Annex-3: SDD Strategic Plan, 2015 – 2017: Objectives, Outputs, Purpose and Partnerships

Regional Initiatives for Strengthening Statistical Services through Regional Approaches, Phase-2 of TYPPS Implementation

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by not implementing this activity	Potential partnerships
Objective 1: Pacific island countries and territories have the technical capacity (either in- house capacity or through timely accessible technical support), to manage and implement all core statistical collections, including key administrative databases, as required by national development plans, including national strategies for the development of statistics.	Building on, and consolidating achievements made during Phase-1, this objective represents one of the Division's key strategic and operational priorities in Phase-2 (2015-2017) of the Ten-Year Pacific Regional Statistics Strategy. With continued technical support, in-country collaboration and training focusing on Population Census and Household surveys, stepped-up activities will be invested in strengthening national administrative databases and associated management information systems. Three key new strategic foci are to: 1. consolidate Phase-1 achievements with CRVS, and 2. establish a regional EMIS technical support facility — in both cases to provide more sustainable and cost-effective solutions to accessing quality and timely statistical information, compared to costly and intermittent household surveys. 3. A third new initiative will be the development of a comprehensive regional International Merchandise Trade Database to assist with trade negotiations, policy formulations, preparation of food balance sheets and use in work related to NCDs. To further contribute to improved costseffectiveness and long-term sustainability, greater use will be made of SDD managing a technical collaboration programme between PICT NSOs, which embodies the TYPSS spirit of providing regional solutions to address national development challenges, and in the process help build a regional cadre of technical expertise across the broad spectrum of statistics.	 Maintain momentum of providing technical assistance and professional capacity development pertaining to a regular programme of population and housing censuses. To ensure quality technical support to National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other key National Statistical Systems (NSS) statistics providers, as Population and housing censuses represent the most important statistical collection regularly undertaken by PICTs, and together with selected Household surveys provide the pillar of most PICT statistical information systems. The complementary stepped-up focus on strengthening or developing administrative databases and associated management information systems is to provide NSOs and NSSs with sustainable solutions pertaining to the regular collection of core social and economic statistics (education, health, vital statistics; immigration; trade and other economic statistics) that would provide core baseline and benchmark data for general government business, allow regular assessment of policy performance and provide evidence for design of new development initiatives. 	 Without a dedicated technical support programme of this nature, most PICTs would struggle to routinely run such major and routine collections; Comparative advantage over ad hoc consultancy providers, given long history of TA and training provided. Functioning administrative databases and management information systems are indispensable to good government practice. Without regular access to quality and timely statistics, governments are "flying blind" (Putting Statistics at the heart of Development Efforts; Paris21-SPC video, 2014). 	Desirable Establish operational partnerships with other technical partners, including PIC NSOs with specific demonstrated expertise and experience.

Strategic Objectives	Activity Focus /	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by	Potential
and Outputs	Description of Activities		not implementing this activity	partnerships
Output 1-1: Operational plans and budgets for all major statistical collections (like population census and household surveys) are finalized 12-18 months prior to scheduled collection, with all pre-enumeration activities to be completed at least six months prior to start of enumeration, with the latter taking place in line with agreed-upon schedule. TA will be provided, whenever possible, through on-the- ground technical collaboration with national counterparts, reflecting SDD commitment to human capacity building and ongoing professional development as a core SPC corporate commitment.	Output 1-1 Activities 1-1.1: Census/Survey Planning Provision of census and household survey planning and budgeting TA restricted to NSOs with new staff in place since last major statistical collection. 1-1.2: Pre-enumeration activities Provision of TA and training in key pre-enumeration activities, such as cartography, household listing, pilot census, training of field staff, and setting up of data processing systems restricted to countries lacking this expertise. 1-1.3: Post-enumeration/pre-analysis activities Provision of TA and training in key activities that allow preparation of final • Unit-record database (data edit, including coding; data entry; data processing), and • tabulations to allow analysis and report writing — see Objective 2. 1-1.4: South-South type technical collaboration With several NSOs now having staff with skills pertaining to specific census and survey activities, SDD to make greater use of South-South type technical collaboration between countries.	 Provision of targeted TA and training is central to success of any large-scale and costly statistical collection, with success measured in provision of quality statistics (complete population coverage, reliable data) in a timely fashion. With many PIC NSOs having gained tangible census and survey management experience over the past 5-7 years (and thus are on track to accomplish a core TYPSS priority objective, that "All NSOs have capacity to run statistical collections"), there is an ongoing demand for higher-end technical (sampling, data processing, web-design, programming) analytical (demographic, economic, social; projections, forecasting, modelling) and reporting (professional writing, dissemination, data-user seminars/policy dialogue) skills. Contribute to gradual development of a regional cadre of census/survey expertise, which could provide a regional public good, with technical expertise accessible to PIC NSOs requiring such skills. 	See above. Of particular significance to small NSOs, and those experiencing high staff turn-over, with many NSOs reliant on new staff for census or HH survey every 5 to 10 years. High-end economic and demographic analytical skills are not required by small NSOs on an ongoing basis, and get lost without constant use, or disappear with people migrating elsewhere where such skills are in higher demand.	YES – temporary TA in some countries Ad hoc in-country TA presence might be required for specific collections, in the form of a 2-3 months external technical advisor. In most countries, this is not necessary, with SPC having everything covered under existing arrangements.

