

TEN YEAR PACIFIC STATISTICS STRATEGY

Phase 2 Design Document

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) was adopted by leaders of Pacific Island Countries and Territories in 2009 in recognition of the need for a comprehensive plan to drive improvement and development of statistics in the Pacific region. TYPSS proposed a regional approach to maximise and coordinate resources to provide regional strategic leadership, and thereby improve the scope and quality of national statistics. The 10 year strategy (2010- 2020) outlined a series of short and long-term programs to contribute to national statistics capacity development and regional coordination and capability. A subsequent action plan identified specific activities to be undertaken during phase 1 (2011-2014) and six objectives to be achieved in the first phase.

A Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) was established to monitor the implementation of phase 1. The PSSC is composed of representatives from PICT NSO with representation from development partners. During Phase 1 secretariat and logistics support to the PSSC has been provided by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

A range of development partners contributed to the implementation of phase 1. These include the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC), the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st century (PARIS21), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the University of the South Pacific (USP), Statistics New Zealand, a range of UN agencies including the ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN women, UN ESCAP, UN SIAP, WHO, and the World Bank. Funding for statistics in the Pacific is received from a range of sources. These include Pacific national governments who both fund their own NSO and are contributing members to Pacific regional organisations. It also includes funding from the Australian government through DFAT, the governments of New Zealand, France, USA and Japan, from the ADB, the World Bank and the IMF.

In July 2013 a mid-term review of TYPSS was undertaken. This confirmed that the Strategy had resulted in measurable improvements in the availability and comprehensiveness of Pacific data. However the report also noted some challenges with implementation, particularly in the area of national level coordination, governance arrangements and overall monitoring and evaluation of progress. It is not surprising that decision-making and accountability would be a focus for future action, given the aims of establishing common systems and processes across 22 diverse countries with distinct and different governing arrangements, along with establishing a common train of thought on a wide range of issues by the development partners with their differing perspectives on global and regional development needs.

In line with these recommendations an independent design team was commissioned to design the phase 2 of TYPSS.

Considerations for phase 2

A highly consultative process was undertaken for the Phase 2 design. This indicated that there was considerable support for continuing implementation of the Strategy. However several important changes in context and lessons learned need to be addressed in phase 2 implementation.

Given the increasing variation and capacity and resourcing in each of the PICT, the next phase needs to be characterised by differentiated strategies appropriate to each country and territory. A dynamic process is required with country input shaping the regional agenda and regional agreements feeding back into the quality and scope of country statistics plans. There remains a need to improve country capacity to analyse and disseminate data. Increased use should be made of administrative data. The focus needs to broaden from the national statistics offices (NSO) to look at the national statistics systems (NSS) in a country and how this can best serve national development priorities.

The demands for statistics are growing. There continue to be emerging issues which require new statistical data such as environment, climate change, migrant labour, youth employment, disability, gender and culture. There is likely to be an ongoing emphasis both at regional and international level on targets and indicators for development progress. Pacific countries and territories will need to continue to utilise indicators and benchmarks for reporting progress at a national and regional level.

Technology is evolving and while significant challenges remain, opportunities exist for Pacific countries and territories to continue to take up new technology to increase data collection and dissemination.

Lessons learned from the first phase of TYPSS suggests that attention needs to be given to better coordination of technical assistance, further development of the PSSC role and increased resourcing for monitoring and evaluation.

TYPSS Theory of Change

TYPSS assumes that the common constraints to statistics development in the Pacific region can be effectively addressed through coordination and action at the regional level. The original Strategy identified several 'levers' for change. It assumed that these levers supported by dedicated regional action, coordination and increased voice, would lead to more efficient use of limited regional resources and in turn increased NSO capacity and better quality statistical products. Furthermore, the challenges of decision-making and accountability will be better managed in projects where the purpose is quite narrow, and not subject to multiple interpretations, or adaptations.

While these fundamental assumptions remain relevant, in phase 2 the emphasis will expand to give more recognition to country level differences, more deliberate emphasis on coordination between development partners, a strengthened focus on the national statistical system, and a more enhanced focus on statistical use and analysis.

