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**10th Pacific Statistics Methods Board Meeting (PSMB)
Summary Report and Outcomes**

17 and 18 October 2022

Hosted by SPC at Naumi Hotel, Auckland New Zealand

Prepared by the
Statistics for Development Division (SDD) of the
Pacific Community (SPC)

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Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional Offices: Suva, Fiji;
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List of abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics	PACSTAT	Statistical Innovation and Capacity Building in the Pacific Islands
ADB	Asian Development Bank	PICTs	Pacific Island countries and territories
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing	PSMB	Pacific Statistics Methods Board
CATI	Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing	PSSC	Pacific Statistics Standing Committee
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey	SDD	Statistics for Development Division (SPC)
HOPS	Heads of Pacific Planning and Statistics	SPC	Pacific Community
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	UNFPA	UN Population Fund
NSO	National Statistics Office	UNICEF	UN Children’s Fund

Summary of proceedings

The 10th Meeting of the Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB) was held on 17 and 18 October 2022 at the Naumi Auckland Airport Hotel, New Zealand. Participants attended in-person and online (Annex 2). The meeting was chaired by Vince Galvin.

The agenda and presentations are available at: <https://sdd.spc.int/events/2022/10/10th-statistics-methods-board-meeting-psmb>

Participants	<p>Board members:</p> <p>Melanesia – Maria Musudroka, Acting CEO, Fiji Bureau of Statistics Micronesia – Aritita Tekaieti, Republic Statistician, Kiribati Polynesia – Sione Lolohea, Acting Government Statistician, Tonga (Deputy-Chair) Small NSOs – Leota Ali'ielua Salani, Government Statistician, Samoa</p> <p>Australian Bureau of Statistics – Anders Holmberg Statistics New Zealand – Vince Galvin (Chair) UN Agencies – James Kaphuka (UNICEF) (online)</p> <p>Observers:</p> <p>Papua New Guinea – Josiah Joseph, Hajily Kele, John Igitoi (online) Australian Bureau of Statistics – Andrew Knott (online), Ed Leslie Statistics New Zealand – Ofa Ketu'u, Tracey Savage, Hannes Diener, Matthew Flanagan, Nadine Kreitmeyr, Anapapa Mulitalo, Sandy Swei UNFPA – Marielle Sander, Mercedita Tia (online) World Bank – Utz Pape, Taufik Ramadhan, Sharad Tandon (online) PACSTAT – Professor Wadan Narsey, Monica Madrid, consultants (online)</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Pacific Community (SPC) – Peter Ellis, Director of Statistics for Development Division, David Abbott (online), Andrea Borlizzi (online), Michael Sharp (online), Alison Culpin (online) Scott Pontifex (online) Consultant – Jean-Paul Zoyem (online)</p>
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DAY 1

Welcome

1. The meeting opened with a *karakia* and *powhiri* given by Stallah Valaau.
2. The Chair welcomed everyone and noted that issues to be discussed included:
 - appointment of a new Deputy-Chair;
 - PACSTAT project updates;
 - greater engagement of PICT statistical agencies with PSMB, and support
 - for dissemination/implementation of the standards and methods that PSMB develops.

Session 1a: PACSTAT Commissioned Work 1 and 2

1a.1. Maximising the use of microdata in PICTs

Presenter: Professor Wadan Narsey, consultant

3. Professor Narsey was commissioned to review the use of microdata in PICTs and the challenges of maximising its use.
4. PICTs lag behind similar countries in adopting 'open data' policies, particularly for gender and poverty data. However, most PICTs would like to have an open data philosophy and more analysis of their HIES data, although they lack the analytical staff required. Other constraints on open data include ambiguous legislation and low resources.
5. The performance of SPC's Pacific Data Hub-Microdata Library (PDH-ML) was also assessed. It is considered a valuable resource for PICTs for data preservation and archiving, and for facilitating access to microdata for researchers. However, there are only a small number of requests to PDH-ML for data access, and only 35% of requests have been granted.
6. A particular concern is that PICTs are storing 63% of their own data sets, which heightens the risk of loss in a natural disaster and lessens opportunities for access and analysis.
7. The review recommends conserving all PICT datasets in the PDH-ML using a 4-tier process that recognises PICTs' ownership of their data and their concerns with data confidentiality:

Tier 1 – Secure archiving of all PICT microdata with the PDH-ML, with no access except as approved according to Tiers 2, 3 and 4.

Tier 2 – PICTs make microdata available to SDD for a short-term project for analysis and reporting on topics prioritised by NSOs (e.g. food security, poverty).

Tier 3 – PICT NSOs decide whether to make microdata sets available to researchers who apply for access, with PDH-ML coordinating the approval process for the PICT that owns the data.