Strategic Objectives	Activity Focus /	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by	Potential
and Outputs	Description of Activities		not implementing this activity	partnerships
Output 1-2: Stepped-up activities in strengthening national administrative databases and associated management information systems – with a strategic focus on consolidating and building on CRVS Phase-1 achievements.	 Output 1-2 Activities Activities to support CRVS developments fall under two main mechanisms: 1. National and regional work to improve CRVS in the Pacific Islands through the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (PVSAP), in collaboration with BAG partners. 2. Engagement with partners at regional and global forums. PVSAP 1-2.1 Support countries to undertake, complete (or update as appropriate) a multi-sectoral national CRVS assessment and development of a national CRVS improvement plan, which is linked to countries' overall statistical development strategies and plans. 1-2.2 Provide and/or facilitate access to ongoing technical support to country committees in the implementation and review of national plans, including specialized technical support and training regarding specific needs as identified in national plans: data analysis, verbal autopsy, data quality assessments, community engagement, awareness raising, process review and documentation, certification and coding practices. 1-2.3 Develop regional tools and guidelines regarding common issues to assist countries implementing best practice in their CRVS systems, and facilitate regional solutions and data sharing where appropriate. This includes areas such as IT, legislation and reporting. 	To provide more sustainable and costeffective solutions to accessing quality data on births, deaths and cause of deaths, and do so in "real-time", than having to rely on very costly and irregular household surveys (say something about sampling in small population when trying to accurately capture discrete demographic events like IMR, MMR etc.). • The CRVS assessment is the standard pre-requisite/ platform guiding the development of a national CRVS plan. • The link to NSDS or similar national strategies is essential to ensure political buy-in and coordination of activity across government agencies and with technical and financial partners.	 For countries where tangible achievements/improvements to systems were made in 2011-2014, risk losing momentum, and systems falling into disrepair (as also noted by independent MidTerm review of TYPSS Phase-1). For countries where major development works lies ahead (Group-4 countries: PNG, SOL, VAN, KIR), continue having to rely on chronically outdated indirect estimates derived from household surveys. 	Brisbane Accord Group (BAG). Consortium of key development and technical partners contributing to discrete activities under the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan 2011-2014: • Australian Universities (UoQ; UNSW, QIT); • UN Agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO); • Regional Agencies (SPC, PHIN) • Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Strategic Objectives	Activity Focus /	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by	Potential
and Outputs	Description of Activities		not implementing this activity	partnerships
Output 1-2: (continuation)	 1-2.4 Assist countries with M & E, to regularly monitor and report on progress in improving their CRVS coverage, completeness and quality. 1-2.5 Provide secretariat support to BAG to coordinate regional support from BAG partners and assist countries with accessing specialized technical assistance. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL FORUMS 1-2.6 Engagement with partners at such forums to ensure Pacific needs are represented in decisions about global standards and investments, and contribute to the development and evaluation of methods and innovative collection processes that are suitable for small island states' settings. 			
Output 1-3: Stepped-up activities in strengthening national administrative databases and associated management information systems — with a strategic focus to establish a regional EMIS technical support facility.	Output 1-3 Activities 1-3.1: Database Development (EMIS) Through an On-Demand Technical Support (ODTS) facility, provide targeted technical development support aimed at strengthening Pacific island countries Ministries of Education (MoE) Information management capacity; • Set up EMIS in all Pacific Island countries; • Assistance to automate data entry into EMIS; • Upgrade EMIS software and trouble shoot problems; • Make recommendations for EMIS hardware upgrades; • Assistance to build in automatic database quality checks.	 Cost-effective, flexible funding mechanism to call on short-term specialist development skills to resolve complex technical and data management issues. Efficient and effective EMIS are used to produce, analyse and disseminate high quality and relevant education statistics. 	 Acknowledge reality that several different highly specialized skills (i) are usually not found in one person, and (ii) are not needed. ODTS provides for cost-effective solutions. If EMIS developments are not implemented, countries will continue to suffer from poor quality. 	UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) SPBEQ PIFS

