

Vision and Policy Intent

Tokelau's second National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS), 2019–2023 (unpublished), endorsed by the Tokelau Government in December 2019, has a vision that by 2023, Tokelau will achieve a quality statistical system to support building and sustaining a thriving prosperous, healthy and active Tokelau with opportunities for all.

The Tokelau NSDS 2019-2023 identifies four strategic objectives:

- strengthened institutional environment - creating stronger links between data and statistical information and policy,
- improved data and information management,
- access to adequate and sustainable resources to deliver quality statistical products and services, and
- improved National Statistics Strategy (NSS) Coordination and Collaboration.

Other policies and plans relevant to Tokelau NSDS:

- Tokelau's [NSDS Roadmap 2015](#) prepared by PARIS21 and the Tokelau NSO, and
- the [Tokelau NSS Assessment 2015](#), completed in 2015, supports the development of the current NSDS.

National Statistical System

The [Tokelau National Statistics Office \(NSO\)](#) operating under the Tokelau [Statistics Rules 2013](#) is the lead statistics agency, managed by the National Statistician.

The Tokelau NSO as part of the [Office of Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau](#) is the key provider of official statistics to the government and is responsible for:

- collecting, compiling, analysing, publishing, and disseminating, with or without comment, official statistics
- advising ministers and government departments on statistical matters
- promoting standards for use in official statistics.

The NSDS Roadmap 2015 and the Tokelau NSS Assessment 2015 highlighted that no official statistics are produced by departments other than the NSO.

However, other sectors with administrative systems that could provide statistics include education, health, transport, and justice.

Key Features

The Tokelau NSO, guided under the Statistics Rules 2013, is enacted to collect official statistics to:

- provide information required by the General Fono, Council, government departments, village councils, undertakings and the public for policy decision-making.

Data collection – most recent published: [2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwelling, Tokelau 2015–2016 HIES](#).

Dissemination – main publications, economics, population and social statistics, census and surveys.

ICT Statistical Infrastructure – Tokelau NSO developed its own [website](#) linked to the Pacific Community's [Statistics for Development Division](#) and Pacific [Data Hub](#) .Stat [web pages](#), as well as Stats NZ and the Samoa Bureau of Statistics websites.

Other ICT dissemination products include [Tokelau Atlas 2016 Census](#) providing story map, supported by Stats NZ.

Coordination

The Tokelau NSO has a mandate to:

- coordinate as effectively as possible,
- make the best use of official statistics produced,
- avoid unnecessary duplication of requests for information, and
- consult with government departments on the need for scope, procedure, and form of any official statistics to be carried out by the government departments.

The Tokelau NSDS Roadmap 2015 proposed for an establishment of an NSDS Coordination Committee (CC) with strategic focus for the:

- development of the Tokelau NSDS, and
- coordination of the NSS.

Proposed NSDS CC membership

- National Coordination Committee led by National Statistician, and
- National and Village General Managers and Directors.

Challenges, priorities and opportunities

Key challenges affecting Tokelau NSO performance as outlined in the Tokelau NSDS 2019–2023 (unpublished) include:

- **institutional:** lack of recognition of statistics support, unmet data needs,
- **Data Information/Management:** Data quality, timeliness, accuracy, data gaps, ICT limitations,
- **Resources:** limited capacity, human resource constraints, and
- **Coordination and collaboration:** lack of communication and data sharing between agencies and departments, lack of access due to data confidentiality issues etc.

Priorities and opportunities as specified in the Tokelau NSDS 2019–2023

- **institutional:** Develop collection policy,
- **Data Management:** Develop data and management system, improve data accessibility,
- **Resources:** Build/Strengthen statistical capacity and capability, and
- **Coordination:** strengthen communication between agencies and departments (at national and atoll levels), improve collaboration and inter-departmental data sharing.