Tier 4 – PICT NSOs make microdata sets freely available, with strict conditions set down for terms of use.
8. The review recommends a second project for SDD and PDH-ML. Following the production of analytical reports on microdata sets made available by PICTs, there should be well-publicised workshops and policy discussions with relevant government ministries, NGOs, media and other regional stakeholders, with a focus on each PICT's priorities. The project researchers should be from Australian and New Zealand universities, preferably of Pacific origin, and should work with NSO counterparts.
9. Implementing an open data approach will require considerable resources and support, especially for small NSOs, but the review suggests funding should be available, possibly from Australia and New Zealand.

Discussion

10. Peter Ellis, SPC: Critical questions include 'Why is data not getting to the PDH?' and 'Why are few requests approved?'
11. Country representatives noted:
 - the format of survey results is sometimes not suitable for uploading, especially for the oldest, paper-based surveys;
 - there may be more willingness to share data when NSOs are confident of its quality;
 - fears about the use of microdata, including maintaining confidentiality and security;
 - the need to improve capacity to use microdata and follow protocols;
 - some PICT legislation needs revising to allow data sharing;
 - archiving of surveys is important.
12. Anders Holmberg, ABS: The review highlights the benefits of access to microdata. The first step should be to archive PICT data sets, using coherent systems and processes. To address access to data sets, PSMB could review the benefits of some of the proposed research, recognising that PICTs have different sensitivities.

13. Ofa Ketu'u, Stats NZ: Data sets are not held in all PICTs. This issue needs to be sorted at national level first.
14. James Kaphuka, UNICEF: Five PICTs have completed MICS and the data is available on the MICS website.
15. The Chair thanked Professor Narsey for the review and noted NSOs' concerns about data quality; data security; maintaining data confidentiality; and arrangements for access to data, which could be embedded in future agreements with SPC.
16. Professor Narsey suggested that rather than trying to get the agreement of all PICTs, the projects could be implemented in PICTs that are willing to participate, followed by workshops to provide the project results. PICTs must be in control of the process.

1a.2. Methodological review for collection of data on the impact of climate change in household surveys in the context of SIDS

Presenters: Alison Culpin and Monica Madrid, SPC

17. The project aims to collect comparable data on the impact of climate change at the household level and make it available in a form that PICTs can use when they are making decisions, and developing National Adaptation Plans, disaster risk reduction plans and commitments to mitigation and adaptation.

First draft of climate change core module and outline of source book

18. The project includes a Climate Change and Natural Disasters Survey Module that will strengthen the collection and use of data on the impact of climate change and natural disasters sourced from population-based censuses and household surveys. The module is designed to gather nationally relevant and internationally comparable data on the effects and impacts of climate change and natural disasters on PICT households and communities. Over time, socio-economic data will also be collected. PICTs will be consulted on a first draft of the module, which was produced after a review of similar action in other regions and countries.
19. The first draft includes 10 questions about the impacts of disasters on households. The proposed indicators derived from the module are in line with those proposed in the Global Set of Climate Change Indicators, the SDGs and the Sendai Framework. The module will be tested in one of the PICTs prior to its finalisation.
20. Another component of the project is the development of a model questionnaire or 'source book' that will be used to support Pacific government decision-making on questions to prioritise. The source book questions could be either included in national household surveys or used as a stand-alone questionnaire for climate change surveys aimed at collecting data on the many aspects of climate change and natural disasters (impacts, adaptation, etc.) and the different sectors involved (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, etc.). The core questions and content of the sourcebook will be negotiated with stakeholders.
21. The source book (outline only) will include the following sections:
 - Constructing data on climate change
 - Information needs and indicators
 - Proposed questionnaire
 - Constructing and disseminating climate change indicators.
22. There is also the need to tackle the slow onset effects of climate change, such as sea-level rise.

Discussion

23. Samoa and Tonga welcomed the development of the module, given the frequency and impact of climate-related natural disasters, and supported plans for consultation and the potential to adjust the module to country contexts.

24. Fiji said NSOs want to collect data and inform people at grassroots level but noted the problems of applying the results of surveys and standards developed by PSMB.
25. Peter Ellis, SPC: The difficulty with the draft source book is that respondents may find it hard to answer the questions. It is important to confine the questions to those they can answer easily.
26. Sharad Tandon, World Bank, agreed that longer form questions might be difficult to respond to.
27. Ofa Ketu'u, Stats NZ, asked about the involvement of PICTs in the development of the module and said the idea of integration of the survey was important.
28. Alison Culpin, SPC: The next step is to work with PICTs on the module, including country testing of the type of questions. Plans for roll-out of the module are still to be discussed, but its implementation will, of course, be voluntary.
29. Chair: PSMB needs to work with NSOs on the application of its developments. The discussion of PSMB's terms of reference (TOR) in Session 4 could address this issue.

