



FORUM ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING

1 – 2 August 2024

INFORMATION PAPER 2: PACIFIC REGIONAL STATISTICS PRIORITIES

Purpose and Summary

Purpose

This paper reports on the state of official statistics in Pacific Island countries and territories, and possible strategic actions in response. It aims to draw the attention of the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) to conclusions from the 2023 meeting of Pacific Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS). The paper was prepared by the Pacific Community (SPC) on behalf of HOPS.

Summary

Without reliable statistics, sustainable development is not targeted or effective. Statistics inform governments on the composition, priorities, opportunities and challenges for their economies, societies, and environments. They are critical for monitoring progress towards governments' goals. Statistics must be part and parcel of decision making for all members of the Pacific Island Forum. They need to be embraced as a building block for good government, rather than continuing to be regarded as a lower priority.

The Pacific Heads of Planning and Statistics call on FEMM to have an active discussion of the state of statistics and the necessary response as an “investment in data” with a high potential rate of return. They noted considerable progress made in past years in strengthening statistics but that demand for more and better statistics exceeded supply. HOPS directed SPC to specifically address commonalities across all Pacific countries and territories and to also consider the special needs for smaller islands' statistical systems and NSOs.

The Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022-2030 was approved by Heads of Planning and Statistics in October 2023 as the guiding compass for statistical development in the region. It sets out a plan for further improvement of the system across five key focus areas including: 1) strengthening capacity, 2) collecting the right data, 3) setting national strategic priorities, 4) embedding Pacific-appropriate methodologies, and 5) through regional governance and development partner coordination.

However, and despite positive direction of change and many achievements made in the past ten years, statistical systems in the Pacific continue to perform poorly by world standards. The key challenges relate to incomplete and infrequent data sources and “infrastructure” such as legislation and the currency of the base years for inflation and national accounts estimates. Economic statistics face challenges with timeliness and frequency, for example, most member countries have unemployment estimates only once every few years, and merchandise trade statistics lagging several years before publication.

Pacific statistics are underfunded. Financing from donors and from national governments has not kept pace with increased expectations and the increased frequency of expensive collections. There are

shortfalls for social surveys, as well as for economic statistics and administrative statistics such as births and deaths; and there is severely limited capacity to meet growing demands for environmental and climate change statistics.

A. The Pacific Statistics System

1. Official statistics are critical for monitoring the region’s progress against the 2050 Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals. Governments cannot undertake effective planning, policy making or service delivery effectively in the absence of data and statistics. Data and statistics make planning credible and purposeful, and they enable decisions to be more targeted and focused, reducing wasteful spending. Statistics enable leaders to be practical in the decisions made, in allocation of resources and in where they focus capacity at all points in the process from goal setting to selection of interventions to monitoring and evaluation.

2. Each Pacific Island country’s national statistics system is led by a head of statistics who is mandated under legislation to lead the collection, production, and dissemination of official statistics to enable good governance. The heads of statistics play a pivotal role, agreed globally under the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, in ensuring the integrity, transparency and accountability of official statistics. The Fundamental Principles emphasize the need for statistics to be objective and reliable and produced independently of external interference. This ensures that official statistics serve society at large, providing unbiased information essential for informed policymaking and public discourse.

3. The FEMM is the Ministerial tier of governance for regional statistics. At its last meeting in 2023, FEMM received an update on governance, activities and finance relating to official statistics, and an assessment of the overall state of statistics in the region. This noted that Pacific Island countries and territories statistical systems continue to be on average underfunded and to perform below world standards, despite improvements. The paper invited SPC as statistics system leader to work with Pacific countries and development partners to develop an action plan to lift funding and performance building on the Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022-2030.

4. SPC convened the Pacific Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) in Noumea on 3-5 October 2023 for their first full meeting in six years with participation from all Pacific Island countries and territories.¹ HOPS provides senior level strategic direction and guidance on the implementation of the strategic priorities for Pacific Statistics), working under the auspices of the FEMM and PIF (Pacific Islands Forum) leaders. Its recommendations are delivered to FEMM for consideration.²

5. The Heads of Planning and Statistics called on FEMM to have an active discussion of the state of statistics and the necessary response as an “investment in data” with a high potential rate of return. They asked SPC to work with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) to ensure that advocacy for increased investment in our statistical system and capacity is on the agenda of the next FEMM, with the goal to enable a strategic discussion on the state of statistics in the Pacific and to support investment in strong Pacific Island statistics systems that meet local and global

¹ HOPS PICTs full list of participants: <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/z93q5>

² HOPS recommendations are available in the HOPS Report and outcomes: <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/zbtgz>.

needs for evidence-based policy, planning and monitoring.

6. Over the past decade, the progress of Pacific statistics capacity and performance has been substantial thanks to the efforts of national statistics offices (NSOs) and the active support of development partners. The Pacific Data Hub (PDH) has been established and is growing in scale, resourcing, and awareness of users and PDH.Stat now contains over 2.4 million observations for more than 1,600 indicators, including 28,000 observations against PICTs’ SDGs as one useful measure of performance. More statistics are available because more data is being collected. Figure 1 shows that the number of censuses and population-representative surveys being conducted by PICTs accelerated since around 2015 and is now averaging more than 20 per year – double the pre-2015 level.