In order to support these shifts, there will be increased attention to strengthening the role of PSSC, more attention to communication and accountability and a 'surge' in the resourcing provided for coordination and implementation.

Phase 2 vision and objectives

Phase 2 is guided by the following vision:

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

It aims to achieve five major objectives:

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.
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
3. All countries and territories have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan in line with their national development strategies.
4. National level statistic stakeholders 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.
5. National and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively:
 - i) *TA inputs are in line with country and territory priorities, transparent to all stakeholders and are delivered efficiently across the region.*
 - ii) *Pacific leaders receive recommendations about priorities for statistical collections at national and regional level with accompanying data about resource and technology requirements*
 - iii) *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.*

Principles

Implementation will be guided by the following principles:

- Country owned and driven prioritisation.
- Accountable and transparent partnerships.
- Working to collective strengths for greater efficiency.
- Focusing on innovation, common systems and standards, and leveraging off change.
- Regional relevance
- Commitment to excellence and quality
- A focus on clear and achievable outcomes.

Implementation process

In addition to strategies developed throughout phase 1, phase 2 will focus on identifying and working in line with NSS priorities. It will use a staged capacity development approach. It will seek to strengthen regional leadership and ensure greater coordinated technical assistance. Work will focus on an agreed set of core statistics and increased emphasis on data analysis and use. There will be a more systematic approach to communication between all stakeholders.

In order to achieve these strategies, attention will be given to strengthening the PSSC; making extensive use of technical working groups to inform and undertake tasks of behalf of the PSSC; the development of a TYPSS coordination unit; and increased resourcing for monitoring and evaluation.

The PSSC will be supported to strengthen its capacity to be a regional and international voice for Pacific statistics; and overseeing the implementation and progress of TYPSS.

A regional coordination unit will be established with a full-time coordinator, assisted by a part-time monitoring and evaluation officer and a part-time logistics officer. The regional coordination unit will be funded for the next three years by DFAT with additional in kind support from ADB. Support will also be sought from other development partners.

The coordination unit will be accountable for its work to the PSSC through an agreed annual activity plan. A subcommittee of PSSC will oversight the work of the coordination unit based on this annual plan. It will be located in the SPC Suva office and under the line management of the Director General of SPC. It will be subject to a formal mid-term review in May 2016.

Governance arrangements

Formal accountability to HOPS has served TYPSS well in phase 1. In phase 2 there will need to be increased focus on engaging users of statistical services and broadening lines of accountability more directly to those users. Options to pursue this increased accountability, including the option to constitute PSSC as an independent committee, will be explored over the next 12 months.

Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation for TYPSS phase 2 aims to identify progress towards outcomes at against national and regional objectives. It is designed to capture change and learning. In practice the monitoring and evaluation will have the following elements:

- Assessment, at regional level, of progress towards phase 2 objectives
- Evaluative enquiry against key assumptions
- Assessment of stakeholders' commitment to and practice of TYPSS phase 2 principles.
- Lessons learned
- Commentary on broader contextual issues and factors of relevance to statistical use and production in the region but beyond the responsibility and influence of TYPSS

Risk management

The major risks associated with phase 2 have to do with technical assistance coordination, effective leadership by PSSC, the increased focus on national statistics systems and the introduction of the coordination unit.

These risks will be managed by the monitoring and reporting to PSSC as well as monitoring by national governments and development partners. A representative group of PSSC, DFAT and other nominated stakeholders will have responsibility for managing risks associated with the coordination unit.

Sustainability

Program sustainability will be addressed in TYPSS by development of the appropriate systems for ongoing support for each PICT. The aim is for the full potential capacity of PICT to be realised. In addition, TYPSS highlights the important role of tertiary education in the region in preparing the next generation of statisticians and also preparing future policy makers and program implementers to be able to understand and use statistics.

