

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY
THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 13–16 October 2008)

OVERVIEW REPORTS FOR 2008
WORK PROGRAMMES – DIVISIONAL OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

AGENDA ITEM 2.4 – SOCIAL RESOURCES DIVISION

(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This paper provides an overview of the programmes that together make up SPC's Social Resources Division (SRD): Human Development, Public Health, Statistics and Demography, the Regional Media Centre and the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT).
2. This has been a productive and successful year for the division with substantial growth in the scope, scale and complexity of initiatives implemented in 2008. In addition, new projects have been introduced, and the division has expanded through the hosting of RRRT, with effect from 1 July, and integration of the Suva-based Pacific Regional HIV Project (PRHP) within the HIV/STIs Section.
3. To sustain and consolidate the growth that has occurred at programme level within SRD, investment in systems and tools, strengthening of management and financial functions and an internal review of roles and responsibilities are the focus for the remainder of 2008 and into 2009. At the same time, possible structural changes to the division are being proposed as part of the progressive organisational reforms to be presented in Agenda Item 5.2.
4. In 2008, SRD has made increased efforts to align the delivery of its outputs to national priorities, as elaborated in national and sectoral strategies and in joint country strategies. As part of this alignment, programmes within the division are increasingly identifying opportunities for collaboration in cross-cutting areas.
5. A process of decentralisation of selected functions is underway and a number of staff positions have already been relocated to subregional offices and project countries. This process will continue through 2009 and is expected to result in improved and more timely delivery of services to PICTs.
6. SRD programmes are delivering outputs in line with strategic plans approved by CRGA and are reporting clear and measurable benefits to PICTs that support national development priorities. They are contributing strongly to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the objectives of the Pacific Plan. Early evidence of impact has been demonstrated for some MDGs.

7. Significant new or additional funding has been mobilised this year for and on behalf of member PICTs. As a result, the divisional budget is the highest ever for 2008 and onwards, enabling SRD to respond more effectively to the needs of the region. The most notable increase in funding has been within the Public Health Programme. The division's staff numbers have increased by 10 per cent, from 104 in 2007 to 119 as at July 2008, with a further increase predicted during the remainder of the year as new funding streams start and recruitment processes are concluded.
8. All SRD programmes held high-level consultations this year with major development partners and stakeholders to improve coordination and harmonisation of activities nationally, regionally and internationally. Programmes continue to advocate strongly on issues of direct relevance to PICTs at international and regional forums.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. CRGA is invited to;
 - i. discuss and note the work of the Social Resources Division during 2008;
 - ii. note the substantial increase in funding for the Public Health Programme much of which will be of direct benefit to members;
 - iii. provide guidance to the work of the division as considered necessary; and
 - iv. provide inputs as necessary to the draft strategic plan for the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT).
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SOCIAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Purpose and background

1. The Social Resources Division (SRD) is the largest of the three divisions within SPC. SRD's work encompasses public health, statistics and demography, human development (youth, gender, culture, community education), media and human rights. It has a staff of 119 and a revised 2008 budget of 22.5 million CFP units which is expected to grow by a further 59 per cent to 35.9 million CFP units in 2009. Most of this growth will be in the Public Health Programme (PHP), more specifically through new Global Fund grants. SRD currently has an on-the-ground presence in 10 member countries and territories, and this is set to increase further during the remainder of 2008.
2. This paper summarises the key divisional and programme level inputs and contributions in support of PICT priorities during 2008, and provides details of the human and financial resources utilised by SRD to undertake this work. The following annexes give more details on the work of individual programmes:
 - Public Health Programme report (CRGA 38 Paper 2.4.1 Annex 1)
 - Human Development Program report (CRGA 38 Paper 2.4.2 Annex 2)
 - Statistics and Demography report (CRGA 38 Paper 2.4.3 Annex 3)
 - Regional Media Centre report (CRGA 38 Paper 2.4.4 Annex 4)
 - Regional Rights Resource Team report (CRGA 38 Paper 2.4.5 Annex 5)
 - RRRT proposed Strategic Plan for CRGA endorsement (CRGA 38 Paper 2.4.6 Annex 6)
3. Other papers to be presented to CRGA under Policy Agenda items 3, 4 and 5 also impact on the work of SRD.

