

Pacific Sub-Regional Perspective

The View from the Pacific on the FOC Group Recommendations

Presented by the Statistics for Development Division
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Pacific regional perspective on the future of economic statistics

Outline

- Statistical Capacity in Pacific
- Development of “Pacific” Statistical Indicators
- Measuring Pacific Inequality of Income, Wellbeing and Opportunity
- Sustainability and Trust in Pacific Statistics
- Delivering Better Policies for Better Lives for the People of the Pacific

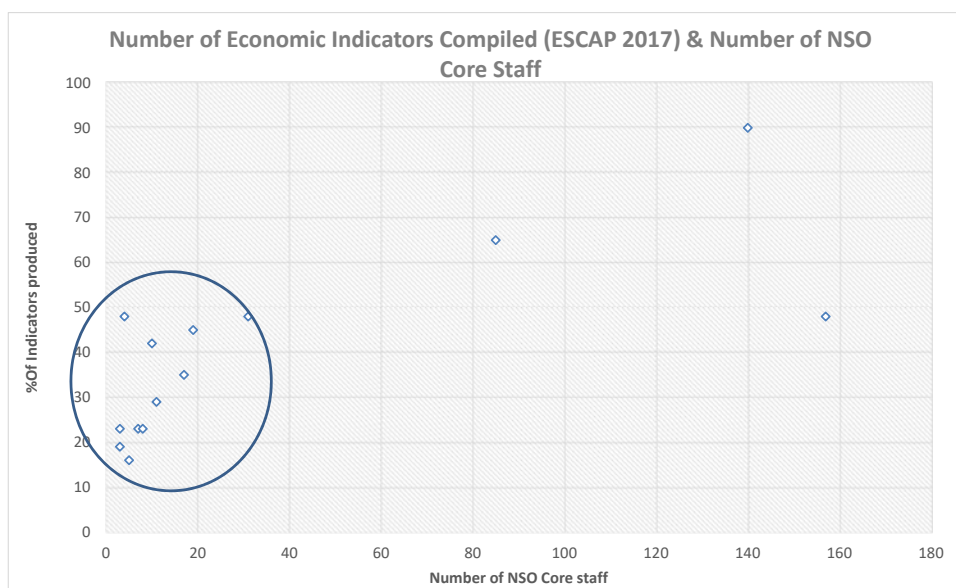
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Statistical Capacity in Pacific

- Pacific NSOs are under-resourced both financially and in technical capacity

ESCAP 2017 Capacity Assessment for Economic Statistics					
Results for the Pacific Island Countries					
Total number of Asia-Pacific indicators to be compiled:				31	
Indicators compiled:	Pacific Island Nations producing the core set of indicators		Pacific Island Nations who met the recommended frequency in producing the core set indicators		
	Country	Number	%	Number	%
	Tuvalu	5	16	1	20
	Nauru	6	19	1	17
	American Samoa	7	23	2	29
	Niue	7	23	2	29
	CNMI	7	23	2	29
	Kiribati	9	29	3	33
	Guam	11	35	4	36
	Cook Islands	13	42	2	15
	FSM	14	45	4	29
	Marshall	15	48	4	27
	PNG	15	48	11	73
	Vanuatu	15	48	7	47
	Samoa	20	65	15	75
	Fiji	28	90	18	64

Statistical Capacity in the Pacific Region



Statistical Capacity in the Pacific

- Sources of technical assistance to Pacific NSOs; it might seem a lot but most source agencies only have one or two staff in each sector covering all 22 PICTs.

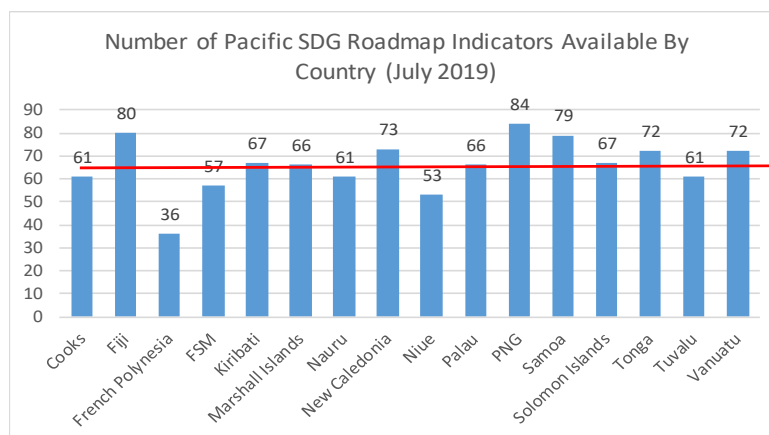
Principal Pacific-Based Technical Assistance Providers in Economic Statistics			
Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC-IMF)	Pacific Community (SPC)	ESCAP Pacific Office	University of the South Pacific (USP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Financial Management • Financial Sector Supervision • Government Finance Statistics • Real sector Statistics • Revenue Administration • Legal/tax Policy • Macroeconomic Programming and Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population & Housing Census (with UNFPA) • Household Income & Expenditure Surveys (HIES) • Labour Force Surveys (LFS)(with ILO) • Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) (with UNICEF) • Agriculture Surveys (with FAO) • Trade & tourism • Prices • Vital Statistics • SDG indicator monitoring & VNRs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPIC Tool • SDG Indicators & VNRs • Oceans Accounts • SEEA <p>Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Finance • Climate Finance <p>World Bank</p> <p>Poverty Statistics</p> <p>HIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Statistics Course <p>Australian Bureau of Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade • Prices • National Accounts <p>Statistics New Zealand</p> <p>Support to Cook Islands, Niue & Tokelau</p> <p>US Graduate School</p> <p>National Accounts for Palau, Micronesia and Marshall Islands</p>



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Development of Statistical Indicators

- There are an estimated 20 Pacific Regional Conventions/Agreements all with their own indicator frameworks for monitoring and reporting; plus around a dozen or more Global reporting requirements, including the SDGs.
- These place a huge burden on the small NSOs
- Pacific has identified 132 of the 232 SDG Indicators as the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development, but at the present time countries are only reporting on an average of 50% of these indicators.