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Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ANS	Assessment of National Systems
BAG	Brisbane Accord Group
BOP	Balance of Payments
CRGA	Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (Secretariat of the Pacific Community)
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DFAT	Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EMIS	Educational Management Information System
FEMM	Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting
FIC	Forum Island Countries
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
HOPS	Heads of Planning and Statistics
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
MTR	Mid Term Review
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMDI	National Minimum Development Indicators
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSS	National Statistics Systems
NSO	National Statistics Office
PIDC	Pacific Immunisation Directors Conference
PINACLE	Pacific Islands National Accounts Compilers and Local Experts Association
PRISM	Pacific Regional Information System
PARIS 21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century (An initiative by a consortium of international organisations to promote improved statistics in developing countries)
PFTAC	Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre
PIC	Pacific Island Countries
PICT	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PSSC	Pacific Statistics Steering Committee
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SDD	Statistics for Development Division (Secretariat of the Pacific Community)
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIS	Small Island States

SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
TA	Technical Assistance
TOR	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Groups
TYPSS	Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UQ	University of Queensland
USP	University of the South Pacific

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Introduction

The Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) was adopted by leaders of Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICT) in 2009. TYPSS was developed in recognition of the need for a comprehensive plan to drive improvement and development of statistics in the Pacific region. It sought to move away from annual planning by development partners and partner governments, often inadequate to the cycles related to statistical production, to provide a longer term framework for improvement in production and utilisation of statistics. It also sought to make efficient use of resources across the region to maximise the development of national statistical systems.

When TYPSS was first designed, it had a large remit covering six broad focus areas and involving many different countries and development partners. It was an ambitious undertaking, seeking to provide a capacity for regional leadership similar to other regional statistical initiatives in Europe and the Caribbean but on a reduced budget and in highly diverse and challenging national development and statistical contexts.

Consultation for the design of Phase 2 indicated a high level of satisfaction with achievements under Phase 1, but also a concern to adapt the approach to new challenges and a continually developing context.

The purpose of this document is to outline the rationale, objectives, management and implementation framework for Phase 2 of TYPSS (2015-2017). This document does not replace the Strategy, which remains as the fundamental document of TYPSS, outlining the focus and content for the ten year plan. In line with the action plan developed for Phase 1 of TYPSS this document outlines the way the Strategy will be actioned for the next three years.

The finalisation of this design document has been subject to feedback from countries and development partners.

Background

TYPSS was formulated as a consequence of the decision to adopt a regional approach to build national statistics, made by Pacific Economic Ministers at the 2009 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM). At the 2009 FEMM, Ministers highlighted the importance of statistical services to inform the development of evidence based policy. Ministers endorsed a proposal for the expansion of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) statistics programs.

Specifically, this was to be achieved through:

- Mobilisation of a team of regional experts to provide ongoing technical assistance and training;
- Where appropriate, capacity supplementation to the National Statistics Offices;
- A stronger reformed governance structure for regional organisations with greater control by its country membership); and
- Optional contracting out of some statistical work by some PICT.

This was later endorsed by the SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA). The FEMM initiated a Regional Statistical Benchmarking Study, undertaken over 2008-09. Subsequently, a report entitled: A Pacific Island Regional Plan for the implementation of initiatives for Strengthening Statistics Service through Regional Approaches, was tabled by SPC at the 3rd Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS), July, 2010.

The report recognised that with adequate resources, Pacific statistics offices have a high capacity to gather information from their citizens. They are able to adjust to local demands and conditions and citizens are more likely to trust and respond to information gathering by national institutions. In addition, the developments in information and communications technologies over the past decade favour small statistical states through substantial declines in technology costs, the lowering of communications charges and the growth in ready to use low cost tools and systems, although their implementation can remain a high cost activity.

On the other hand, inadequate resourcing was considered a major threat to the viability of the Pacific led and owned statistical processes. Resource constraints include a lack of suitably trained and qualified people to do the work and insufficient resources to undertake the range of statistical collections required; as well as structural constraints such as inadequate supporting legislation and positioning of the NSO as a junior department within a larger ministry. Limited skills in data analysis meant that available data was not being fully utilised. These constraints were compounded by donors and other international agencies supporting independent surveys or supporting data collection through other arms of government, often bypassing the NSO. At the same time those same development partners and international institutions have contributed to an increased demand for statistical and other data in the region which has frequently overwhelmed existing statistical systems.