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by not implementing this activity	Potential partnerships
Output 1-3: (continuation)	 1-3.2: Technical support and training in EMIS system operation Work with EMIS staff to implement software modifications where necessary Develop user friendly documentation and training materials Training and Technical assistance in EMIS operation Develop a regional model EMIS for adaption and use by other Pacific Island countries. 	 The facility will provide technical database and software development expertise to countries to resolve EMIS hardware and software issues and strengthens local capacity. A regional approach offers greater cost and time effectiveness with software development 	 EMIS systems are fully operational and being used and capacity is built or supplemented and EMIS officers can resolve basic database problems Several countries are at critical decision-making stage of developing or re-developing their national EMIS. Timing is critical 	DFAT ERF UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) SPBEQ PIFS
	 1-3.3: Data chain audits/validation and Data Quality Assessment (DQAF) conducted in 4 PICs in year 1; Adapt DAF methodology for the Pacific Context. Provide methodology, training and capacity to deliver full DQAF diagnoses. Support countries to conduct full DQAF diagnostic. 	The DQAF is a framework developed for situational analysis to evaluate education statistics	 Improved education data collections in PICs where a data chain audit has been undertaken Data chain issues have been identified & actioned 	UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) DFAT World Bank SPBEQ
Output 1-4: Stepped-up activities in strengthening national administrative databases and associated management information systems – with a strategic	Output 1-4 Activities 1-4.1: Set up Business registers in selected countries, and development of TA modalities to ensure regular updates are in place	Provision of accurate, up-to-date and consistent frames to be used for business-related statistical collections, allowing a range of collections to have consistently identified and classified units.	It will alleviate under-coverage and overlap in survey data used for the compilation of National Accounts (NA) and other statistics. This will allow for better quality and more realistic information to be delivered to government (and other users) for policy and planning decisions.	ABS, FBOS (Fiji Bureau of Statistics)
focus on international merchandise trade, establishment surveys and economic statistics collections.	14.2: Collection and compilation of International merchandise Trade Statistics	For compiling other statistical products (e.g. GDP, BOP, calculation of consumption using commodity flow, trade indices) by the NSOs, for policy and planning by Governments and for market sources and destinations by businesses.	It will hinder compilation of other key statistics and provide wrong signals to the Government for the formulation of effective policies.	Statistics NZ, PIFS, TDS (Tonga Department of Statistics) OCO (Oceania Customs Organization)

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by not implementing this activity	Potential partnerships
Output 1-4: (continuation)	1-4.3: Collection and compilation of tourism statistics , for trade in services.	With tourism playing a major role in many PICs economy, these are essential data to measure/monitor contribution to GDP and employment generation.	Tourism is an important contributor to sustainable economic growth, a vehicle for poverty reduction, environmental conservation and cultural heritage preservation.	South Pacific Tourism Organization, FBOS
	1-4.4 : Rebase of PIC consumer price indices following completion of their Household Income and Expenditure Surveys	To measure the changes in the prices of consumer goods and services that households acquire, use or pay for consumption.	It would be impossible to measure inflation.	ABS
	1-4.5: Develop trade price indices	To measure price changes in the production sector of the economy: "output" index for changes in the prices received by producers, and "input" index for price changes in the cost of production.	Used as deflators in national accounts	tbc
	1-4.6: Develop Producer Price Indices.	To measure changes in the prices paid for imports of merchandise landed and prices received for exports of merchandise shipped.	Used for forecasting inflation, deflators in national accounts and for deriving terms of trade indexes.	tbc

Strategic Objectives	Activity Focus /	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by	Potential
and Outputs	Description of Activities		non-implementation	partnerships
Objective 2: Pacific island countries and territories are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors including but not restricted to economics, population, CRVS, education and health, as required by their national plans and agreed- upon regional and international reporting frameworks, with timely analysis and dissemination of results to national users.	Complementing Objective-1 that focuses on providing countries with building and maintaining effective and efficient systems of data collection, technical assistance (TA), capacity building and capacity supplementation activities under this objective address three core components, that cover both the data needs of national users and countries' regional and international reporting requirements: 1. Production of quality statistics and indicators; 2. Preparation of quality analytical and technical outputs; 3. Facilitating easier access to, and greater use of statistical information As already highlighted under Objective-1, technical assistance and capacity building go hand-in-hand, including making use of national expertise via South-South type technical collaboration between Pacific NSOs, thus ultimately contributing to the development of regional capacity in specific statistical activities and sectors.	 This objective embodies the vision of the TYPSS Phase-2 design, to ensure a "core set of statistics (is available and accessible to users) that informs the development of all Pacific island countries and territories, supports regional benefits and is respected and utilised in global reporting". Outputs achieved from various activities address national user demands to inform policy development and planning, and facilitate regular monitoring of policy performance, development progress and results. They also provide the input for countries' regional and international reporting requirements on development progress (such as in the case of regular MDG reporting). It is essential to maintain the momentum of providing user-friendly access to user-relevant development statistics and indicators contained in the SPC NMDI database, which was developed in response to Pacific Leader's call for such a facility (First Pacific Plan, Objective 12.4). 	 Without continued dedicated technical support of this nature, most countries would not have regular access to quality statistics and analytical outputs they get from SPC as a membership-based organization, and national, regional and international data users would not have access to regional information pertaining to common statistics and indicators, that are actually based on national statistics rather than "estimates" provided by agencies with little to no regular national presence. Lack of access to such information undermines evidence-informed policy-development and planning, monitoring of policy performance, and measuring development results. SDD has a recognized comparative advantage by countries and major development partners alike, over ad hoc consultancy providers, to assist countries in their efforts, given SPC's long history of TA and training support. 	Desirable Establish operational partnerships with other technical partners (including PIC NSOs with specific demonstrated expertise and experience), e.g.: CRVS (BAG group) Demography (UNFPA, universities) DRM-CC, Environment (SPC-Geosciences; SPREP) Economic Statistics (PFTAC, ABS, Statistics NZ) Education (UIS, SPBEQ, Statistics NZ) Health (WHO, UNICEF, BAG Group, SPC-PHD) Poverty analysis (World Bank, ADB, UNDP)