ACHIEVEMENT OF SRD PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

4. The SRD's mission is *to maximize the development potential of Pacific Island people in health, culture and information and enhance the empowerment of women and young people*. The division does not have an integrated strategic plan. Three of its programmes and the Regional Media Centre have CRGA-approved strategic plans, while RRRT is presenting its first strategic plan for CRGA endorsement this year. The following provides highlights of each programme's achievements under its objectives.

Public Health Programme

5. The Public Health Programme (PHP) is the single largest programme within SRD. It has experienced rapid growth throughout 2007–2008, while its management structure has remained the same size. PHP has a staff of 61 and a revised 2008 budget of 16.9 million CFP units, which is forecast to increase further to 27.7 million CFP units in 2009 (including adolescent health and development), although most of this funding is project based. A significant proportion of the overall budget is channelled to PICTs in support of in-country implementation of work plans and activities. However, the overall growth in the budget has not been reflected equitably in PHP core or programme funding, which needs to be reviewed.
6. In response to the challenges associated with PHP's rapid growth, internal systems are being strengthened and there is increased emphasis on building management capacity within the programme. A review of PHP's organisational structure is currently underway and a central health management team is being recruited to provide certain cross-cutting and common services across all sections.
7. The programme is guided by its 2006–2009 strategic plan and the PHP Review Implementation Plan, which was finalised in February 2008 in response to the findings of the independent review of PHP presented to CRGA in 2006. The strategic plan is implemented through seven sections¹, the newest of which is the Health Management Section (inception – August 2008), which supports the cross-cutting functions of the programme.
8. The strategic plan is nearing its end and PHP is embarking on a new planning cycle informed by the 2006 PHP Review and stakeholder consultations. An important element of the revised strategy will be a shift away from a purely 'disease focused' approach to a whole-of-health approach encompassing health determinants outside of the health sector that impact on health. An overview of the general strategic direction will be presented in Agenda Item 3.6 for CRGA's consideration.
9. External mid-term reviews were conducted on three projects during 2008 – the Pacific Regional Influenza Pandemic Preparedness project (PRIPPP), ADB regional HIV grant, and Kiribati community DOTS project funded by AusAID. Recommendations and lessons learned are being incorporated into the revised design and management approach for the remainder of the projects' life cycle.
10. PHP has had problems at times in obtaining timely access to the country-level disease data needed to meet the various monitoring and reporting obligations included in its strategic plan and regional strategic plans (i.e. the Pacific Regional HIV Strategy), with a number of PICTs being two years behind in providing the necessary data. To address this situation, PHP has been developing a draft data sharing agreement between SPC and PICTs. CRGA assistance is sought to enable these agreements to be transacted at country level.

¹ Tuberculosis, HIV & STIs, Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Healthy Pacific Lifestyles, Adolescent Health and Development, and Health Management Sections.

11. Harmonisation of public health programmes with other regional organisations is a priority for PHP. A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), recently negotiated and signed with the World Health Organization, places increased emphasis on joint planning, sharing of resources and information and prioritisation of work plans. Similar MOUs are under negotiation with UNFPA, UNICEF, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Commonwealth Secretariat.
12. A snapshot of achievements against objectives is provided below.

Strategic Objective 1: Prevent, control and manage communicable and non-communicable diseases

13. Avian and pandemic influenza remains a potential threat to the Pacific. Immunofluorescence testing for influenza has now been expanded to 14 sites with the inclusion of four new ones this year (American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Wallis & Futuna). Sentinel surveillance activities have also been established. Antiviral rapid test kits for diagnosis of avian influenza in bird stocks and personal protective equipment have been procured and delivered in PICTs to assist in immediate responses to avian and pandemic influenza. A short field epidemiology training program (data decision making) has been conducted in Fiji and Solomon Islands, while a global salmonella surveillance workshop has been conducted in PNG.
14. The high incidence of malaria in Solomon Islands is contributing to low levels of economic growth due to lost productivity and is a disincentive for development of the tourism sector. Interventions funded through the Global Fund since 2003 have been instrumental in reducing the incidence of malaria in the Solomon Islands from 199/1000 (2003) to 128.5/1000 (2008), and in Vanuatu from 74/1000 to 23/1000 during the same period. Diagnostic coverage in Solomon Islands has increased to 63 per cent of all registered health facilities (early 2008) covering 70 per cent of the population, while in Vanuatu, diagnostic coverage through microscopy services remains at around 11 per cent covering 30 per cent of the population. For both countries, diagnostic coverage is expected to increase to close to 100 per cent during 2009 with the roll out of rapid diagnostic tests (RDT).
15. HIV prevalence in PICTs remains at low levels (with the exception of PNG which is classed as a having a generalised epidemic). Training in HIV counselling has been conducted in PICTs during 2008, and a survey of 29 VCCT (voluntary confidential counselling and testing) sites has been completed in Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Niue, Palau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to inform future interventions aimed at strengthening the delivery of counselling services. Laboratory training in Dynal CD4 count testing was provided, with transport guidelines for STI/HIV samples developed for Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Technical support was provided for the development of BCC (behaviour change communication) materials for the 18th Pacific Games and for Marshall Islands, FSM and Nauru (in school and out of school youth, pregnant women). Rates of STIs remain high across the region, signifying risky behaviour that could lead to increased transmission of HIV. A pilot Chlamydia testing and treatment programme integrating data management, routine surveillance and laboratory strengthening activities has been initiated in Cook Islands, Nauru and Solomon Islands.