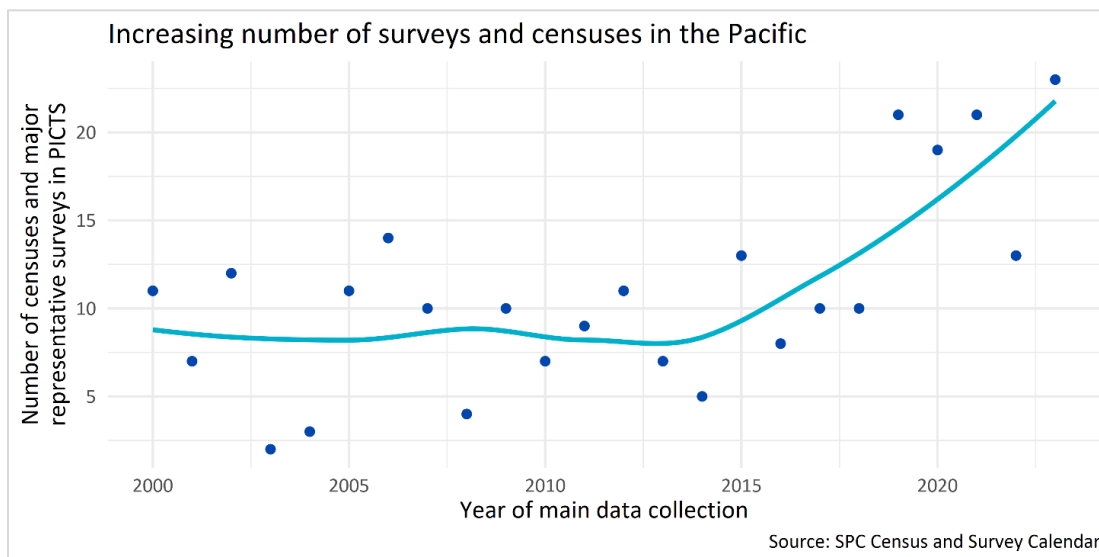


Figure 1 | Number of surveys and census in Pacific Island countries and territories

7. However, while the direction of progress is clearly positive, the state of statistics in the Pacific cannot be described as fully satisfactory. For example, while it is good that 80% of PICT–SDG combinations are expected to have at least one observation by 2030, this is considerably short of 100%; and multiple observations would be needed to meaningfully evaluate progress towards the SDGs.

8. The most recent regional assessment conducted by SPC showed that almost all Pacific Island countries are unable to produce the Pacific core set of 16 economic statistics (which is a sub-set of the Asia-Pacific core set). No country in the Pacific Islands has fully adopted the System of National Accounts (SNA) standard from 2008 - some are still using SNA 93 and still not fully compliant. This lack of progress is caused by a range of factors including resource constraints in Pacific NSOs; lack of skillsets for the compilation of specialized / advanced statistics; insufficient source data for the compilation of statistics; and outdated IT systems at NSOs and organisations from which administrative data are sourced. Given this context, the Pacific heads of statistics advised the United Nations in February 2024 that Pacific national statistics offices will find it difficult to adopt and implement the updated System of National Accounts that is currently being

adopted for introduction in 2025.³

9. Frequency and timeliness remain major problems for statistics in the region. Most PICTs have an observation on unemployment less frequently than annually. The published version of key economic statistics such as national accounts and merchandise trade are usually several years late. Important data that might be gathered from surveys of businesses, farmers and tourists is not collected at anywhere near the frequency and coverage users wish. The World Bank’s Statistical Performance Indicators, which are built into the Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022-2030 as the best available measure of high-level outcomes, continue to rank the Pacific as one of the weakest regions in the world, if not the weakest.

10. A comprehensive regional needs assessment of statistical capacity development in the Pacific was conducted by SPC in 2023. This found that the high demand for data and statistics for national, regional, and global requirements exceeds the existing capabilities and capacities in Pacific Island countries. 36 managers from statistics and planning agencies in 16 Pacific countries responded to the needs assessment survey. Their responses emphasised that the demand for data and statistics has increased, without noticeable resource optimisation at the country level. Therefore, the demand for technical and capacity support is no longer sporadic and it applies across almost all statistical domains. The challenges of finding people with the right skills, retaining staff, and upskilling staff were marked as significant across the region.