Session 1b: PACSTAT – Guidance notes

1b.1. Review and endorsement of PSMB guidance note on monetary poverty measurement

Presenter: Jean-Paul Zoyem, SPC consultant

30. PSMB has spent considerable time discussing and reviewing both monetary poverty measurement (SDG 1.2) and multi-dimensional poverty measurement. In 2019, the World Bank presented PSMB with the rationale and context for poverty measurement in different countries, noting there were still issues for further investigation.
31. Interim guidelines for monetary poverty measurement were adopted at PSMB's meeting in July 2020 and were tested through HIES analyses in Vanuatu, Kiribati and Marshall Islands.
32. The guidance note was built on PSMB's discussions and should be regarded as a live document to be updated. It recommends common practice for the region based on global good practice. The guidance is intended for NSO use and suggests how indicators of poverty measurement can be 'easily' computed.
33. The paper makes eight recommendations for measuring monetary poverty, including:
 - 1) using the International Poverty Line to measure SDG 1.1.1, and the national cost-of-basic-needs poverty line to measure SDG 1.2.1;
 - 2) what should be included in food consumption;
 - 3) what should be included in non-food consumption;
 - 4) calculating imputed rent;
 - 5) using the OECD per adult equivalent to adjust the consumption aggregate for household composition.

Discussion

34. The Chair noted that the NSO participants present might not be fully aware of PSMB's previous decisions on poverty measurement.
35. The guidance note explains how the monetary poverty measurement method works and is the result of considerable discussion. Is it reasonable to ask NSOs to implement it, or is it more of a resource document?
36. PICT representatives considered the method to be a work in progress that needs further refinement. Samoa is working to include it in its HIES and suggested leaving endorsement till next year. Kiribati is also willing to test the module.
37. Tracey Savage, Stats NZ, suggested building some case studies of issues that occur in applying the guidelines, noting there are policy implications. Guidance notes also need to have practical rules for application.

38. Anders Holmberg, ABS, suggested that given the method has already been successfully applied in four countries, PICTs and SDD should keep going and get more experience on what works.
39. Michael Sharp, SPC: The interim method for measuring monetary poverty has been applied in four PICTs and has worked well. PSMB should now be able to endorse the guidance note subject to one or two modifications, noting that some interim measures and best available information were used in calculating results in the PICTs where the method was used.
40. Peter Ellis said SDD could continue trialling the method with countries, without publishing results, and then come back to PSMB to show what is working.
41. There was general discussion on whether to call the guidance note an interim document. The Chair noted that it was PSMB's intention to support countries in using it and to understand the impacts.

1b.2. Open discussion on multi-dimensional poverty analysis – way forward

42. Chair: PSMB has heard many explanations of multi-dimensional poverty measurement, including by Professor David Gordon, Bristol University, UK, who presented the consensual deprivation method of poverty measurement. Tonga's former Government Statistician, Dr Viliami Fifita, was helpful in offering to share deprivation methods with other PICTs. PSMB now needs to develop guidelines for measuring non-monetary poverty, with each country then modifying the approach to suit its own circumstances.
43. Peter Ellis: SDD has an interim approach. However, as the Chair indicated, guidance on multi-dimensional poverty measurement is still needed. If countries agreed, SDD could trial the method and present the results and could also prepare draft guidance that PSMB can endorse as interim.
44. The Chair noted there were no objections to this proposal.

Session 2: Use of administrative data in PICTs

2.1 Stats NZ's experimental administrative population census: challenges and opportunities

Presenter: Hannes Diener, Stats NZ

45. The aim of the experimental administrative population census (APC) include:
 - testing the use of administrative data instead of traditional census data collection, with a view to informing future census models;
 - evaluating the data and methods used, and whether data needs are met.
46. The first iteration of the experiment in 2015 had 7 variables. In 2021, this increased to 19 variables covering population structure; identity and culture; income; education; and employment. All the data comes from currently available sources such as civil registration, taxation and border movement. New Zealand has an integrated data infrastructure developed over 30 years with political support. It is designed for external researchers (e.g. academics, other government agencies) rather than for Stats NZ.
47. The experimental data looks good, although there is some under-coverage and it is not yet sufficient to produce official population estimates.
48. Limitations include multiple sources for the same information; low information on migrants (e.g. previous education); no information on unpaid work; and missing categories (e.g. children under 15). In New Zealand, administrative data mostly goes back to 2005 when it was digitalised.
49. On a positive note, an APC can produce yearly outputs and precise and accurate data (e.g. Inland Revenue Department data for income). The data is also longitudinal, offering a powerful and mostly untapped resource.

Discussion

Samoa: The global community is moving towards using administrative data. When household identifiers move, this creates problems for a census. Administrative data solves this issue. However, Samoa still has concerns about data privacy, e.g. the national identifier project has triggered anxiety about privacy.