Strategic Objectives	Activity Focus /	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by	Potential
and Outputs Output 2-1: Production of quality statistics and indicators	Output 2-1 Activities 2-1.1: Demographic/Population statistics Activities relate to the compilation of all core demographic and vital statistics, and those pertaining to population and development, collected through: • Population and housing censuses, • Demographic and Health surveys (DHS), • Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES), • Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems 2-1.2: DRM-CC and Environmental statistics With responsibility to provide TA support to the collection of these statistics resting with other SPC divisions (Geoscience; Climate change) and SPREP, SDD's role is to provide statistical expertise/QA to these agencies on request.	All activities related to Outputs 2-1 to 2-3, are at the core of addressing the vision of TYPSS Phase-2, to produce a "core set of statistics that informs the development of all Pacific island countries and territories, supports regional benefits and is respected and utilised in global reporting". These activities produce the necessary • Evidence for informed policy development and planning, • baselines and benchmarks for regular monitoring of policy performance, development progress and to measure results; • Information for countries' regional and international reporting requirements on development progress (such as in the case of regular MDG reporting).	In addition to the general points highlighted above, not having access to quality and timely statistics undermines countries' capacity to design compelling business cases to access more and/or better targeted international development assistance.	partnerships UNFPA (census) DHS (BAG) HIES (World Bank) CRVS (BAG) SPC (Geosciences, Climate Change), SPREP
	 2-1.3: Economic Statistics Activities relate to the compilation of all core economic statistics, the development of associated indices and indicators, and the construction of regional tables based on data derived from: Establishment surveys and national business registers National administrative databases (e.g. Ministries of Finance, Trade, Tax, Customs, Reserve Banks, Tourism offices) Household Income and Expenditure surveys (provide essential input data for CPI rebase and for National Accounts; they are also the sole source of data for poverty estimates). 			PFTAC, ABS, Statistics NZ

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by non-implementation	Potential partnerships
and Outputs Output 2-1: (continued)	 2-1.4: Education Statistics Activities relate to the compilation of all core education statistics derived from: National administrative databases and Education Management Information Systems (EMIS); Population and Housing censuses and different household surveys These activities will identify specific outputs required by data users in each country; guide training and technical assistance to produce and improve education statistical digest and other reports; help validate population projections 	 Efficient and effective Pacific EMIS are used to produce, analyse and disseminate high quality timely and relevant statistics Reliable statistics and indicators are used to inform management of inform policy and planning. Population projections are needed to enable long term resource allocation, planning services (teachers, classrooms) & indicator calculation 	In addition to general point mentioned earlier, identifying user-relevant outputs are important to satisfy information needs of national stakeholders, and provide feedback to EMIS team that it is on the right track.	UIS, SPBEQ, Statistics NZ
	 2-1.5: Health Statistics With responsibility to provide TA support to the collection of most Health statistics resting with other regional (SPC Public Health Division) and international providers (WHO, UNICEF), SDD activities relate to the compilation of statistics derived from: CRVS activities (cause of death statistics), Demographic Health Surveys (reproductive health; fertility and family planning; child health; infant and child mortality; child and maternal nutrition); Trade statistics (informing on imports of highly processed (and fatty) food items, alcohol, tobacco, sugary drinks etc.). 	Given the current lack of comprehensive and accurate cause of death data, this fill an important data gap in informing heath policy and associated programs. The same applies to establishing a connection between rising imports and consumption of highly processed foods, and different forms of NCDs	self-evident	BAG

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by non-implementation	Potential partnerships
Output 2-1: (continued)	 2-1.6: Statistics related Poverty and Hardship Activities relate to the compilation of statistics concerning various forms of poverty and hardship derived from specific household surveys given the general lack of reliable administrative databases: Poverty estimates (national poverty, and food poverty lines derived from HIES); Disability (Population census; DHS-MICs survey modules – new planned activity) Deprivation/Poverty of Opportunities index (planned HH survey module) Un-employment (Population census and household surveys) 	Provides essential information for inclusive social and economic policy and budgeting	self-evident	World Bank, ADB, UNDP
Output 2-2: Preparation of quality analytical/ technical outputs	Output 2-2 Activities 2-2.1: Demographic/Population statistics Activities relate to the regular analysis of fertility, mortality and migration – the three components of population dynamics and demographic change. Such analyses and subsequent reports are routinely undertaken and prepared after completion of national population and housing censuses, and household surveys (DHS, HIES). In countries with functioning Civil Registration systems, countries are encouraged to generate a Vital Statistics and Cause of Death report on an annual or biannual basis. An integral part of demographic analysis is the preparation of short- to medium-term population projections, which are routinely updated when new demographic data become available. 2-2.2: DRM-CC and Environmental statistics The preparation of analytical/technical reports on these topics lies outside SDD professional mandate.	Changes in fertility, mortality and migration patterns have significant impacts on population size and structure, and comprehensive analysis and interpretations of the meaning of such developments provides essential information to guide policy development and planning. To provide realistic population baselines to better prepare for future population scenarios.	Cannot develop realistic policies and plans, without an accurate understanding of the size and structure of current and future population age-groups. Impact of continued high or declining fertility/ birth rates has serious impacts downstream on number of children requiring a place in school, immunization and general health care, plus jobs later on in life. Increased life expectancy, while great news for individuals concerned, could easily turn into personal and Government nightmares, when health and social, services, housing and pension provisions are not planned for well in advance.	UNFPA, UNICEF, BAG