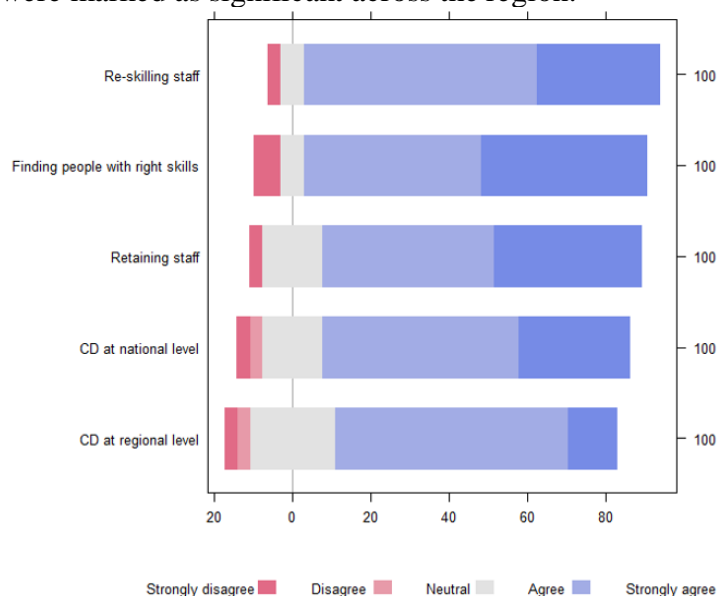


Figure 2 | Difficulties reported by managers across the Pacific region for their organisations' statistics capacity and capability.

B. Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022-2030

11. The Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022-2030 was approved by HOPS in October 2023 as the guiding compass for statistical development in the region. This is the long-term strategy that sets the vision, outcome and focus areas for this decade for the Pacific region’s statistics system.⁴

³Comment from Samoa on behalf of the Pacific Island countries, submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission Fifty-fifth session February 2024. [3\(f\)-NA-Rec-Samoa-onbehalfofPacificIslandCountries-22Feb2024.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/datastore/3(f)-NA-Rec-Samoa-onbehalfofPacificIslandCountries-22Feb2024.pdf)

⁴<https://sdd.spc.int/strategic-framework-pacific-statistics>

12. It provides a framework through which statistical support can be channelled to national statistics systems and users of statistics in alignment with the sustainable development goals, other national, regional, and global development reporting, and data requirements for policy development. The statistical support and activities delivered under the strategic framework will be guided by the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the “Pacific Way.”

13. The vision agreed by HOPS is that: “All Pacific peoples, economies and environments benefit from better data and evidence-based decision-making empowering resilient development” enabled by the outcome: “Strong Pacific Island statistics systems that meet local, national and global needs for evidence-based policy, planning and monitoring.”

14. The strategic framework has five key focus areas (as shown in figure 1, the Theory of Change for the Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics):

- *Strengthen capacity*: Stronger national capacities for analysis, interpretation, and evidence-based policy.
- *Collect the right data*: Relevant, timely, well-maintained, and accessible data, statistics, and indicators.
- *Prioritise programmes to use statistics*: Nationally prioritised statistics work programmes support national, regional, and global policy and data needs.
- *Embed good methods*: Statistical methods, data assets and indicators tailored to fit Pacific needs.
- *Govern and coordinate activity*: Regional statistical governance, coordination and financing that support national and regional needs.