50. Kiribati has civil registration and ID cards and is trying to integrate its information.
51. Fiji has national ID cards (Fiji National Identification Card).
52. Tonga is 'dreaming' of an identification system and administrative census. With technology, both will be achievable. How is it possible to reconcile data from different sectors, e.g. health?
53. Hannes Diener: Big data sources always have error built in, e.g. at the data entry point. New Zealand does not have an ID system but uses birth/death data to link other data.

2.2. Roadmap for development of population registers in the Pacific region

Presenter: Michael Sharp, SPC

54. At the March 2020 PSMB meeting, ABS and Stats NZ shared their experience with using administrative data for censuses.

In July 2020, PSMB agreed to establish a subcommittee on the use of registers or administrative data in censuses, with the subcommittee to act as an external advisory group to support Tuvalu's implementation of a population register. In September 2020, PSMB noted a report from SPC on a roadmap to increase the use of registers or administrative data in censuses.

In April 2022, PSMB discussed the challenges of conducting a census in a COVID-19 environment and agreed on the advantages of moving to greater use of administrative data for censuses, while recognising that considerable work is needed to bring PICT administrative data up to the required standard. The meeting also agreed on the value of population registers and the potential for Pacific countries to learn from countries that have established registers.

55. Relevant agenda items at this current meeting include the Stats NZ experiment (agenda item 2.1), and the update on NSO and UNFPA work on population data in PNG (agenda item 3.2).

The following discussion questions were proposed:

- Census – where should PSMB focus its efforts? What can PSMB do to help those in the midst of planning and running a census? How to use the impetus of the 2020/2021 round of censuses to start thinking about pathways forward and longer-term census transformation in the Pacific?
- What is the status and role of the PSMB subcommittee on the use of administrative data?
- What's next for PSMB with respect to development of population registers?
- What's the role of PACSTAT (e.g. guidance note; research paper; innovative experiment)?

Discussion

56. Anders Holmberg, ABS, said it was good to see that New Zealand was able to use administrative data to fill census gaps without having unique identifiers. Citizens need incentives to join in administrative data systems. Political buy-in is also necessary. A census is a good place to start. It is also important to look at the institutions that provide information, e.g. the tax system, health providers, and birth/death registry. A statistical register will be much easier to build with a unique ID.
57. Peter Ellis asked if it was possible to go straight to an administrative census. New Zealand has shown a unique ID is not essential, but not having one requires combining numerous data sources.
58. Anders Holmberg responded that when Sweden conducted an administrative census, it was able to learn from neighbouring countries. One advantage is lower cost. Countries may want to share a standard system for setting up an ID.
59. Tracey Savage again suggested the value of case studies and supported information sharing between countries.

60. As noted earlier, Fiji, Kiribati and Tonga have ID systems and Samoa is developing one. Samoa noted that capacity is an issue for developing administrative data.
61. Peter Ellis said SPC is interested in supporting the development of administrative data through a new SDD section, Statistical Collections, headed by Michael Sharp.
62. Ofa Ketu'u noted Stats NZ's new funding also has a focus on administrative data.

DAY 2

Session 1c: PACSTAT – Innovative experiments and RFP

Update on PACSTAT experiments

Presenter: Michael Sharp

1c.1 Samoa Food away from Home (FAFH)

63. *Background:* In 2018 the World Bank and the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN (FAO) prepared food guidelines with a recommendation to collect data on FAFH at the individual level. The FAFH module was to be organised according to meal events in the local context, and to collect the value of all food consumed away from home. The recall period should be the same as for Food at Home.
64. According to the results, the inclusion of FAFH questions in Kiribati, Wallis and Futuna and Marshall Islands has had a marked impact on food expenditure measurement. Unsettled issues, however, included the accuracy of the 'cost of calorie' approach and the assessment of nutrient availability from FAFH.
65. Hence, in collaboration with the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS), SPC is implementing an experiment on FAFH data collection in Samoa.
66. A diary will be used to estimate FAFH consumption and the cost of calories for FAFH. The diary is coupled with a food atlas including photos of food and beverages, and portions, mostly consumed AFH in Samoa. The methodology was developed adopting suggestions from a focus group, crowd sourcing, expert group, web scraping and a survey of food establishments. A social media campaign was used to build a typical list of FAFH; from this, a list of foods most commonly eaten away from home was developed. The next steps will consist of finalising the food database, training enumerators, piloting the module and then implementing the survey fieldwork.

1c.2 Innovative experiments on Tuvalu long form census

67. The project, which will begin shortly, is integrating a HIES survey with the census, given there are many overlapping questions. The idea is to get a HIES 'for free' with reduced costs for planning and enumerator training, and less burden on households. Disadvantages include the issue of seasonality, which affects production and prices. However, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.
68. Fieldwork will be complete by the end of the year, and PSMB will receive a report next year.