16. Tuberculosis represents an emerging threat to PICTs with an increasing number of cases of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) being diagnosed. Workshops to strengthen the implementation of national DOTS (directly observed treatment, short-course) strategies have been conducted in Tuvalu, Marshall Islands and Chuuk (FSM), and contact tracing workshops have been conducted in Kiribati, Tonga and Palau during 2008. Assistance was provided to the national TB programme in Solomon Islands to develop a proposal for consideration through SWAP (sector-wide approach) to address a major funding shortfall resulting from their unsuccessful bid to the Global Fund for Round 7 funding assistance.
17. A study of baseline knowledge, attitudes and practices was conducted in Fiji prior to commencing family life education (FLE) interventions, while FLE was introduced in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tuvalu.

Strategic objective 2: Enhanced public health systems in countries, including management and infrastructure

18. Significant new funds have been mobilised on behalf of members during 2008 to strengthen public health systems:
 - A Pacific Regional HIV Response fund to support implementation of the 2009–2013 regional plan and national interventions is being established with funding already secured from AusAID (A\$28 million) and NZAID (NZ\$7.5 million) over five years.
 - In close collaboration with WHO, support was provided to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to develop and submit a proposal for a scaled-up response to malaria during the period 2009–2014 as part of the new malaria strategies developed. The six-year US \$39 million proposal was approved by the Global Fund, with the first three years of funding amounting to US \$21 million currently under negotiation.
 - HIV and TB interventions received a significant boost in new funding through the Global Fund following the successful submission of multi-country, five year proposals valued at US \$25.3 million (HIV) and US \$13.3 million (TB), with the first two years of funding amounting to US \$10.7 million (HIV) and US \$5.6 million (TB) already secured through a grant agreement.
 - Funding to improve capacity to address the heavy burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in PICTs and to implement the Pacific Framework on NCDs has been secured for up to four years through AusAID (SPC AU \$15 million – WHO AU \$3.5 million) and NZAID (SPC NZ \$2 million – WHO NZ \$4 million). The programme is currently in its inception phase with the Joint Steering Committee now being finalised prior to implementation.

19. In Solomon Islands, 45 community microscopy laboratories were re-equipped and renovated through Global Fund funding and *pro bono* labour provided by Australian members of Rotary against Malaria. GIS mapping of malaria was expanded to Guadalcanal Province during 2008. The results are proving useful for better targeting of interventions based on the raw data that is routinely collected from all registered health facilities with diagnostic capacity.
20. Centres for the management and treatment of HIV positive persons on anti-retroviral treatment (ART) have been expanded to now cover 16 hubs in eight PICT's after a roll out of training and support in Yap and Palau during 2008. Salary support for a fulltime pharmacist position was provided to Fiji Pharmaceutical Services, which hosts the regional pooled procurement facility for anti-retroviral drugs and HIV test consumables.
21. Financial and technical support was provided for repeat SGS (second-generation surveillance) surveys in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to determine the effectiveness of current prevention strategies and to inform countries on modifications that might be required. Seafarer drop-in centres have been established in Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Youth-friendly Adolescent Health and Development (AHD) services (incorporating HIV and STI services) were established in Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tonga. Support was provided to NGO clinics delivering adolescent health services in Tonga, Marshall Islands and Samoa.
22. Support for meeting the requirements of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and Asian Pacific Strategy on Emerging Diseases (APSED) was provided in PICTS.