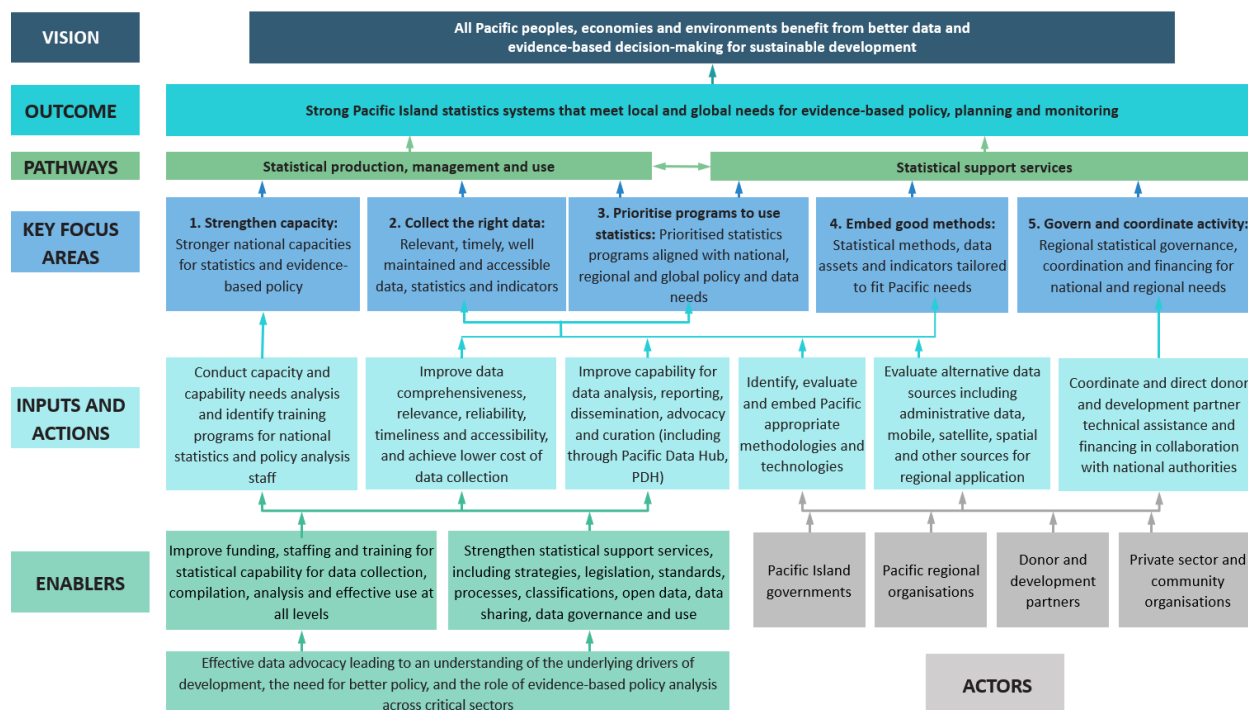


Figure 3 | Theory of change for the Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022-2030

15. HOPS has stressed that implementation of the strategic framework is dependent on actions

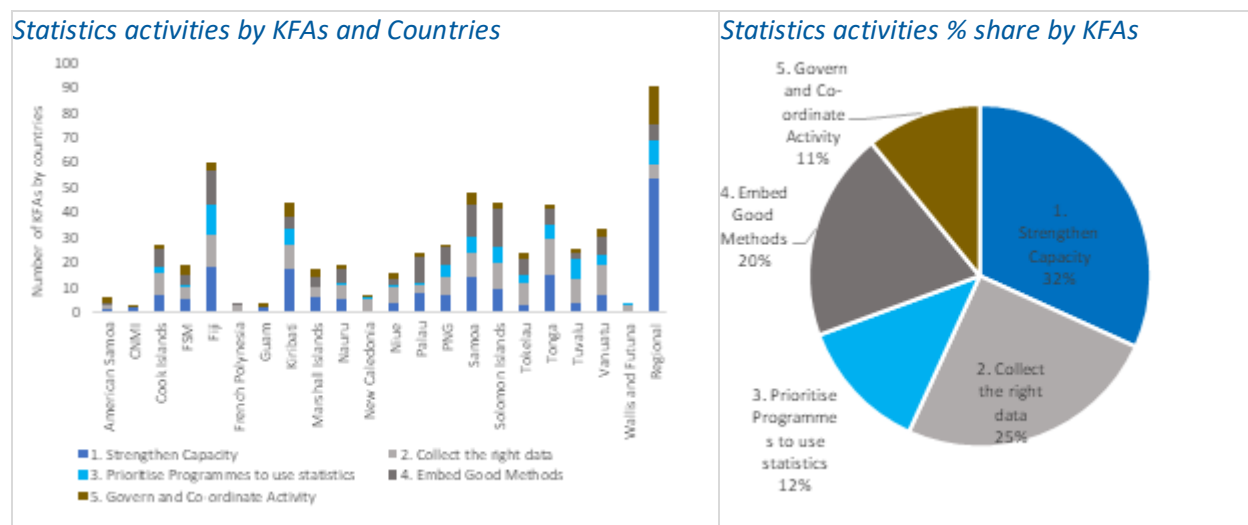
by all Pacific Island countries and territories, as well as their donors and development partners, and encouraged them to align their activities and investments to support the five key focus areas.

C. The Case for Investment in Statistics – donors and domestically

16. The years 2021 to 2023 have been challenging for national statistics offices (NSOs) around the region, as well as for the technical agencies and development partners that serve and support them. The demand for statistics to inform government and partners of the social and economic impacts of the pandemic and subsequent global events has remained high. Many countries have continued to struggle to secure the necessary funds from the squeezed national budgets and development partners to meet the statistical demands in this dramatically changed landscape.

Donor support

17. SPC has started regularly monitoring activities by donors, partners, regional and international organisations in support of PICTs’ statistics capacity. Almost 600 development activities⁵ for statistics have been mapped for 2023 and 2024, supporting 21 SPC member countries and territories⁶ (including regional⁷). There is a wide range of support activity that can be mapped to key focus areas of the strategic framework. Fiji (10.2%), Samoa (8.2%), Solomon Islands (7.5%), Kiribati (7.5%) and Tonga (7.3%) were the five Pacific Island countries gaining the highest benefits of statistics partnership development programs over the two-year period (see Figure 4).



Source: Key partners and SPC 2023 and 2024 annual workplans

Figure 4: Statistics Support by Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics (2022–2030) KFAs