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by non-implementation	Potential partnerships
Output 2-2: (continuation)	2-2.3: Economic Statistics Activities relate to the regular analysis and preparation of reports/press releases on core economic statistics derived from surveys and administrative databases. An integral part of this work will involve collaboration with countries and technical partners as well as building capacity of countries to conduct analysis and prepare reports/press releases.	To provide quality economic statistics for informed policy development and planning, monitoring of policy performance and regional and international reporting.	Without quality analytical outputs, realistic policies and plans cannot be developed. For example, impact of escalating prices of goods and services would have an impact on the purchasing power of the consumer which in turn will have an impact on consumption and this could be a vehicle for poverty. So increased salary/wages and/or price controls in times like this will be good news for consumers and without quality data this cannot be possible.	PFTAC, ABS, Statistics NZ
	 2-2.4: Education Statistics Activities relate to building capacity of countries to conduct analysis and reporting which is linked to the regional EMIS project's "Data chain audit and quality Assessment", addressing: Basic (education) performance indicators Interpretation of trend statistics Analysis by regional (urban/rural) and gender disparity Provide (future) scenarios for planning and decision-making 	Build institutional national and regional capacity to process education statistics, develop performance and outcome indicators for benchmarking and performance monitoring, and report key information related to education developments, systems and achievements in PICs.	self-evident	UIS, DFAT, SPBEQ, USP, PIFS, UNICEF, Statistics NZ
	 2-2.4.1: Training in education indicators, data analysis Develop and deliver contextualized data analysis and report writing course. Facilitate use of data in Education Planning training workshop in Education Policy and Planning (USP, IOE). Assistance to identify data and indicator needs of users. Training in how to calculate and interpret indicators. Assistance to automate the filling of UIS surveys including PEDF regional module 	 Improved research and analysis of education data that informs planning and decision making. Better capacity in EMIS units to calculate education indicators. Demonstrating results and providing timely data is vital to education planning and budgeting. 	Improved knowledge and capacity of EMIS staff to provide essential statistical and analytical reports to inform policy development and planning, and measure educational outcomes and student learning.	

Strategic Objectives	Activity Focus /	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by	Potential
Strategic Objectives and Outputs Output 2-2: (continuation)	 2-2.4.2: Stakeholder engagement strategy activities undertaken in response to data chain audits. Undertake Data Analysis and report writing /Policy and Planning workshops. Build capacity Develop Fact sheets, and other, external data dissemination (e.g. Ministry Websites) Engage Focus groups Surveys and Public meetings in country to facilitate better stakeholder engagement and consensus building 2-2.4.3: International publications Advocate to include Pacific data in international publications Produce report on state of education in the Pacific tracking reports (PEDF, EFA) 2-2.5: Health Statistics (incl. Vital Statistics) Activities relate to the production of three different types of outputs: Collaboration with countries and technical partners in the regular analysis of DHS and DHS-MICS survey data, and the preparation of comprehensive reports, which conform to structure and standard laid out by MACRO International. These reports are complemented by a set of thematic Factsheets, to facilitate a more widespread dissemination and uptake of key findings. Build capacity of countries to conduct analysis and reporting of Vital and health statistics and assist countries in the preparation of annual or bi-annual Vital Statistics Reports. Comprehensive analytical reports and infographics on particular themes prepared by SDD 	 Increased communication between, and engagement by all stakeholders. Need to have good understanding of user incentives, and an active involvement by data users and producers. Education decision-makers at all levels have access to high quality and relevant education statistics, indicators, and analytical reports. Having already highlighted the importance of data on births and deaths for general policy development, planning and monitoring, cause of death data is essential to monitor disparities in population health, understand and respond to mortality patterns, justify the setting of policy priorities, and subsequently monitor policy performance, particularly (but not restricted to) in priority areas such as non-communicable diseases (NCDS), and maternal and child health. DHS surveys yield much needed data to inform health planning and service delivery that is not available from other routine collections. They also provide an important means of verifying 	 non-implementation This is absolutely essential to the sustainability/success of functioning EMIS systems – which includes the ongoing use of EMIS data. Continued data gaps in regional and international reports. There is a danger for countries lacking access to reliable vital and health statistics to set priorities and determine health investments without factual evidence. This is likely to result in poorer health status for the community (particularly vulnerable or poorly represented groups), slower health improvements in addressing core regional priorities such as NCDs, and health programs that maybe driven by specific interested parties rather than documented needs. Countries will also have less 	Potential partnerships BAG
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and Outputs	Description of Activities		non-implementation	partnerships
Output 2-2: (continuation)	2-2.5: Health Statistics (incl. Vital Statistics) (continuation) 2-2.6: Statistics related to Poverty and Hardship Activities relate to the preparation of analytical reports derived from census and survey date, involving technical collaboration with other specialist agencies.	 Comprehensive analyses of social and environmental statistics (derived from census and surveys) against health outcomes is important to better understand the drivers of health (or poor health) in the Pacific, and thus allow Governments and their partners to develop appropriate policy responses. To assist such efforts it is essential that health statistics, indicators, and analyses are documented and communicated in a way they are easily understood by, and thus meaningful to policy-makers and planners. The regular calculation of poverty and hardship indicators, based on data derived from Household Surveys (e.g. DHS, HIES), are indispensable for establishing factual and credible baselines to inform the development of inclusive social and economic policy, target specific population groups as well as geographic areas for priority attention, provide the benchmarks for regular monitoring of progress. 	 Social policy inertia with Governments and development partners lacking hard evidence to enact required policy measures and implement commensurate social and economic development initiatives. Social and political unrest. 	World Bank, ADB, UNDP, UNICEF, PDF
Output 2-3: Facilitating easier access to, and greater use of statistical information	General observation: All activities referred to here, are designed to provide easy access to and effective dissemination of statistical information and analytical outputs that are in line with varying needs (content) and absorptive capacity/ preference (ways of picking up/processing data and information) of different data users, and hence impact on the actual use of data and information.	A mix of traditional (paper-based) and electronic (web-based) data and information dissemination, combined with targeted learning events for key users is essential in getting statistical information used for the very purpose these statistics were collected and analysed in the first way.	 Missed opportunity to get messages across to different audiences. Limited returns on investments in data collection (efforts) and analysis - No value for money. 	See earlier reference to partners across specific sectors