Human Development Programme

23. The Human Development Programme (HDP) achieved full staffing capacity during 2008 and is into its first full year of implementation of the strategic programme plan approved by CRGA in 2007. A major emphasis during the year has been on establishing strategic partnerships regionally and internationally as well as internally across SRD programmes and with other divisions.
24. HDP has a staff of 18 spread across Noumea, Suva, Honiara, Tarawa and Pohnpei, and a revised 2008 budget of 2.73 million CFP units. The work of the HDP is supported through Australia, France, New Zealand, UNFPA, New Caledonia, French Polynesia and other development partners.
25. The programme collaborates closely with other programmes within SRD and the other two divisions within SPC to mainstream gender, culture, youth and community-based approaches in all SPC initiated interventions.
26. The work of the HDP is guided by its 2008–2012 strategic plan and by the outcomes of the joint country strategies being developed and implemented by SPC as part of ensuring greater alignment between programmes and national priorities. Priorities for the programme during this plan period are to enhance human development in PICTs by:

- fostering an integrated approach to human development at regional and local levels;
 - mainstreaming youth, gender and culture in development and governance policy at regional, national and local level;
 - producing and disseminating information, including research findings, in multimedia forms to promote and support human development approaches; and
 - strengthening and building partnerships and networks with community, faith-based and civil society groups to enhance their role in human development policy processes.
27. As part of efforts to strengthen partnerships with the community and civil society, HDP renewed its capacity building and mentoring role with the Pacific Youth Council supported by the AusAID Pacific Leadership Programme, entered into a MOU with the Commonwealth Youth Programme, and is providing ongoing technical and capacity support to the Pacific Arts Alliance.
28. The programme hosted partner and stakeholder discussions with two major development partners as a means of improving coordination and collaboration regionally and at country level on implementation of youth and gender-related development commitments.
29. A study of the Community Education Training Centre (CETC) was commissioned to look at best practice community development approaches and how these can be incorporated into CETC's training programme and mode of delivery. The draft report, which is under consideration, concluded that CETC in its previous role appeared to have performed very well. In terms of CETC's redefined role, the study recommends standard setting, integrating courses and hiring professional staff on an in-service basis. These recommendations, which include hiring a short-term community development specialist with Pacific project experience to assist strengthening CETC's community development emphasis and processes, have budgetary and resource implications.
30. A snapshot of some of HPD's achievements against its objectives is provided below:

Strategic Objective 1: To assist in the adoption and implementation of an integrated approach to social policy, programmes and services

31. The development of a policy on Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture and implementation of a Model Law at national level was undertaken in collaboration with PIFS, SPREP and WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization). A work program was developed and funding secured for six PICTs over an 18 month period.
32. In regard to intellectual property issues surrounding the Festival of Pacific Arts, a work plan was prepared together with WIPO for the development of media kits and festival rights.

33. Technical and financial support was provided to Nauru, American Samoa, FSM and Niue to review/develop national youth policies and strategic plans.
34. Progress was made in strengthening the Council of Pacific Arts so that it is better able to set, implement and monitor cultural policy in the region, develop a regional cultural strategy as mandated in the Pacific Plan, and fulfil its role in evaluating the Festival of Pacific Arts and culture and education. The Council of Pacific Arts participated in the Forum's Basic Education Action Plan review process.

Strategic Objective 2: To build national-level capacity to respond to human and social development needs

35. Thirty-four women from 14 PICTs are currently studying towards Certificate Level II in Community Development Studies during CETC's seven-month residential course. The certificate comprises modules in community development and management, nutrition and health, households and livelihoods and training of trainers. Extra credits can be gained towards further qualifications in the following areas: multimedia communication (basic radio programming and broadcasting, graphics, information technology), microenterprise development, basic accounting for non accountants, health and development, food preservation, and paper making.
36. Thirty-five researchers in Kiribati and 55 in Solomon Islands were trained to conduct 6-month national qualitative and quantitative surveys on gender sensitisation and child abuse, using WHO methodology. Country teams were trained to operate country offices, conduct research, hold multi-sectoral stakeholder consultations, and plan, operate and manage complex logistical field work.
37. In partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat, local level training in small enterprise skills (business planning and development) was conducted for around 233 women and men in Tonga, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, FSM, PNG and Tuvalu. A scoping mission is currently underway to determine how best to strengthen the enterprise trainer networks that CETC has established and to consolidate capacity building programmes for entrepreneurs.