TYPSS proposed a regional approach to maximise and coordinate available resources and provide regional strategic leadership, and thereby improve the scope and quality of national statistics. The Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (2010-2020) outlined a series of short and long-term programs to contribute to national statistics capacity development and regional coordination and capability. It proposed a regional governance mechanism to oversee and manage the program of work over the ten-year period. In particular TYPSS identified sectoral priorities for statistics across PICT as well as the support required from key development partners such as SPC and PFTAC.

A subsequent Action Plan identified specific activities to be undertaken during Phase 1 and potential partnerships with other statistics providers and agencies with different comparative advantages (see Annex 1: TYPSS Phase 2 Design: Key Documents). Six objectives were identified for the first phase.

Box 1. TYPSS phase 1 objectives

Objective 1: Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT) are undertaking key statistical collections as scheduled;

Objective 2: PICT are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors;

Objective 3: PICT have their own capacity or are accessing regional capacity to undertake agreed core and some specialist statistical functions;

Objective 4: Pacific national and regional statistics are accessible and are being utilised;

Objective 5: New and innovative statistical tools and systems have been introduced;

Objective 6: National and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively.

A Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) was established to monitor the Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan, Phase 1. The PSSC is composed of representatives from PICT NSO with representation from development partners. Since commencement of Phase 1, the PSSC has convened on 8 occasions, with the broad purpose of monitoring the Action Plan and sharing information on country-level statistical issues and challenges.

A range of development partners have contributed to the implementation of Phase 1. While the Australian Government, through DFAT, is a major funder, technical assistance and other resources come from a range of sources. These include the assistance outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. TYPSS major sources of assistance

Organisation	Main focus of the assistance provided
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) ¹	Leadership and institutional strengthening, including individual capacity development and mentoring. Capacity development and technical training in collaboration with regional donors.
Asia Development Bank (ADB)	Bilateral TA in economic statistics Analysis of National statistics Capacity development of national statistics offices
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Has specific projects on areas such as government finance statistics.
Pacific Financial technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC)	Economic and financial and balance of payment statistics
Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century (PARIS21)	National statistics development strategies Advocacy about use and importance of statistics Data dissemination (tools) Advocacy

¹ DFAT, MFAT, ABS and Statistics New Zealand have in place a partnership agreement to work collaboratively to strengthen the supply and use of statistics and continue to build statistical capability in the Pacific.

SPC	<p>Population and Housing Censuses</p> <p>Economic surveys (Household Income and Expenditure Surveys; establishment surveys)</p> <p>Social Surveys (Demographic and Health Surveys; Labour Force surveys; multi-development indicator surveys)</p> <p>Analysis of Demographic, social and economic statistics</p> <p>Development of national statistical strategies in partnership with Paris21</p> <p>Civil Registration and Vital Statistics</p> <p>Economic Statistics (National Accounts, Prices, Trade, Business Register)</p> <p>Education statistics (including start-up work on regional EMIS technical support facility)</p> <p>Capacity development of national statistics offices</p> <p>Statistical standards and classifications</p>
Statistics New Zealand	<p>Attachments of NSO staff to New Zealand; training; individual capacity development and mentoring; institutional strengthening projects; leadership development; Census and survey assistance</p> <p>One full-time equivalent staff member posted to Tokelau NSO</p>
UN agencies (ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN women, UNESCAP, UNSIAP, WHO)	<p>TA for sectoral or issue specific surveys and analysis (for example poverty analysis or assessment and analysis of gender violence) and administrative databases.</p> <p>Support for specific surveys such as sexual and reproductive health surveys, labour market surveys, demographic and health surveys.</p> <p>Training (particularly through SIAP)</p> <p>Oversight and promotion of international frameworks and standards</p> <p>Support for Census analysis such as gender and youth monographs</p>
University of the South Pacific (USP)	Training and education for Statistics
The World Bank	Statistical capacity building

Development partners and associated technical providers bring a wide range of experience and technical skills together with important diversity of specialisations and critical knowledge. This diversity has been an important strength of a regional approach to statistical provision, but it requires co-ordination to take full advantage of what it offers.

Funding for statistics in the Pacific is received from a range of sources. Pacific national governments fund their own NSO, and are contributing members to Pacific regional organisations such as SPC, who provide services on behalf of PICT. Additional activities under TYPSS are supported by development partners including the Australian Government through DFAT, the Governments of New Zealand, France, USA and Japan, the ADB, World Bank and the IMF.