1c.3 Vanuatu NSO proposal: Modernising official statistics – data science driving innovation in climate change and natural disasters

69. The PACSTAT Committee has decided to invest in the project, which will investigate reproducible analytical pipelines, machine learning, and an information management system with the aims of

automatically estimating the damage from a disaster and the resources needed for immediate response, and also improving the efficiency of data collection.

PSMB research and guidance

70. Several topics were listed for PSMB to discuss. They included anonymisation of microdata in the context of SIDS, development of population-based registers, and multi-dimensional poverty methods.

Discussion

71. Samoa noted that the FAFH project is challenging in terms of capacity and staff numbers. It is a new approach to getting information and is very detailed in terms of food portion size, weight, etc., but it also provides an opportunity to learn more about nutrition intake, analysis, etc.
72. Fiji asked whether crowd sourcing introduces bias and noted it does not have a copy of PSMB's sampling guidelines.
73. Kiribati asked if there are any guidelines or benchmarks for sourcing good food, e.g. atolls have no soil for growing food so depend on imports.
74. Peter Ellis said the initial FAFH work seems expensive, but on the other hand it is potentially creating a reusable asset.
75. Michael Sharp responded as follows:
- The FAFH information built up by Samoa should be transferable to other PICTs. The results will test World Bank and FAO assumptions on food security analysis. Other research outcomes include the use of crowd sourcing. In USA, FAFH accounts for 50% of food consumption. The percentage is lower in PICTs but is moving that way.
 - Fruit and vegetable consumption is low in some locations due to inability to produce them. The cost of a healthy diet is high in Kiribati. People may be over-nourished but deficient in micronutrients.
 - Fiji's point on the target of crowd sourcing was interesting – the project recognises that the sample may be biased. The FAFH module will be delivered in conjunction with the HIES. A specific nutrition survey is the best source of information but is very expensive. A HIES is the next best thing, providing insight into consumption patterns, prevalence of under-nourishment, etc.
76. In response to a question from Fiji about the sampling guidelines for climate change, Tracey Savage said they were from sampling guidelines assembled by PSMB (with HIES as a focus), with the view that further chapters could be added. PSMB's sampling guidelines are still a draft awaiting incorporation of final feedback. PICTs were clear that the guidelines do not work on their own but need support for implementation, including training.
77. Ofa Ketu'u raised the issue of PSMB's effectiveness in getting its work out to PICTs.
78. Michael Sharp asked if PSMB has priority areas for research, including on better disseminating information to PICTs.
79. Sharad Tandon (World Bank) proposed to undertake an experiment to investigate cost reduction in data collection.
80. Peter Ellis suggested that one of PSMB's priorities should be to complete the last step of its work, i.e. dissemination and implementation. He also proposed to write a short document with recommended priorities for the next 6 months, to be commented on by countries after the PSMB meeting.
81. In response to the Chair's request for feedback on the form that PSMB guidance should take, Samoa stressed the need for technical work, training and guidelines that are adapted to country requirements and capacity.

Session 3: Software and innovation

3.1 Results of NSO software use survey in late 2020

Presenter: Scott Pontifex, SPC

82. The survey, in the form of a brief online questionnaire, was a regional stocktake of the software used by 14 PICT NSOs. Since the survey in 2020, there have been many changes in technology and NSO processes.
83. Findings
 - Data collection** – At the time of the survey, 9 PICTs still used PAPI; 5 PICTs used CAPI (mostly CSPro). All 14 PICTs listed CAPI as their preferred method for the future and considered SPC should provide support for CAPI and Survey Solutions. Because COVID restricted face-to-face surveys, some NSOs were moving to phone/digital collection (CATI/CAWI) for data capture. Some PICTs also wanted CAPI with CSPro.
 - Data processing:** Responses reflected the support available, noting that SPC uses Stata to process census and survey data, while UNICEF uses SPSS for MICS and provides onsite and offsite support. PAPI census and surveys have traditionally used CSPro for data entry, processing and tabulation. Stata is the overall preferred data processing software in the region. There was also wide use of Excel and Access.
 - Data analysis:** NSOs were prepared to use a range of software. Stata was a popular option. There was again wide use of Excel followed by Access. There may be more appetite now to use Stata, especially as analytical tasks are important considerations.
 - Data visualization:** A range of tools were used including Stata, CSPro, Excel, R and SPSS, but the main ones were Excel and PowerPoint. Some NSOs mentioned tools compatible with web tools. It was not clear whether NSOs still considered hard copy publications important in data visualisation.
84. **Conclusion:** The software landscape is complex, with NSO choices frequently linked to the technical support available from SPC, UNICEF and other agencies.
85. PSMB was invited to recommend:
 - 1) that the statistical software used by NSOs should facilitate the same implementation for common methods to standardise official statistics;
 - 2) statistical software functionality should match the evolving needs of data users (timeliness);
 - 3) a capacity assessment of regional Pacific statistical systems.