Strategic Objective 3: Increased collaboration with SPC technical programmes on human development initiatives

38. Technical support was provided to American Samoa for the planning, preparation and execution of the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts in collaboration with other programmes within SPC. This support included promoting extensive media coverage of the Festival and assisting with quarantine matters through SPC's Land Resources Division (LRD).
39. A regional youth stakeholders meeting resulted in MOU being signed between the Pacific Youth Council, AusAID Pacific Leadership Programme and SPC to support and strengthen the Pacific Youth Council Secretariat.

40. Training components on agriculture and adolescent health and development are being delivered in collaboration with LRD and PHP (Adolescent Health and Development and Healthy Pacific Lifestyle Sections) as part of CETC's seven-month residential course. HDP collaborates closely with LRD on work relating to sustainable agriculture and traditional foods.

Strategic Objective 4: To strengthen knowledge and approaches for improved human development

41. Comprehensive research on gender-based violence and child abuse has been completed in Kiribati and Solomon Islands. The data will help improve decision making, planning and monitoring in relation to these issues. The programme has worked closely with SPC's Statistics and Demography Programme in carrying out the research and will work with PHP in 2009 on interventions. Vanuatu, Tonga and Cook Islands have been assisted by HDP in planning and seeking funding for research on gender-based violence.
42. HDP is increasingly recognised as an information hub for resources related to human development issues in the Pacific. Mail list servers have been established to assist in disseminating and sharing information on a range of subjects. HDP regularly provides media and stakeholder releases to update SPC members and the wider region on relevant events and activities.

Statistics and Demography Programme

43. The Statistics and Demography Programme (SDP) provides technical assistance, training and capacity supplementation across a broad spectrum of activities related to population censuses, household surveys and administrative databases. Activities range from project design and inception to dissemination of data.
44. SDP has a staff of 13 based in Noumea, and a 2008 budget of 1.9 million CFP units. Both the budget and staff numbers are expected to grow during 2009. The work of SDP is supported through AusAID, NZAID, France, UNFPA and other development partners.
45. SDP's work is guided by its 2006–2008 strategic plan, which was endorsed by CRGA in 2005. It is also influenced by regional Heads of Statistics meetings, commitments under the joint country strategies and other mechanisms to ensure that work plans are aligned to national and regional priorities.
46. SDP has developed a comprehensive strategic concept note that is currently under discussion with development partners to develop a multi-year statistical collection and development programme, including a planned rather than ad hoc approach to key household surveys. If supported, this programme will provide PICTs with a core set of common development indicators across key sectors that will form the basis for regular monitoring and reporting of progress.
47. A snapshot of some of SDP's achievements against its objectives is provided below.

Strategic Objective 1: Good quality, timely economic, population and social data for PICTs

48. Technical assistance was provided to develop operational plans for Samoa and Tonga household income and expenditure surveys (the Tonga HIES included budget preparation and sourcing of funding).
49. Four draft comprehensive national demographic and health survey reports for Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Nauru and Tuvalu will be completed by the end of 2008 and are expected to be published in 2008 and 2009. They will be accompanied by concise fact sheets addressing critical data and information gaps pertaining to national population and health policy development and progress monitoring.
50. An economic statistician has recently been recruited in response to requests by our membership and key stakeholders for SPC to provide support for collection and analysis of economic data. This move will enable SPC to produce more regular poverty analyses and purchasing power parity(PPP) benchmarking, and to assist countries in more regular and timely compilation of national accounts and other important macro-economic statistics.
51. In close collaboration with HDP, Solomon Islands and Kiribati were assisted (8 person weeks of input) with the design, implementation, data processing and analysis of a gender-based violence and child abuse survey.
52. An analytical census report was prepared for Tonga and draft demographic health survey reports were produced for Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands, following on from technical assistance on report writing provided to Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Nauru.