TYPSS Mid-Term Review

In July 2013, a Mid-term Review (MTR) of implementation of the TYPSS was completed. The objective of the Review was to present findings to inform national, regional and international stakeholders on the progress of the implementation of Phase 1 of the Action Plan, along with information about future focal areas under the Action Plan. Implementation of TYPSS Phase 1 was evaluated against the criteria

defined in DFAT's evaluation guidelines ²(The full executive summary of the MTR is provided at Annex 2).

Box 2: Key Findings from TYPSS MTR

- **Substantial Achievement.** The TYPSS has facilitated considerable output, particularly in the area of developing country capacity for collections, vital registration, economics data and development of their own national websites accessible also through PRISM. NSO and major technical assistance providers need to be commended for this achievement. The objectives of TYPSS remain relevant.
- **Limited National Statistical Plan Development.** Countries must clearly identify the need for and better schedule technical assistance. National statistical development strategies (NSDS) are critical for NSO to assess reporting requirements and provide a road map for system-wide statistical development. NSDS development should be a high priority for TYPSS.
- **More Focus on Data Analysis and Demand for Official Statistics.** Much of the technical assistance has focussed on collections and data processing. More attention should be paid to support processes for analysis and dissemination. Data analysis, managerial and communication skills development require greater attention in the next phase of TYPSS. The development of accredited programs with teaching institutions is currently underway and should be further explored.
- **Improved M&E Framework.** The reporting framework and template should be enhanced to capture inputs by country/objective, along with outputs and results/outcomes. Reporting should be against time-bound action plans. Indicators measuring outcomes such as training should also be reported in the TYPSS M&E framework. Resources allocated to each objective and country needs to be specified for strategic monitoring of expenditures.
- **PSSC Requires Strengthening.** The terms of reference (ToR) of the PSSC should be reviewed to coincide with the upcoming HOPS meeting in order to strengthen its role in operations, reporting and coordination. A part-time coordinator should be engaged to assist with M&E data compilation, PSSC reporting and agenda-setting, and sustaining a real-time calendar of regional statistics activities. Guidelines need to be prepared for standards endorsement and the operation of technical working groups. Communications support should be provided to PSSC representatives.
- **Independent Phase 2 design.** The overall design and objectives of the TYPSS are appropriate. An independent design team should be commissioned by the PSSC to design the follow-on activities of TYPSS for all TA providers under existing objectives for consideration by the PSSC. Activities should be scheduled with agreed deliverables and timeframes. Indicators for tracking outputs and outcomes need to be specified in an M&E framework, which will be reported at each PSSC. Donors should provide predictable longer term financing for follow-on phases of the TYPSS to assist with staff retention and planned implementation.

In terms of achievements, the mid-term review confirmed that TYPSS has resulted in measurable improvements in the availability and comprehensiveness of Pacific data. However, the report also noted several challenges with TYPSS implementation particularly in the area of national level coordination, TYPSS' governance arrangements and overall monitoring and evaluation of progress against long-term objectives (see Box 2). Several recommendations were made for the next phase of TYPSS, which were all endorsed by HOPS (see Box 3)³.

² Relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency, impact and sustainability, as well as monitoring and learning, and gender equality

³ Full detailed recommendations included at Annex 3

Box 3. Summary of TYPSS Phase 1 MTR Recommendations

- TYPSS overall structure and objectives should be maintained.
- PSSC should endorse an increased TYPSS focus on capacity to generate demand for official statistics.
- PSSC should endorse an increased TYPSS focus on data analysis and dissemination.
- The PSSC should identify NSDS development as a major priority.
- All TA Providers and countries should improve M&E reporting.
- PSSC engage a part time coordinator.
- The PSSC should develop guidelines for endorsing definitions and standards, along with technical working group operations.
- Donors provide PSSC members with communications support.
- The PSSC should review its TOR to coincide with the upcoming HOPS meeting in July 2013.
- PSSC should endorse an Independent Phase 2 design.
- Donors should provide longer term rolling funding.
- Donors should sustain the civil registration and vital statistics program.

In line with the recommendations, an independent design team was commissioned to design the Phase 2 of TYPSS for consideration by the PSSC.