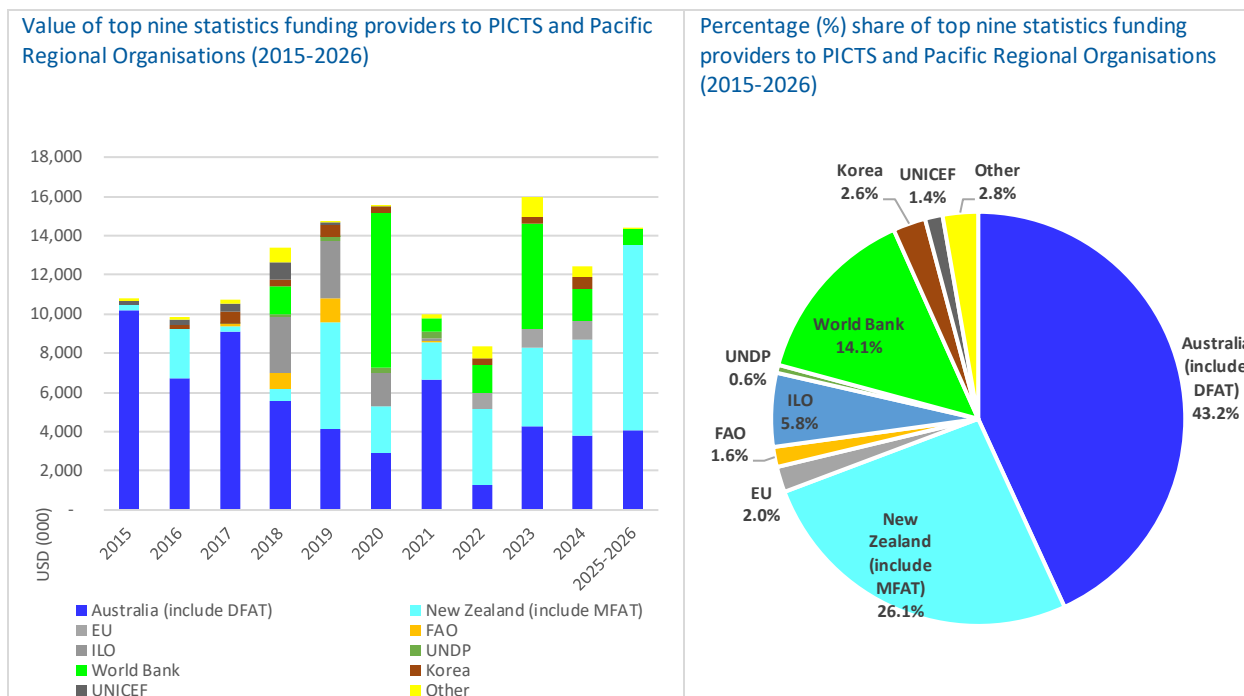
18. The mapping of partnership activity in support of Pacific statistics shows that approximately USD 136.1 million has been committed for statistics development projects and programs in the eleven years from 2015 to 2026. Each Pacific Island Forum member country has received statistics funding directly from donors, through bilateral, regional, or multilateral (direct or indirect) support. Of the estimated USD 136.1 million, funds committed regionally accounted for

⁵ The number of statistics activities are drawn and compiled from the 2023 activities and 2024 workplans provided by partners and SPC individuals via email response to request from the author including website documents, and progress reports from SPC.

⁶ American Samoa, CNMI, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

⁷ Regional is classified as where the program is specified as ‘Regional’ (e.g., regional capacity building programs such as workshops, conferences, trainings etc) and if there are no specific naming of countries for a particular statistics support program.

the highest proportion at 67% or USD 90.9 million. Funds earmarked bilaterally (for member countries) constituted the second highest proportion at 28% or USD 37.8 million, while multilateral funds covered the remaining 5% or USD 7.4 million. Annually, the committed funding for fourteen PICTs is estimated at USD 10.5 million on average.



Source: [Pacific Aid Map-Lowy Institute org](#), [PFTAC Quarterly Reports \(various\)](#), [Pacific Multi-Country Indicative Program 2021-2027](#), SPC

Figure 5: Statistics Funding Providers to PICTs and Pacific Regional Organisations