Discussion

86. Tonga acknowledged SPC's assistance with tools such as CSPro and Survey Solutions. There are always new people joining the NSO who need training. External training is also needed to build capacity. Fiji agreed that staff turnover is an issue for capacity.
87. Kiribati said that with no face-to-face training possible before the latest census, staff instead received online support from SPC. This was a new experience for them and increased their confidence in their capacity.
88. Michael Sharp noted that the high cost of licenses constrains NSOs' participation in capacity building activities, making a strong case for open-source software. Many partners in HIES implementation activities, e.g. the World Bank, FAO, and International Labour Organization, use software such as SPSS and Stata. Using the same software greatly facilitates collaboration.
89. Samoa noted that the cost of an SPSS or Stata licence is an issue, as not all countries can afford them. James Kaphuka noted that the MICS programme provides two SPSS licenses to the relevant NSO during MICS implementation.
90. Scott Pontifex said PICTs are now more interested in building their own capacity and reducing their reliance on SPC.

91. Ofa Ketu'u noted that local capacity assessment (and development) is a continuing urgent need for Pacific NSOs.

3.2 Update on NSO and UNFPA work on population data in Papua New Guinea

Presenter Marielle Sander, UNFPA country representative

92. PNG's population census has been deferred to 2024 due to COVID-19, and the current data from 2011 is outdated. UNFPA therefore worked with the NSO to implement the following activities, with support from Australia:
- 1) Innovative approach to generating population counts (CAPI, monitoring dashboard, operations centre).
 - 2) Household survey (Socio-demographic and economic survey).
 - 3) Provincial differential analysis on demographic dividend (when the proportion of the working age population is higher than the proportion of the non-working-age population).
 - 4) Data literacy and appreciation.
93. PNG will be a Pacific pioneer in using new technology to estimate population, which is essential information for many sectors. The methods may be experimental but they are based on science and maths. It is hoped the results will show policy-makers that it is possible to do a population estimate when a census is delayed.

3.3 An innovative approach to estimating population

Presenter: Josiah Joseph, Census Director, PNG NSO

94. The project's objectives were to:
- 1) develop methods and procedures for estimating population at subnational levels and associated uncertainty measures;
 - 2) produce sex/age disaggregated population estimates;
 - 3) undertake capacity strengthening of the NSO and other departments to ensure the methods are understood and the outputs can be used by the government and other entities.
- WorldPop of the University of Southampton, UK, provided technical assistance.
95. Population modelled estimation uses household surveys and satellite-image based datasets in a statistical framework to estimate a population. Geospatial modelling approaches (recently developed) are used to provide estimates of population numbers with associated confidence intervals. The method has been used in African and South American countries.
96. Geospatial covariates include water availability, vegetation cover, night-time lights, transport, and distance to markets and education and health facilities.
97. Key considerations: mobile populations are not accounted for; estimates can be improved with new survey and geospatial data; the estimate is not a substitute for a full census.
98. Population estimates can be used for health interventions; school planning; coastal flooding risk assessments; and supporting census survey operations, e.g. new enumeration areas.
99. The University of Southampton is using R for modelling and may make the code available if requested.

3.3 Way forward for population estimation

Presenter: John Igitoi, NSO National Statistician, PNG

100. There will be a workshop in November with training in the use of estimates in various areas.

The workshop will cover the challenges experienced and lessons learned in implementing the population project and will also guide census preparation.

101. The NSO thanked UNFPA and SPC for their support.

Discussion

102. Ofa Ketu'u asked if UNFPA planned to roll out the method in other PICTs.

103. UNFPA: Yes, if there is demand from other PICTs (the method is currently being applied in Myanmar).

Session 4: PSMB terms of reference and membership

Presenter: Vince Galvin, Chair

104. PSMB's TOR have been revised and will be presented to the November meeting of the Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC) for approval.

105. Most changes to the TOR are under section 3, Membership, which states that PSMB members should include two representatives from each constituency – Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, and Small NSOs. Previously, there has been one representative from each constituency. Country members may include Government Statisticians and/or senior staff, particularly methodologists.

Discussion

106. Tonga would like other NSO representatives to attend PSMB meetings.

Samoa noted that more members would require more resourcing for PSMB. It is important that PSMB has technical input.

107. Kiribati said Small NSOs need support on technical issues.

108. Ofa Ketu'u: Increased PICT membership may assist in communicating key PSMB ideas to all PICTs. However, not all NSOs will have the capacity to implement decisions made by methodologists.