Design process for management of TYPSS Phase 2

A design team was contracted to facilitate a design workshop and undertake in-country and distance consultations with the full range of PICT NSO and technical and development partners supporting Pacific statistical development.

The design process was completed over a three month period, including in-country missions, to Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and New Caledonia (for purposes of engaging in dialogue with SPC). An additional discussion was held with Tokelau National Statistics Office in Samoa. In addition to the tasks outlined in the TOR, the design team consulted with DFAT posts; and undertook an additional round of NSO and development partner consultations following the first draft of the design⁴. Extensive feedback was provided on the first draft. This is been incorporated into the current version of the design.

The major strength of the design process was the scope and extent of consultations and in particular, the fact that the process engaged planners and other country level statistics users. Through the support of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), four planners attended the design workshop in Suva and during the in-country missions, design team members were able to consult with several other government departments. The message that came through these consultations was remarkably consistent - that TYPSS was strongly supported and had contributed to considerable development of statistics in the Pacific. Respondents were keen for further development of the strategy in Phase 2,

⁴ Phone calls/email interaction was undertaken with all NSO. DFAT managed a series of discussions with development partners.

building on these achievements and addressing identified challenges, in order to realise the long term intentions of TYPSS. (See [Annex 3: List of Consultations](#)).

It was communicated to the design team that TYPSS continued to be the appropriate strategy to determine the content and focus of statistics development in the Pacific but that further work was required in the second phase to strengthen implementation, coordination and assessment procedures. In light of these directions this design document gives particular attention to the platform for taking phase 2 of TYPSS forward rather than challenge the content already made available in the original TYPSS design document.

Key findings

Achievements to date

At the end of the first phase it is clear that there have been considerable achievements in the quantity of key statistical collections undertaken and in the capacity and competency within national statistics offices (NSO).

- The MTR shows that of the 15 countries and 3 territories targeted under TYPSS, 11 completed a census and disseminated the information between 2011 and 2014. Similarly four countries completed a demographic health survey (DHS) between 2011 and 2014 and five countries completed household income and expenditure survey (HIES) across that period.
- Future planning indicates a substantial program of surveys planned by SPC with PICT for the next three years (see Table 2)

Table 2. PICT major statistical collections planned for 2014 - 2017

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
MELANESIA							
Papua New Guinea	Ag Census	HIES					CEN
Fiji	HIES (2013-14)	DHS	LFS (2015-2016)	CENSUS			
Solomon Islands	HIES (2013-14)	DHS		Village Resources Survey		CEN	
Vanuatu	Business/AG survey	HIES	Ag Census			CEN	
MICRONESIA							
Kiribati	HIES (2014-15)	CENSUS	Business Survey	LFS	DHS		CEN
Federated States of Micronesia	HIES (2013-14)	Agricultural survey					CEN
Marshall Islands <i>(no update)</i>						CEN	
Nauru	HIES (2013-14)		Ag-Fish Survey	DHS			
	Business/LFS						
Palau	HIES (2013-14)	CENSUS	LFS				CEN
		Agricultural survey					
POLYNESIA							
Samoa	DHS	LFS	CENSUS				
Tuvalu	Business/LFS	HIES	Ag-Fish Survey	DHS			
Cook Islands	HIES (2014-15)		CENSUS				
Niue	HIES (2014-15)		CENSUS				
Tokelau	HIES (2014-15)		CENSUS + AgCens				
Tonga	Ag Census	HIES/LFS	CENSUS				
			Business Survey				
PACIFIC ISLAND TERRITORIES							
American Samoa	Ag Census	HIES		Economic Census			CEN
Guam							CEN
Northern Mariana Islands		HIES					CEN
French Polynesia							
New Caledonia							
Wallis and Futuna							
Pitcairn Islands							annual pop count

HIES (2013-14) = completed, or still in progress (and/or analysis pending)

HIES (2014-15) = planned but not yet started

- By the end of 2012 the MTR identifies that 10 countries had an economic statistics plan in place and eight were producing the statistics required under these plans from their own administrative databases.
- There is growing evidence of cross regional learning and sharing of skills and resources. Examples include Vanuatu statisticians helping the Cook Islands and Solomon Islands with scanning for the census; and Samoa assisting Tuvalu with management support for census field work, and Niue in the compilation of their national accounts. The PFTAC Report to PSSC Meeting 4 noted that Samoa hosted two staff on attachment from Vanuatu, giving them opportunities to learn from Samoa's experience of compiling QNA.