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and Outputs	Description of Activities		non-implementation	partnerships
and Outputs Output 2-3: Facilitating easier access to, and greater use of statistical information	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Combination of different means of communication is essential to strategically target absorptive capacity/preference for specific types of messaging by different audiences (data users): some can read statistical tables, others prefer graphics or statistical maps	non-implementation	

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Output 2-3: Facilitating easier access to, and greater use of statistical information	 Thematic maps for better policies (paper/web) For example, educational outcome maps, access to schools; spatial variations in prevalence of specific health outcomes; poverty mapping; access to essential government services; Interactive mapping (web-based; regional/subnational visualization of statistical outcomes) Spatial analysis 2-3.4 Management of user-friendly/relevant information – data user seminars, policy dialogues Stepped-up efforts to conduct national data user seminars/workshops addressing senior policymakers (heads, deputy heads of government agencies) following completion of each major statistical collection census and household survey). To promote national ownership and assist capacity building, these seminars/dialogues need to be jointly planned/prepared for/delivered. Preparation and presentation of Executive Summary type policy debrief for politicians and parliamentarians. Town-hall style meeting for members of the public/ civil society. 2-3.5 Improve effectiveness and efficiency (accuracy) of statistical reporting Conduct annual training seminars for journalists, in collaboration with Regional Media Centre and PINA (Pacific Islands News Association) 			

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by non-implementation	Potential partnerships
Objective 3: All countries and territories have in place some form of a national statistics strategy or plan in line with their national development strategies.	Providing the institutional context guiding the development of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and the concomitant emergence of a national statistical system (NSS), SPC will continue its partnership with Paris21, to assist Pacific Island countries having requested technical support to progress their plans during Phase-2 of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy. Considering that 5 of the 7 countries are from Micronesia (Palau, FSM, RMI, Kiribati and Nauru), this second Phase of a Paris21-SPC partnership lends itself to perhaps developing a Micronesian subregional strategy containing country-specific strategic action plans.	Addressing the 3 rd priority strategic objective of TYPSS Phase-2, 2015 – 2017, SDD will focus its efforts on encouraging and assisting all remaining Pacific island countries that have not yet developed or finalized their <i>National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)</i> . The NSDS aims for countries to have an overall vision of the development of their national statistical system which will focus first and foremost on national needs, but also include regional and international needs. To be effective, an NSDS will be closely aligned with countries' own national development policy, and include all parts of the data production units and address issues related to the analysis, dissemination and use of data. An NSDS is expected to provide a country with a strategy for developing statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system (NSS). This acknowledges the reality that data and statistical information is generated across Government by various line ministries and statutory bodies, whose data needs and institutional capacity to generate and manage statistics will have to be addressed in the NSDS design.	 Maintaining the status quo of inefficient national statistical systems in most Pacific island countries, where the primary responsibility for the production and management of statistics tends to rest with underresourced National Statistical agencies, working often in isolation of other producers of statistics. Not having an effective NSS in place, that is guided by a common NSDS, has two immediate downsides or opportunity costs: Inability to provide data users with relevant and readily accessible statistical information enabling informed decision-making (and thus minimizing the chance for better domestic funding). And with NSDS increasingly serving as a framework for bilateral and international development assistance, missing out on opportunities to attract potential (and much needed) financial support from development partners for statistical development initiatives. 	Paris21