Peter Ellis: When you decide on the right representation, we will provide resourcing. Technical people can potentially add huge value. Can we consider 'at least one member' from each of the three subregions, and one for Small NSOs, plus an additional member, for a total of 5 members? This approach would be less prescriptive and would allow for greater flexibility.

109. Anders Holmberg suggested rotation of PICT participants, but not wholesale change all at once.

110. The Chair said the suggestions will be added to the TOR, which will be submitted to PSSC as a draft for discussion and endorsement.

Session 5: Administrative matters

5.1 Appointment of new Deputy-Chair

111. The Chair was pleased to announce that, with the meeting's agreement, Leota Ali'ielua Salani of Samoa will take up the role of Deputy-Chair of PSMB. He congratulated the new Deputy-Chair and thanked him for accepting the position.

5.2 Date of next PSMB meeting

112. Peter Ellis suggested holding the next PSMB meeting back-to-back with the Pacific Statisticians Leadership Forum meeting, with the location and date to be advised.

HOPS will be held near the end of 2023, with the meetings resuming their two-year cycle.

113. Ed Leslie, ABS, requested suggestions on topics for the agenda of the next Pacific Statisticians Leadership Forum meeting.
114. Ofa Ketu'u: Stats NZ will hold a regional workshop (fully funded) on topics including administrative data and sampling. She requested suggestions for other potential topics.

Closing

115. The Chair thanked all participants, including new members and those online, for their contribution to an interesting and inspiring meeting that demonstrated the benefit of once again being able to meet face to face. He thanked SPC and Stats NZ for organising the meeting.

(The meeting outcomes are in Annex 1.)

Annex 1

Meeting outcomes

Meeting website: <https://sdd.spc.int/events/2022/10/10th-statistics-methods-board-meeting-psmb>

1. Appointment of Deputy-Chair

Leota Ali'ielua Salani of Samoa took up the position of PSMB Deputy-Chair following the resignation of the previous holder, Dr Viliami Konifelenisi Fifita of Tonga. PSMB congratulated the new Deputy-Chair and acknowledged Dr Fifita's valued contribution to the Board since it was established.

2. Revision of PSMB's terms of reference (TOR) and membership

PSMB noted the revisions to its TOR and agreed that the document should be presented to the next meeting of the Pacific Statistics Standing Committee for discussion and endorsement. The most significant revision relates to PSMB membership, with the following options suggested for Pacific members:

- Two members from each of the subregions, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, and one member to represent Small NSOs.
- One member from each of the constituencies, Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia and Small NSOs, and one additional member from any of these constituencies.
- Country members to rotate.
- Members may be Government Statisticians or senior NSO staff, including methodologists.

3. PACSTAT

Maximising the use of microdata in PICTs

PSMB:

- i. welcomed PICTs' willingness to consider making their microdata more available for analysis and research, while recognising their concerns about data security; maintaining data confidentiality; arrangements for access to the data; and data quality;
- ii. strongly recommended that all PICT datasets be archived securely in the Pacific Data Hub–Microdata Library, noting that 63% of PICT datasets are currently held by NSOs and are at risk of loss during natural disasters and other events;
- iii. will consider a second project suggested by the review, i.e. production of analytical reports on PICT microdata followed by workshops and policy discussions with relevant government ministries, NGOs and stakeholders. Each PICT would have to consent to the use of its data and would retain ownership and control.

4. Methodological review for collection of data on the impact of climate change, using household surveys

PSMB:

- i. supported the development of the first draft of the Climate Change and Natural Disasters Survey Module and a model questionnaire 'source book' to assist governments in collecting information and identifying priorities for addressing climate change and natural disasters;
- ii. noted that PICTs will be consulted on the draft of the module and there will be country testing of the type of questions to ask before planning the roll-out of the module.

5. PSMB guidance note on monetary poverty measurement

PSMB:

- i. noted the development of a guidance note for measuring monetary poverty using a method reviewed by PSMB and tested successfully in four PICTs;
- ii. noted PICT NSOs' views that the method is a work in progress and endorsement of the guidance note should be deferred to next year;
- iii. agreed that SDD will continue trialling the method with PICT NSOs, without publishing the results, and will report the outcomes to PSMB in 2023.
- iv. agreed that technical work and guidelines must be better adapted to country requirements and capacity.

6. Samoa Food away from Home (FAFH) experiment

PSMB:

- i. was interested in the innovative approach to estimating FAFH and the cost of calories for FAFH, including using crowd sourcing and a social media campaign to build a food database, noting the database may be adaptable for similar projects in other PICTs.

7. Multi-dimensional poverty analysis – way forward

PSMB:

- i. noted that SDD has an interim approach to multi-dimensional poverty measurement;
- ii. agreed that SDD will trial the method and present the results to PSMB, and will also prepare draft guidance for PSMB to consider endorsing as an interim document.