Strategic Objective 2: Increased accessibility of data and other key NSS outputs through innovative technology such as PopGIS and PRISM

53. Technical support has been provided to existing PopGIS clients (Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna) to ensure ongoing use by national staff. PopGIS systems were developed for Tonga and New Caledonia, and an 'Introduction to PopGIS' training course was conducted for 12 people in New Caledonia during June 2008.
54. More systematic integration of GIS/GPS applications with census planning was achieved in Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Similar support pertained to new household surveys (e.g. GBV studies) in Kiribati and Solomon Islands and HIES planning in Samoa and Tonga.
55. Most national statistics offices (NSO) have produced their main statistical reports, with Fiji and Cook Islands also listing the statistical classifications they have adopted. NSO websites have improved links to other relevant government departments and institutions.

56. PRISM websites have been updated in Palau and PNG and have been supported through training of new webmasters.

Strategic Objective 3: More effective utilisation of data and information for evidence-based decision-making

57. On-going support was provided to the Solomon Islands Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (VBDCP) in close collaboration with PHP to map the incidence of malaria and impact of prevention and control strategies. The outputs of the GIS mapping resulted in improved targeting of interventions. Technical input was provided to a consortium of partners comprising WHO, PacMISC and VBDCP in both Solomon Islands and Vanuatu during a meeting held in Brisbane/Honiara to develop a malaria M & E framework.
58. In collaboration with the UN Pacific Center, a statistical annex for the Pacific Human Development Report 2008, including estimates of 15 human development indices (HDIs), was compiled.

Regional Media Centre

59. The Regional Media Centre (RMC) has two roles: (1) provision of media training and capacity supplementation to government, private and community sectors of PICTs; and (2) provision of media production services, on a cost recovery basis, for PICTs and SPC programmes. CROP agencies are able to access media production and training services when RMC has spare capacity ('media' include radio, television, graphics and multimedia technology).
60. RMC has a staff of 13 and a revised 2008 budget of 470,000 CFP units. The budget and staffing numbers are forecast to increase modestly in 2009. The work of RMC is guided by its 2008–2011 strategic plan which was endorsed by CRGA in 2007.
61. Throughout 2008, RMC continued to work closely with other SPC programmes and divisions, CROP and UN agencies and NGOs to produce a range of documentary and training videos for PICTs. A highlight of 2008 was the work undertaken in support of the Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa where, for the first time, daily television broadcast coverage was provided.
62. A brief snapshot of RMC's achievements against its objectives is provided below.

Strategic Objective 1: Production, promotion and preservation of media products made about and for the Pacific.

63. High-quality monthly production of the popular Pacific Way television programme and Pacific Way and Forum Report radio programmes has continued throughout 2008. The programmes are circulated to radio and television stations throughout the region. A notable success is the regular airing of the Pacific Way television programme on Air Pacific's in-flight entertainment system.

64. Media production services were provided to NGOs, inter-government agencies, UN agencies, CROP agencies and SPC programmes. A short and long version of a video showing SPC's work was also completed this year.

Strategic Objective 2: Increased capacity to use the media in government, community and private sectors of PICTs

65. Multi-media and radio broadcast training continues to be an integral sub-component of the seven-month residential CETC training programme, with 34 students from 15 PICTs producing and broadcasting radio programmes on a local radio station hosted at CETC.
66. Support was given to further develop the video production skills of staff of Cook Islands Ministry of Education, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Cook Islands TV, and to the Fiji Ministry of Fijian Affairs to establish an audio-visual unit.

Regional Rights Resource Team

67. Following the decision by SPC's Conference in November 2007 to host the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), its transition from the UNDP Pacific Centre to SPC was concluded on 1 July 2008 with the support of both organisations. RRRT then became the fifth programme under SRD. RRRT is based in Suva, Fiji.
68. RRRT is a technical advisory and training team specialising in human rights and governance issues. Work on these issues at the policy level will be undertaken in partnership with PIFS.
69. A focus of RRRT during the transition period has been the development of a strategic plan covering the period 2008–2012. While settling into SPC, the team has continued to provide its programme of support and services to the region as detailed in its current strategic plan.
70. A draft strategic plan is presented as Annex 2.4.6 to this report for CRGA consideration and in-principle endorsement. The plan will be finalised after CRGA following further stakeholder consultation.
71. A report on RRRT's activities prior to being hosted by SPC is presented as an Annex 2.4.5 to this report, but is not commented on here.
72. RRRT is working on a number of joint programming initiatives in close collaboration with other programmes within SPC, including the PHP HIV & STI Section and HDP.

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY SRD TO ACHIEVE THE MDGs

73. SRD programmes implement a range of strategies, through the delivery of costed activities, which contribute towards the achievement of the MDGs across the region. Of note is the early impact that is evident in a number of MDGs. Table 1, which is appended to this report, describes some of the initiatives undertaken.