The progress identified in statistical development is due to interrelated factors. Clearly the size and resourcing of individual NSO is important, but consultations across the region indicate that the competency and commitment of NSO staff, in particular effective leadership and management by the chief statistician and other senior staff, is a critical feature of those NSO which are progressing most effectively. Alongside this, external support which is flexible and responsive, and opportunities for learning from other Pacific countries also seem to be features which contribute to effective change in statistical development.

Lessons for phase 2

The consultations also suggested however that there were several lessons and emerging trends which need to be taken into account in the next phase of TYPSS.

Significant differences in the institutional capacity of NSO: The implementation/acceptance of TYPSS has been more effective in some countries than others. Some of the PICT NSO such as in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu are good examples of maturing statistics offices that produce a range of basic statistics, have a reasonably clear mandate within the broader national statistics system and established working relationships with several other users and producers of statistics. The Cook Islands has a statistical office that, despite its size, is moving well on this pathway. There are differences between these NSO and others. (Annex 4 summarises the key elements of the National Statistic System⁵ (NSS) in PICT and the diversity experienced across the region).

While there is a gap in baseline information about current NSO capacity and priorities⁶, it is clear that a dynamic approach to understanding NSO capacity and need and therefore subregional grouping, needs to be maintained into phase 2 of TYPSS. While it is sometimes useful to simply differentiate NSO by size, for specific areas of development support other forms of differentiation, related to a mixture of internal capacity, commitment and progress to date might be more useful.⁷ In the longer term this might lead to considerable differentiation in strategies for statistical development in different PICT and may call for a range of types of supports from development partners. This does not undermine the commitment to maintaining regional standards, but speaks to the need for flexibility and responsiveness by development partners.

The experience from phase 1 suggests that while some Pacific NSO are capable of moving to independent management and implementation of all core statistical areas there will, for the foreseeable future, remain a group of smaller island states where regular technical supplementation is likely to be required, particularly for periodic censuses and survey tasks. Clarity around how best to meet this likely ongoing need, in a way which maximises national control as well as promotes efficiency across the region, ought to be a focus in phase 2. It will require individual country assessment and consultation as well as regional consideration through the PSSC.

⁵ The national statistical system is the ensemble of statistical organisations and units within a country that jointly collect process and disseminate official statistics on behalf of national government. Source Publication: OECD.

⁶ A challenge faced by the design team was the lack of up to date baseline data on the status of NSO and national statistical work plans. The monitoring and evaluation of Phase 1 and the mid-term review, had not generated adequate data on the progress in individual countries about the outcomes of key statistical processes and activities, and the design time frame was too short to enable collection of this information for all countries. Subsequent consultations suggested that this information is available and for some development partners, such as SPC, forms an important component of their planning, but that the information is not readily available for all development partners and for PSSC planning and oversight.

⁷ For example the approach taken by the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) in its support for CRVS development in the Pacific has been to provide assistance across four subregional groupings based on countries engagement with and competency around CRVS. This categorisation has been effective in targeting resources and support for different Pacific countries but would not necessarily be the appropriate subgrouping for other areas of NSS development and external support.

A key principle for moving forward is that strategies and plans must provide a good fit for size and needs of the specific country or territory. There needs to be realistic expectations about what this means for the process of obtaining core sets of statistics in any particular country or territory.

Broadening focus from NSO to NSS: The achievements in phase 1 around the development of NSDS suggest that an integrated and coordinated systems approach to statistical development within a country is the most useful basis to increase its utilisation. Statistics cut across all areas of government policy development and program implementation and cannot be understood as simply the responsibility of the NSO. It is clear from TYPSS experience to date and that of related programs⁸, that when users and producers of data are brought together to understand the whole system they are more likely to develop effective solutions and to support consistency and compatibility in national systems. NSS development which is country led and driven, is critical to both increased resources for statistical development and more effective country statistical outcomes. Phase 2 of TYPSS should move to an emphasis upon NSS and to greater attention to users of statistics. Some development partners are already well placed to contribute to this important shift.⁹ Discussion in the implementation section of this document outlines suggestions for how to build on the current expertise of these development partners.