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by non-implementation	Potential partnerships
and outputs	Description of Activities	The NSDS will provide a vision for where a country's NSS should be in five to ten years' time, and will set milestones for getting there. It will present a comprehensive framework for an ongoing assessment of evolving user needs and priorities for statistics, and for building the capacity needed to meet these needs in a coordinated and efficient manner. Experience shows, that it also provides an effective framework for mobilizing resources, at national and international levels.	TOTAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY	partnersmps
Output 3-1: Regional planning workshop to review guidelines for NSDS development	Output 3-1: Regional planning workshop to review revised guidelines (version-2) for NSDS development bringing together Government statisticians of Fiji, Tuvalu, and the five Micronesian countries: Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Nauru.	Introduce Government statisticians to revised NSDS guidelines, NSDS design modalities and processes	Get early buy-in in process and agreement on responsibilities and contribution by National Governments, SPC and Paris21, to avoid misunderstandings downstream.	Paris21
Output 3-2: Development of national NSDS Roadmaps	Output 3-2: Preceding the NSDS design, comprehensive consultations are scheduled for each country, involving policy-makers, senior civil servants (director, deputies of key government agencies), key statutory bodies, as well as representatives of civil society, with the aim of developing an NSDS Roadmap. The latter outlines the NSDS design process, as well as the roles and responsibilities of National Governments and other stakeholders, SPC-SDD and Paris21.	Hold consultations with a wide range of policy-makers, users and producers of statistics across sectors and agencies, to familiarize them with the strategic goal and purpose of having an NSDS, and the tangible benefits and outcome a well-functioning NSS will entail: better quality, more timely, and more readily/easily accessible data and statistical information to support informed policy development and planning, provide benchmarks to monitor policy performance and measure results.	Self-evident – see earlier general comments	Paris21

Strategic Objectives	Activity Focus /	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by	Potential
and Outputs	Description of Activities		non-implementation	partnerships
Output 3-3: NSDS-Design	Output 3-3: Completing an NSDS design entails a series of discrete activities, involving national, regional and international partners at various stages over a period of approximately 9 – 12 months. 3-3.1: Preparation of sectoral gap analyses Representing the first domestic activity/input into the design process, a series of sectoral gap analyses are undertaken by national consultants, comprising of both a data (availability/quality) audit and a statistical capacity assessment and agenda for action across all key sectors. 3-3.2: Validation of sectoral gap analyses (1st	To identify existing data gaps and associated bottlenecks (structural, financial, behavioural) preventing the • collection of core statistics across sectors on a regular basis, • processing and analysis of these statistics, • timely dissemination of this information.	This is essential to provide evidence-based guidance on strategic and operational NSDS priorities.	Paris21, national consultants
	 national workshop) Following an earlier validation of each sectoral report by their respective sectoral strategic taskforces, a 1st National workshop brings together representatives from all taskforces to review each report. This workshop will also include a short introduction to the principles of Strategic planning, to sensitize to the next steps of the NSDS design process. 	To establish the extent of cross-sectoral synergies (in the form of strengths, weaknesses, threats, opportunities), that will provide the basic building blocks for the NSDS design.	Early cross-sectoral buy-in into a multi-sectoral National strategy is essential at this stage of the strategic planning process to avoid bottle-necks at later stages.	Paris21, national consultants
	 3-3.3: Progressing NSDS design (2nd national workshop) Following completion of sectoral reports and consolidation into a final document by national consultant, this workshop will bring together representatives from all taskforces for a second time, to review the national report, jointly develop the NSDS' vision, mission, values, strategic objectives and outputs develop and agree-upon key components for the NSDS' strategic action plans 	To establish agreement/buy-in regarding the final NSDS design.	Having participated in/actively contributing to the shaping of the final NDS design, provides the necessary foundation for cross-sectoral/cross-Government collaboration and support of implementing the NSDS.	Paris21, national consultants

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by non-implementation	Potential partnerships
Output 3-3: NSDS-Design (continuation)	 3-3.4: Completion and Government endorsement of final NSDS design National NSDS consultant, in consultation with Paris21 and SPC prepares final report, for submission to NSDS oversight committee and Minister responsible, for final Government endorsement. 	Completion of NSDS		Paris21, national consultants

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by non-implementation	Potential partnerships
Objective 4: National level statistics stakeholder are advised on an ongoing basis about emerging statistical tools and systems, processes for effective data analysis, communication and quality assurance and Pacific Interaction and proposed responses to international statistical standards	In partnership with other technical, providers, Pacific island NSOs and extended national statistical systems will be kept informed, on a regular basis about statistical developments. While addressing first and foremost statistical matters (tools, systems, methodologies, classifications), access to regular information, technical support, learning opportunities and training will be available across the broad spectrum of data and information management, as already referred to under previous objectives. PSSC Technical working groups are expected to be a major driver of such developments.	In the context of rapidly evolving technology, particularly regarding data collection and dissemination, Pacific island statistical systems need to be kept in the loop about such innovations, where these can tangibly speed up collection processes, improve data quality and timeliness, and thus lead to more effective and efficient statistical operations. Embracing common statistical methodologies across Pacific island countries, such as the same census and survey questionnaires, or at least the same core set of survey questions, will yield similar benefits: • reduced transaction costs in TA/training delivery (with common training modules, common data entry/ data processing systems used; common tabulation templates); • more comparable statistics and indicators between countries (which would also be increasingly more in line with international standards).	 Improvements to data quality and more timely data dissemination. All countries subscribing to use a Pacific core set of census questions, and common Household survey forms, will yield more truly comparable statistics, and greatly reduce TA transaction costs. 	PSSC
Output 4-1: PIC NSOs and NSS to have regular access to information about new statistical developments	Output 4-1 Activities All technical partners represented on the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee will play a major role in brokering information access by Pacific NSOs (and NSS) across a wide range of statistical developments. • Thematic PSSC Technical working groups (TWGs) play a key role in this process, with two groups currently operating: the HIES and ICT TWGs. • Two additional TWGs to be formed during 2015-2017 focus on (i) Administrative Databases, and (ii) Pacific Survey Future.	Drawing from a large field of technical experts working across different agencies and disciplines, such thematic groups are best placed to provide countries with upto-date information on new developments, and professionally sound advice on the relative merits of these innovations.	More comprehensive and balanced information and advice available to countries, than were this to come from single agencies.	Technical partners, PSSC