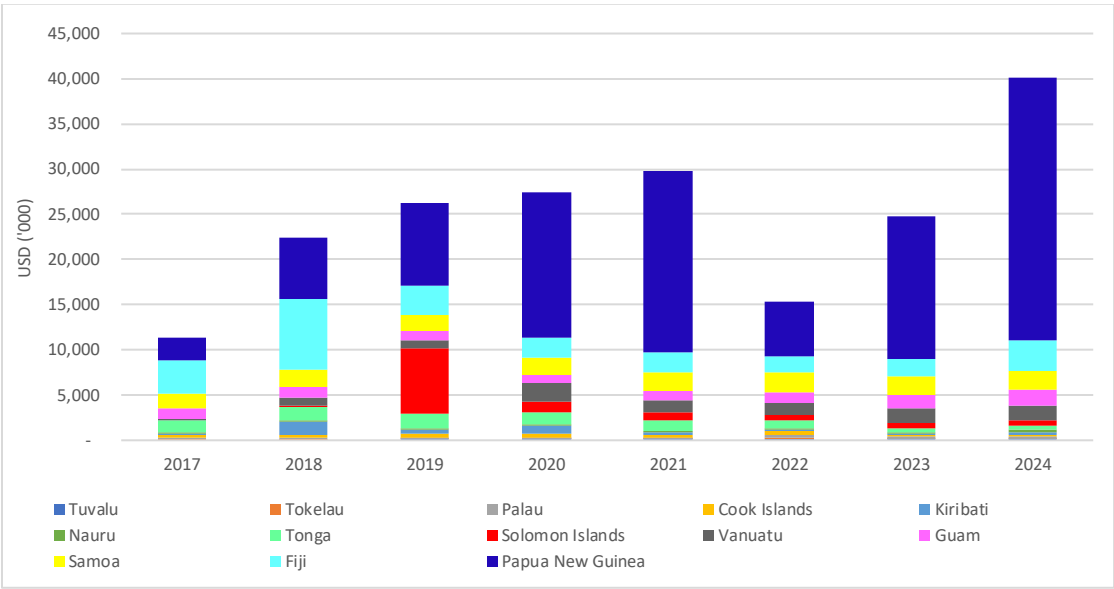
19. Between 2015 and 2026, Australia has been the largest provider of statistics development funding to both PICTs and the Pacific regional organisations, accounting for 43.2% or USD 58.7 million. New Zealand has been the second largest provider of statistics funding, providing 26.1% or USD 35.5 million. This partly reflects New Zealand’s funding for the first phase of the Improving Access to Pacific Statistics and Data project (including the Pacific Data Hub) implemented by SPC over the 2020-2022 period. The next seven largest providers have been the World Bank (14%), International Labour Organisation (5.8%), Korea (2.6%), the European Union (2.0%), Food and Agriculture Organisation (1.6%), United Nations Children’s Fund (1.4%) and United Nations Population Fund at 0.6%. Other funding providers covered the remaining 2.8%.

20. The best estimate of total donor support for statistics in the region is in the range of USD 8 million to USD 16 million per year. This compares to USD 25 million of donor support in the Pacific, which would be required to meet the target of 0.7 percent set by the United Nations Secretary General in 2023 SDG Progress Report.

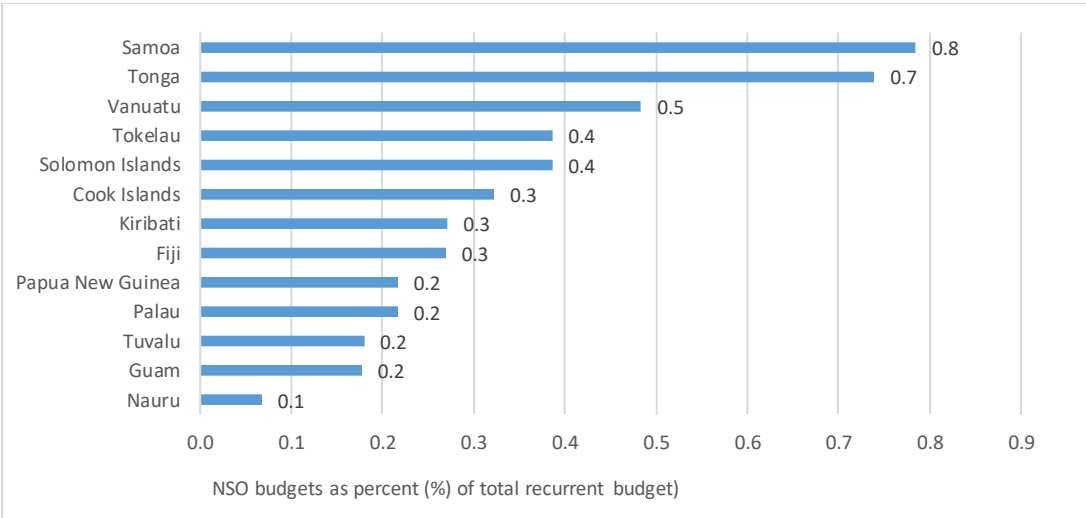
21. The national budgets for thirteen Pacific NSOs⁸ from their governments totalled around USD 198 million between 2017 to 2024, with an annual average budget of about USD 25 million over the period. Figure 6 shows that NSO budgets vary from year to year and naturally spike during

⁸ Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

major census and survey years. For instance, the NSOs annual budgets peaked in 2024 at around USD 40 million, driven largely by PNG’s NSO at 72% or USD 29 million, as PNG undertakes its population census this year. Expansionary budgets of other NSOs including the Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Tokelau, and Vanuatu also attributed to the high budget as countries took on census and surveys that were delayed during the pandemic. However, despite the expansionary budgets, there are still significant funding gaps, as census and surveys are costly. For example, PNG’s NSO highted during its census 2024 launch in April that there is a funding gap of Kina 123 million (or USD 32 million) needed to enable successful completion of its national census work.⁹



Source: Member countries published government national budgets, National Currencies are converted to USD
 Figure 6: National Budget Allocations for National Statistics Offices, 2017-2024



Source: Member countries published government national budgets on original values, percent (%) are authors calculations
 Figure 7: National Budget Allocations for National Statistics Offices as percent (%) of their total recurrent budget

⁹ [Census 2024 launched – The National](#)

(average 2017-20224)

22. Figure 7 shows that NSOs budgets as a portion of their total recurrent budgets' range from an average of 0.1% for Nauru's NSO to 0.8% for Samoa's NSO over the 2017-2024 period. As a proportion of government spending, these numbers are not particularly low (equivalent numbers for Australia and New Zealand would be around 0.05% and 0.20%). But for very small economies seeking to provide information against statistical frameworks designed for larger countries, in absolute terms most Pacific NSOs do not have the funding needed to meet expectations. The median size NSO in the Pacific has around 20 staff (excluding temporary interviewer workforces), yet the work of producing statistics such as national accounts, merchandise trade, inflation, unemployment, poverty, and population projections is little, if any, less complex in a smaller country than in one that is much larger. The only part of statistics production that is clearly simpler and cheaper in smaller countries is a population census; even the sample sizes of surveys do not reduce in a big way when the population is smaller.