Initiatives relating to climate change

74. This is a relatively new area of interest and policy concern for SRD, with initiatives being more forward looking as part of future strategic directions for the various programmes that make up the division.
75. Together with LRD, SRD recently made a presentation at a WHO meeting on health and climate change to draw attention to the particular concerns of the Pacific region and the fragile ecosystems of small island states.
76. As part of its new planning cycle, PHP is placing increased emphasis on the wider determinants of health, including the effects of climate change and the quality of the physical environment (see CRGA Paper 3.6).
77. SDP will be embarking on a new initiative to provide current and future *population-at-risk estimates* regarding adverse weather outcomes (tidal surges, tsunamis, cyclones) and climatic changes (sea-level rise) for PICTs, using regularly updated population projections and spatial data (satellite imagery, aerial photographs).
78. Some PHP sections have already integrated climate change issues into their priority activities. For example, dengue is likely to become an even larger problem with climate change. As dengue is also one of the priority diseases of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network, a regional project to support dengue vector surveillance and control has been developed with the Institute Pasteur of New Caledonia.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY SRD TO THE PACIFIC PLAN

79. SDP will be compiling a core set of critical development indicators (including environment) across key sectors for all countries, as part of SPC's mandate to coordinate statistical activities and development under the Pacific Plan.
80. SDP is also directly involved in two key Pacific Plan strategic objectives and associated activities: statistical development (12.4) and urbanization (13.5). As regional coordinator of statistical activities and development under the Pacific Plan, SDP is engaged in two major activities:
 - joint implementation with PIFS of a current statistical benchmarking study; and
 - compilation of a core set of critical development indicators across key sectors for all PICTs, as outlined above.

81. PHP continues to contribute towards aspects of the Pacific Plan. A major consideration during the design of the Round 7 HIV and TB proposals for Global Fund consideration was to ensure harmonisation with various regional plans (PRSIP and the Stop TB strategy). The HIV & STI Section has contributed to the development of the regional HIV strategy and its implementation. The Healthy Pacific Lifestyle Section has been largely responsible for the development with WHO of the regional NCD framework, the implementation of which is built on the principle of 22 PICTs, 1 plan, 2 agencies working in partnership. Through the Global Fund HIV grant, a regional pooled procurement facility has been established and is being hosted by Fiji Pharmaceutical Services to support the procurement of anti-retroviral treatment and STI drugs.
82. RRRT contributes to objective 12.5 of the Pacific Plan by focusing on providing support at the national level for countries that have ratified and implemented international and regional conventions. Support has included the provision of training in Kiribati and Solomon Islands during this last quarter, and support on reporting requirements, such as the support, training and mentoring provided to Tuvalu on the Universal Periodic Review documents.
83. HDP contributes to objective 7 of the Pacific Plan through such initiatives as its input to the regional education plan (Forum Basic Education Action Plan – FBEAP) review and engagement on TVET issues.

SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

84. SRD has grown significantly in terms of the scope, scale and complexity of its programmes, which make up SPC's largest division. Significantly, the challenges the division faces in PICTs have also grown.
85. For PHP, the main challenges can be summarised as follows:
 - Significant growth in donor funding has ironically created a shift from the problem of having insufficient funds to address needs, to the problem of trying to absorb and effectively utilise the funding available, while recognising that lack of capacity at country level is often a major constraint.
 - An urgent overhaul of PHP's organisational structure is required. The direction of the previous strategic plan, coupled with inflows of donor funding, has reinforced a disease-focused approach where pockets of duplicate support functions exist across several sections, making a 'whole-of-health systems' approach difficult to implement.
 - PHP's human resources provide technical skills in health, but management skills and systems have not kept pace with the programme's expansion.

86. For SDP, the main challenges will be its ability to consolidate and strengthen its human resources base and develop a long-term programme of statistical collections (population censuses and household surveys) and compilations (administrative databases) in collaboration with development partners.
87. Internationally, the Pacific region has the lowest ratification of, and compliance with international human rights conventions. Therefore one of the main challenges for RRRT is to ensure the relevance of international and regional mechanisms to PICT leaders and policy makers and to support PICTs in fulfilling the often burdensome reporting and ratification requirements. In addition, RRRT now needs to expand its services to the Northern Pacific, which will require additional funding.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES UTILISED BY SRD

88. SRD has experienced significant growth in terms of the resources available to its various programmes for the delivery of services to member countries. Table 1 summarises the growth in staff numbers between 2006 and 2008, while Table 2 summarises the financial resources progressively used by the division over the same period.