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by non-implementation	Potential partnerships
Output 4-2: Development of regional methodologies and systems	Output 4-2 Activities: In line with TYPSS' overarching strategic focus on developing regional solutions to address national statistical challenges, a continued focus and strengthened commitment to develop regional methodologies and systems remains of paramount importance. 2 key priority areas: • Methodology: (re)develop core set of census questions for 2020 round of censuses; all PICs adopt new Pacific HIES methodology. • Systems: further explore electronic data collection/IT applications across core statistical collections: • tablets for census data collection (regular price collections, small surveys); • mobile phones for vital registration; • expand CAPI methodology to major HH surveys; • develop Classification Management Systems for PIC NSOs	 To seek renewed commitment from Pacific Island NSOs to adopt the Pacific islands Core set of census questions, to be finalized and adopted at the 4 June 2015 Pacific 2020 round of Census Planning meeting. Be in a position to provide countries with factual evidence on cost-benefits, in terms of economics, data quality and timelines (relative to traditional collection approach). CMS provides storage for all coding, classifications, with links to statistical standards 	Greater adherence to regional methodologies, systems, classifications entails 3 tangible benefits for countries and TA providers, improving: • Data comparability across the region. • Improved data quality/ integrity, and timeliness; • Significant lowering of transaction costs in TA/training delivery.	Technical partners, PSSC

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by non-implementation	Potential partnerships
Objective 5: National and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively	To achieve this objective, it is essential that countries, technical and financial partners committed to contributing to national and regional statistical development as outlined in the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011-202, and in its Phase-2 Design (2015-2017), • do so in a collaborative manner, • under the umbrella of the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee, and are • guided by 3 "rules of engagement". These, although not explicitly referred to as such, are listed as sub-headings under Objective 5 contained in the Final Phase-2 Design Document. 1. TA inputs are in line with country and territory priorities, transparent to all stakeholders and are delivered efficiently across the region. 2. Pacific leaders receive recommendations about priorities for statistical collections at national and regional level with accompanying data about resource and technology requirements 3. TYPSS phase 2 operates in a coordinated and efficient manner with the best use being made of available technical assistance and informed progress assessment being made available to PSSC.	With a growing number of technical and financial partners having become active in contributing to statistical development in the region half-way through Phase-1 (2011-2014) of the <i>Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy</i> , a mid-term review undertaken in early 2013 recognized the need for improved M&E reporting, including more quantitative and greater "in-depth" reporting by all members of the <i>Pacific Statistics Steering Committee</i> . To assist PSSC, the review recommended that PSSC engage a part-time coordinator, to be "initially engaged to help collate country and TA provider M&E data, assist with PSSC reporting and sustain a real-time online calendar of regional statistics activities". Endorsed by the 3 rd Regional Conference of Heads of Statistics and Planning in July 2013, this message was also picked up by the Independent Phase-2 Design Team in 2014; recognizing the importance of statistical governance arrangements to ensure required technical support at country and regional levels is delivered and achieves tangible outcomes, it recommended inclusion of a Phase-2 strategic objective explicitly dedicated to monitoring national and regional statistical governance, and in terms of function, a slight change in direction from PSSC part-time support to full-time TYPSS coordination, by a dedicated unit that is independent from technical and financial partners.	With more players involved in statistical development over the past few years, compared to a more modest presence prior to the development of the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, coordination of activities and ongoing communication becomes more critical, with • the playing field getting more crowded, and • NSOs, technical and financial partners all required demonstrate Value-for-Money regarding investments in statistical development. To assist this process, the TYPPS-Phase-2 design advocated strengthening the support provided to PSSC, through a full-time and independent TYPSS coordinator, to ensure • TYPPS implementation proceeds smoothly, and • National and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively.	PSSC

Strategic Objectives and Outputs	Activity Focus / Description of Activities	Purpose	Importance/what do we miss by non-implementation	Potential partnerships
Output 5-1: Development of TYPSS Coordination Unit work plan, strategic outputs and activities	Output 5-1 Activities A 3-year TYPSS Coordination Unit work plan, including strategic outputs and associated activities will be developed by the incoming TYPSS coordinator in early 2015, in close consultation with PSSC chair and members, and presented to PSSC meeting in May 2015.	Development operating framework and obtain buy-in from all PSSC partners.	TYPPS implementation will not proceed smoothly, and regional statistics governance will not be functioning effectively	TYPSS Coordination Unit, PSSC
Output 5-2: Active and collaborative participation by SPC alongside other partners	Output 5-1 Activities Participation by SPC-SDD in PSSC-meetings and associated Technical working groups.	Contribute to functioning regional statistics governance process.		