23. Between 2024 and 2027, there are around eleven population and housing censuses, and more than thirty national household surveys, multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS), labour force surveys and other core surveys that are already scheduled by 18 PICTs that may require substantial financial support (see annex 2). SPC's observation is that other aspects of most national statistics offices are also underfunded, notably economic statistics such as national accounts, balance of payments, business surveys, pricing comparisons, as well as dissemination and user engagement. There is also limited or no capacity and capability in NSOs in the Pacific to meet rapidly increasing national and global demand for environmental and climate change statistics (see annex 4 on number of NSO staff).

24. Improving efficiency is undoubtedly part of the solution. With the help of development partners (particularly SPC), Pacific NSOs have successfully introduced new technology (e.g. Computer Assisted Personal Interviews) for census and surveys with big productivity gains. The use of newly introduced real-time and online data management and data processing systems assist in keeping overall costs down and shortening data processing times. Improvements under the broad category of "statistical modernisation" are under way in many of the PICTs and will have a positive impact on efficiency and effectiveness in coming years, but not sufficient to overcome all the resourcing challenges.

25. Another response to the challenge is to scale down the statistics required. Given the economies of scale of a national statistics system, small countries simply cannot realistically have the coverage and frequency of official statistics available in larger countries. This was recognised by the Pacific in prioritising a sub-set of the global SDG indicator set, endorsed by Leaders, to manage expectations on SDG data availability. Similarly, the Pacific, as one regional approach among member island nations, is advocating for a small core indicator set in the next ten-year monitoring framework for Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) supported by optional national indicators, to minimise additional reporting burden. Improving the alignment between the varied reporting requirements is an ongoing exercise in the region.

26. However, overall neither efficiency nor reducing scope have been enough. Institutional and capacity issues, and budgetary constraints continue to weigh on the increasing demand for data and the undertaking of a comprehensive set of statistical activities on an ongoing basis. The finance and resource gaps have been particularly challenging for the small island states.

27. Ministers are encouraged to support their National Statistics Offices to collect and publish the social, economic and environment data and indicators that are derived from the national census and surveys and to use this information to support evidence-based policies. Development partners and donors are also invited to consider supporting the proposed regional statistics funding facility that was endorsed by Ministers in 2019 or ask for a review or redesign if this is felt no longer to be an appropriate mechanism.

Secretariat of the Pacific Community
25 June 2024

Annex 1: Regional Governance Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) Documents

Documents	Links
6 th Regional Governance Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS6)	http://sdd.spc.int/events/2021/08/6th-regional-conference-hops
Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022-2030	https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/99uii
HOPS6 Report and Outcome (include recommendations)	https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/zbtgz
HOPS6 members of PICTs participants	https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/z93q5

Annex 2; SPC Census and Survey Calendars (2022-2028)

Statistical Collection Plan; PICT Summary 2022–2028							
PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
American Samoa			AGR	PHC			
Cook Islands		LFS	HIES				LFS
Fed. States of Micronesia		PHC					
		HIES					
		LFS					
Fiji		LFS (EUS)	MICS PLUS	HIES		PHC	LFS (EUS)
French Polynesia	PHC	LFS	LFS	HIES	LFS	LFS	LFS
	LFS	AGR	Business Survey	LFS	Business Survey	PHC	Business Survey
	Business Survey	Business Survey		Business Survey		Business Survey	
Guam							
Kiribati		HHL	GES	PHC			
		HIES	HIES				
		FDSS					
CNMI	HHL						
Marshall Islands	HIES	MICS-DHS					
Nauru		MICS-DHS			HHL		
		HIES	HIES		LFS		
New Caledonia	LFS	LFS	PHC				
Niue			BEC	HIES		PHC	
	PHC						
Palau			HHL	PHC			
Papua New Guinea		HIES	HIES				
	SDES	HHL	PHC	HIES			
Samoa			LFS				
	LFS	DISABILITY	MICS-DHS			LFS	
		HIES					
Solomon Islands			MICS-DHS	AGR	LFS		
			HIES				
Tokelau	PHC		DISABILITY	MICS-DHS	HIES	PHC	
Tonga		AGR	MICS-DHS		PHC	GES	LFS
		LFS	HIES	HIES		CCS	
Tuvalu	PHC			MICS-DHS	PHC (Mnl)		
	HIES			HIES	HIES		
Vanuatu	AGR	MICS-DHS	HIES				
	Business Survey		LFS				
Wallis and Futuna		PHC					
<p> ■ Agric - Agricultural census / survey ■ Business - Business survey ■ COVID - COVID-19 Rapid Assessment Survey ■ DHS - Demographic and Health Survey ■ Disab - Disability survey ■ HIES - Household Income and Expenditure Survey ■ HHL - Household Listing ■ LFS - Labour force survey ■ MICS - Multiple indicator cluster survey ■ MICS-DHS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey with additional Demographic and Health Survey modules ■ Other - Other Census and Surveys </p> <p> <small>GES - Gender & Environment Survey; FDSS - Financial Inclusion Demand Side Survey; BEC - Business Economic Census; CCS - Climate Change Survey</small> </p> <p> ■ PHC - Population and Housing Census </p>							
Source: SPC website: https://sdd.spc.int/census-and-survey-calendar							