Table 1. SRD human resources

	2006	2007	2008
HDP	14	16	18
PHP	34	55	61
RMC	14	11	11
SDP	12	16	13
RRRT	-	-	11
Total	74	98	119

Table 2: SRD budget resources (CFP units).

	2006	2007	2008
HDP	1,695,859	2,507,698	3,303,000
PHP	9,668,988	9,104,076	16,862,300
RMC	493,422	302,652	470,500
SDP	2,861,862	2,583,726	1,900,800
RRRT	N/A	N/A	840,400
Total	14,720,131	14,498,152	23,377,000

Table 3. SRD’s contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals

MDG number	Target	Initiatives	Impact
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Target 1 Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day Target 2 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people Target 3 Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Business enterprise training provided to over 200 men and women CETC residential training includes a component on traditional food and small scale food production SDP increasing its capacity to assist PIC’s monitoring of poverty and PPP benchmarking through the recruitment of an economic statistician AHD component of the PHP is promoting smaller families and longer birth intervals	
2. Achieve universal primary education	Target 1: Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling	SDP – compilation of MDG indicators	
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	Target 1: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education	HDP - Comprehensive input into the regional education plan (Forum Basic Education Action Plan - FBEAP). CETC training includes components on women and leadership. Gender violence studies conducted in Kiribati and Solomons. Building capacity for gender mainstreaming, including within SPC. SDP – compilation of MDG indicators	

<p>4. Reduce child mortality</p>	<p>Target 1 Reduce by two thirds the under five mortality</p>	<p>PHP, through the GF malaria component grant distributes bednets free of charge to pregnant women and children under five. Revised treatment guidelines now make pre-referral treatment with ACT suppositories available for children under five with severe malaria. Paediatric Anti-retroviral treatment available free of charge for children who are HIV positive that require treatment PMTCT is available for pregnant HIV + women SDP – compilation of MDG indicators</p>	<p>Some reduction in child mortality through malaria noted in SI 3 children currently on life saving ART</p>
<p>5. Improve maternal health</p>	<p>Target 1 Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality rate Target 2 Achieve universal access to reproductive health</p>	<p>PHP through the AHD advocates against unplanned and high risk pregnancies Intermittent Preventive Therapy (IPT) trial currently underway in SI to reduce the impact of malaria during pregnancy SDP – compilation of MDG indicators</p>	

<p>6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</p>	<p>Target 1: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</p> <p>Target 2: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it</p> <hr/> <p>Target 3: Have halted and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</p>	<p>PHP has progressively rolled out training for treatment and care providers to most PIC's</p> <p>Anti-retroviral treatment is being provided free of cost to HIV + patients who require it Expansion of prevention, behavioural change and testing and counselling services</p> <p>Malaria control and prevention initiatives funded in the SI and Vanuatu.</p>	<p>Universal access in all PIC SIS's has been achieved (where there are sufficient patient numbers) through the establishment of 16 treatment hubs 47 HIV + persons currently on life-prolonging ART</p> <p>Annual malaria parasite incidence rate in SI has declined from 199/1,000 (2003) to 128.5/1,000 (early 2008) and from 74/1,000 to 23/1,000 in Vanuatu</p>
<p>7. Ensure environmental sustainability</p>	<p>Target 3: Halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation</p> <p>Target 4: Improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020</p>	<p>SDP – compilation of MDG indicators PHP new strategic plan currently being developed will include a range of strategies related to environmental health</p>	

<p>8. Develop a global partnership for development</p>	<p>Target 1: Address the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states</p> <p>Target 4: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth</p> <p>Target 5: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries</p>	<p>All programmes within the SRD are developed specifically with SIS's in mind. All programmes have participated on JCS visits and are aligning their strategies and workplans to national priorities</p> <p>HDP is working together with the LRD on youth in agriculture project and has contributed to the review of 2 national youth strategies this year</p> <p>PHP provides financial support for the regional pooled procurement facility hosted at the Fiji Pharmaceutical Services for the regional procurement of ARV's and STI drugs.</p>	
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