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Measuring Inequality of Income, Wellbeing and Opportunity, recent results from HIES

- HIES, labour force surveys & MICS every five years, census every 5-10 years.
- Recently begun to measure both SDG 1.2.2 using multidimensional deprivation module in HIES Questionnaires, as well as 1.2.1 and 1.1.1 with assistance from World Bank.

Basic-Needs Poverty Incidence: SDG 1.2.1				
Country	Previous	Survey Date	Most Recent	Survey Date
Cook Islands	28.4	2006	..	..
Federated States of Micronesia	29.9	2007	41.0	2013
Fiji Islands	35.2	2008/09	34.0	2013
Kiribati	21.8	2006	..	..
Marshall Islands	52.7	2002	36.6	2011
Nauru	..	..	24.0	2013
Niue	13.0	2002	..	..
Palau	24.9	2006	16.9	2014
Papua New Guinea	37.5	1996	39.9	2009/10
Samoa	26.9	2008	18.8	2013
Solomon Islands	22.7	2005/06	12.7	2013
Tonga	22.5	2009	24.3	2016
Tuvalu	21.2	2004/05	26.3	2010
Vanuatu	13.0	2006	12.7	2010

Sources: National Poverty Reports from Household Income and Expenditure Surveys; RMI 2012 based on partial HIES, 2011 based on census income estimates.

.. No data available

Gini Coefficients (Household Level)						
	Even Earlier		Earlier		Latest	
	Household Gini	Reference Year (earliest)	Household Gini	Reference Year (earlier)	Household Gini	Reference Year (latest)
Cook Is	..	..	0.38	2005/06	..	..
Fiji Is	0.38	2003	0.41	2009	0.36	2013
FSM	0.47	1998	0.27	2005	0.40	2013
Kiribati	..	..	0.39	2006	..	..
Nauru	..	..	0.67	2006	0.37	2013/14
Niue	..	..	0.34	2002	..	..
Palau	..	..	0.25	2005/06	0.26	2014
PNG	0.51	1996	..	..	0.42	2009
Samoa	0.43	2002	0.47	2008	0.56	2013/14
Solomon Is	..	..	0.39	2006	0.37	2013
Tonga	0.23	2001	0.24	2009	..	..
Tuvalu	..	..	0.24	2004/05	0.34	2010
Vanuatu	..	..	0.41	2006	0.31	2010

Sources: UNDP National Poverty Reports various dates; East Asia and Pacific Country Briefs World Bank April 2014

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Measuring Inequality of Income, Wellbeing and Opportunity

- More than 20,000 Pacific Islanders now working in Australia and New Zealand under seasonal/temporary worker programmes
- Vanuatu (approx. 8,000), Tonga (approx. 4,750) and Samoa (approx. 2,500) making up around 75% of the total – equivalent to approximately 12%, 20% and 10% of the labour force.
- About 90% males as most work is in horticulture, but new female-focused opportunities also now being developed.
- According to World Bank, in 2018 **remittances** are estimated to have been equivalent to around 35% of GDP in Tonga, 16% in Samoa and 8% in Kiribati and Tuvalu.
- Offshore working therefore provides very valuable new opportunities in resource poor and isolated Pacific countries.
- Challenge is to improve data on remittance flows, their sources and utilisation.

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Sustainability and Trust in Statistics in the Pacific

- The Pacific has a regional statistics governance system, with SPC-SDD as the mandated system leader.
- The system includes a hierarchy with the **Pacific Forum Finance Ministers Annual meeting** as the pinnacle; each year SDD presents a paper on statistics governance and finance to the Ministers.
- Below this are the **Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC)** and the **Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) meetings**
- The **Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB)** meets twice each year to review and recommend best-practice statistical methodologies for all the PICTs.
- The **Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG)** meets annually to coordinate the support and assistance being provided to the PICTs
- And the **Brisbane Accord Group (BAG)** meets regularly to coordinate support on vital statistics.



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Delivering Better Policies for Better Lives

- Greater priority being given to the analysis and dissemination of Pacific statistics for development;
- A **regional statistics dissemination strategy and guidelines** were approved in 2018 by the PSSC, and several PICTs are now using this to develop national dissemination strategies, <https://sdd.spc.int/data-dissemination>;
- ESCAP EPIC tool leading the way in incorporating indicators into national planning systems, supported by UNITAR on the SDGs;
- A new **user-focused website** has been developed for SDD, and support to Pacific NSO website improvements has been stepped-up, <https://sdd.spc.int/>;
- SDD is now building a **new dotStat database platform for all Pacific indicators**, currently focused on the SDGs, <https://sdd.spc.int/sdds-involvement-sdgs>;
- A Microdata Library underpinned by Data Licencing Agreements is being developed, <https://sdd.spc.int/microdata-library> ;
- SPC is developing the Pacific Data Hub as a regional public good to provide a single entry point for all Pacific data, <https://pacificdata.org/> ;
- SDD, with some assistance from Paris 21, has provided support to almost a dozen PICTs in the development of NSDS over the last three years;



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Delivering Better Policies for Better Lives

Final thoughts; put emphasis on

- Getting the basic statistics right; don't over-complicate the work of the small NSOs;
- Focus on the essentials, the core economic and social indicators;
- Build user-focused capacity; how to make the best use of the available data and indicators in developing better policies for better lives.

