Vanuatu	M