Annex 3: National Budget allocations for National Statistics Offices 2017-2024
(in National Currency, in thousands)

Country	National Statistics Office	Currency	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2017 to 2023	2018 to 2024
			Cook Islands	Cook Islands Statistics Office	NZD	534	485	587	638	509	794	240
Fiji	Fiji Bureau of Statistics	FJD	8,473	17,638	7,628	5,100	5,167	4,073	4,427.3	7,593	-48	0
Guam	Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plan	USD	1,193	1,191	1,084	909	991	1,163	1,347	1,680	13	55
Kiribati	Kiribati National Statistics Office	AUD	206	2,263	826	1,383	420	234	301	407	46	-51
Nauru	Nauru Bureau of Statistics	AUD	131	129	110	139	142	215	186	272	42	147
Palau	Office of Planning and Statistics	USD	187	195	230	220	239	233	300	300	60	30
Papua New Guinea	PNG National Statistics Office	Kina	9,592	25,942	35,262	61,395	76,845	23,264	60,439	111,794	530	217
Samoa	Samoa Bureau of Statistics	Tala	4,427	5,314	4,683	5,376	5,593	6,064	5,887	6,035	33	29
Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands National Statistics Office	SBD		2,100	59,856	10,000	7,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	138	-92
Tokelau	Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau	NZD	80	50	118	142	154	331	186	203	133	72
Tonga	Tonga Statistics Department	Pa'anga	3,381	3,468	3,909	3,065	2,761	2,200	1,100	1,000	-67	-74
Tuvalu	Tuvalu Central Statistics Department	AUD	69	107	110	112	114	200	155	145	125	32
Vanuatu	Vanuatu National Statistics Office	VATU	15,019	106,230	106,761	252,293	173,100	150,200	198,000	202,400	1,218	90

Source: Published national budgets of member countries of Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu (various online)

Annex 4: National Budget allocations for National Statistics Offices 2017-2024
(converted to United States dollars, in thousands)

Country	National Statistics Office	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average (2017-2024)
		Cook Islands	Cook Islands Statistics Office	315	286	346	376	300	468	142
Fiji	Fiji Bureau of Statistics	3,728	7,761	3,356	2,244	2,273	1,792	1,948	3,341	3,305
Guam	Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans	1,193	1,191	1,084	909	991	1,163	1,347	1,680	1,195
Kiribati	Kiribati National Statistics Office	134	1,471	537	899	273	152	195	264	491
Nauru	Nauru Bureau of Statistics	134	129	110	139	142	215	186	272	166
Palau	Office of Planning and Statistics	187	187	187	187	187	187	187	187	187
Papua New Guinea	PNG National Statistics Office	2,494	6,745	9,168	15,963	19,980	6,049	15,714	29,066	13,147
Samoa	Samoa Bureau of Statistics	1,596	1,916	1,689	1,939	2,017	2,187	2,123	2,176	1,955
Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands National Statistics Office	-	252	7,183	1,200	840	600	600	600	1,409
Tokelau	Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau	47	30	70	84	91	195	110	120	93
Tonga	Tonga Statistics Department	1,417	1,453	1,638	1,284	1,157	922	461	419	1,094
Tuvalu	Tuvalu Central Statistics Department	45	70	72	73	74	130	101	94	82
Vanuatu	Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics	123	873	877	2,073	1,422	1,234	1,627	1,663	1,237
	Total	11,413	22,363	26,316	27,369	29,747	15,294	24,740	40,113	24,670

Source: Published national budgets of member countries of Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu (various online). Author's calculation conversion of national currencies to USD for comparisons.

Annex 5: Number of National Statistics Office Staff, in 2023

Pacific Island Countries and Territories	Number of National Statistics Office Staff
Niue	4
Republic of Marshall Islands	4
Nauru	6
Tuvalu	7
Cook Islands	13
Kiribati	19
Federated State of Micronesia	20
Solomon Islands	34
French Polynesia	40
Tonga	55
Vanuatu	62
Samoa	84
Fiji	150
PNG	180

Source: National Statistic Offices and SPC estimates