8. Use of administrative data in PICTs / Roadmap for development of population registers

PSMB:

- i. noted that SDD is interested in supporting PICTs' development of administrative data through a new SDD section, Statistical Collections, headed by Michael Sharp; and
- ii. noted also that Stats NZ's new funding has a focus on administrative data;
- iii. recognised the advantage of having a national identification card or unique identifier when building a statistical register.

9. NSO software use survey

PSMB:

- i. recognised NSOs' request for continued training to build capacity in software use, while noting Kiribati's successful experience with online training in the lead-up to its last census.

10. NSO and UNFPA work on population data in Papua New Guinea

PSMB:

- i. expressed interest in the use of new technology and approaches for population estimation in PNG in place of its deferred census, noting that UNFPA may roll out the method to other PICTs if there is demand.

11. Dissemination and implementation of PSMB's work

PSMB:

- i. agreed that one of PSMB's urgent priorities should be to complete the last step of its work, i.e. dissemination and implementation in collaboration with NSOs.

12. Next PSMB meeting

The next PSMB meeting will be held back-to-back with the Pacific Statisticians Leadership Forum meeting, with the location and date to be advised.

Annex 2

List of participants

MEMBERS

Organisation/Country	Physical attendance	Virtual attendance
New Zealand	Mr Vince Galvin Chair Chief Methodologist, Statistical Methods vince.galvin@stats.govt.nz	
Tonga (Polynesia)	Sione Lolohea Deputy-Chair Acting Government Statistician slolohea@stats.gov.to	
Australia	Mr Anders Holmberg Chief Methodologist anders.holmberg@abs.gov.au Mr Ed Leslie Program Management Officer ed.leslie@abs.gov.au	Mr Andrew Knott Assistant Director andrew.knott@abs.gov.au
Fiji Islands (Melanesia)	Ms Maria Musudroka Chief Executive, Fiji Bureau of Statistics mariam@statsfiji.gov.fj	
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)		Mr James Kaphuka Statistics & Monitoring Specialist jkaphuka@unicef.org
Kiribati (representing Micronesia in place of Guam)	Ms Aritita Tekaieti Republic Statistician atekaieti@gmail.com	
Samoa (representing Small NSOs in place of Nauru)	Mr Leota Aliielua Salani ACEO - Finance Statistics SBS aliielua.salani@sbs.gov.ws	

OBSERVERS

Organisation/Country	Physical attendance	Virtual attendance
New Zealand	Mr Hannes Diener Senior Design Analyst hannes.diener@stats.govt.nz Dr Ofa Ketu'u Manager, Pacific Data Capability ofa.ketuu@stats.govt.nz Ms Tracey Savage Data Broker tracey.savage@stats.govt.nz Ms Nadine Kreitmeyr Advisor, Statistical Methods nadine.kreitmeyr@stats.govt.nz Mr Anapapa Mulitalo	

	<p>Design Analyst anapapa.mulitalo@stats.govt.nz</p> <p>Mr Matthew Flanagan Senior Design Analyst Matthew.flanagan@stat.govt.nz</p> <p>Ms Sandy Suei Manager – Research and Development sandy.suei@stats.govt.nz</p>	
Papua New Guinea		<p>Mr Josiah Joseph Deputy National Statistician jjoseph@nso.gov.pg</p> <p>Ms Hajily B. Kele Deputy National Statistician hkele@nso.gov.pg</p> <p>Mr John Igitoi Deputy National Statistician jigitoi@nso.gov.pg</p>
UNFPA		<p>Ms Mercedita Tia tia@unfpa.org</p> <p>Ms Marielle Sander Country Rep. sander@unfpa.org</p>
World Bank		<p>Mr Utz Pape Senior Economist, Poverty & Equity Global Practice upape@worldbank.org</p> <p>Mr Taufik Ramadhan Indrakesuma tindrakesuma@worldbank.org</p> <p>Mr Sharad Alan Tandon Senior Economist Poverty & Equity Global Practice standon3@worldbank.org</p>

SECRETARIAT

Organisation/Country	Physical attendance	Virtual attendance
<p>Pacific Community (SPC) Statistics for Development Division (SDD) Noumea, New Caledonia</p>	<p>Mr Peter Ellis Director, SDD petere@spc.int</p>	<p>Mr Michael Sharp Economic Statistics and Microdata Specialist michaels@spc.int</p> <p>Mr Andrea Borlizzi Statistics Advisor extandreab@spc.int</p> <p>Mr David Abbott Data Analysis and Dissemination davida@spc.int</p> <p>Mr Scott Pontifex Statistics Advisor scottp@spc.int</p>

		Mr Jean-Paul Zoyem Consultant, SPC Ms Sandra Gianini Finance and Administration Officer sandrag@spc.int
Rapporteur	Ms Angela Templeton New Zealand templetona@gmail.com	