National Statistics Development Strategies: The finalisation of a first round of NSDS' through the collaborative efforts of Paris21 and SPC, along with the development of other national-level statistics strategy documents, also changes the terrain for regional statistics support. As countries begin to establish their own priorities they are now in the position to shape the regional agenda and in turn have regional agreements feeding back into the quality and scope of country statistics plans. A clear message from the consultations was that statistics development needs to serve national development needs and that this should be mediated through NSDS or its equivalents in each PICT.

More effective analysis of national level data to drive public policy: While TYPSS Phase 1 support has made available an extensive repository of core data for all PICT through PRISM, the shared view of NSO and planners is that countries require richer analysis of national-level data and that country-level statistics producers need to improve their communication of this data to strengthen their mandate and operations. This need, to improve country level capacity to analyse and disseminate data, to be able to critically evaluate data quality, and interpret the meaning of this information, is reflected in recent statements by PIC Forum Economic Ministers (FEMM)¹⁰. It is also in line with the

⁸ For example, the review undertaken around management of education data in the Pacific (Pacific Education Management Information Systems - Rapid Review, 2012), found that effective ongoing management of education information systems requires all stakeholders to be engaged, understanding user incentives and developing the capacity and responsibility of the data users as well as the people responsible for data collection and dissemination.

⁹ For example, SPC already provide an integrated approach to statistics production and use with the Statistics for Development Division actively collaborating with other divisions around statistical use and production in areas such as gender, human rights, culture, fisheries, education and health. In addition the United Nations agencies are already active in working in sectoral areas (the ILO is active in labour statistics, the FAO in agricultural statistics, UNFPA in population and health statistics, UNDP in government statistics, UNOHCHR in human rights statistics, UNICEF in child related indicators, WHO in health statistics, IMF in the BOP and GFS, et cetera) and have a strong interest in supporting statistical capacity development relevant to those areas.

¹⁰ The Forum Economic Ministers Meeting 2014 action plan included the following item: *Ministers requested SPC to improve time between survey data collection and drafting of final reports in coordination with NSO, such*

emerging consensus from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) discussions about the utilisation of statistics as part of the strategy to achieve sustainable development goals.¹¹

Focus on administrative data: In line with the original priorities in TYPSS, the focus on administrative data has continued and increased¹². International experience suggests that administrative data can be more useful and a more cost-effective source of information than survey or census data. The progress of this work, which includes the collaboration between the technical agencies involved in the process, led to the MTR recommendation for continuation of this activity into TYPSS phase 2. There are also new developments in the region giving particular attention to sectoral data collection¹³.

Economic statistics: Economic statistics have continued to be important to all PICT. The Regional Programme on Economic Statistics and the Core Set of economic statistics for Asia and the Pacific was developed as "a capacity building framework for the region". A Steering Group of national and international experts guides the implementation of the regional programme. Several development partners contribute to the production, analysis and use of economic statistics with PFTAC/ IMF providing the major lead in national accounts, external sector statistics, government finance statistics and monetary statistics. SPC complement this work with attention to price statistics, merchandise trade statistics, business statistics, economic data dissemination and strategic planning, classification and standards and tourism statistics. Significantly economic statistics overlap with other emerging areas such as the environment statistics and need to be considered from this perspective which widens the range of interactions and coordination required.¹⁴ NSO agree these are very important areas for their work and where they require high quality assistance. The key issue for the economic statistic area appears to be efficient and effective coordination between development partners. This should be an area for immediate attention under the second phase of TYPSS.

Emerging development issues which require new statistical data. While this review did not specifically seek to provide a complete assessment of emerging needs, stakeholders indicated that in some critical areas, such as environment and climate change, statistical information is required for

as HIES and to build the capacity of an NSO on interpreting and analysing data for economic policy analysis (action item 51).

¹¹ The Zero Draft of the Outcome of the Third Conference on SIDS identifies the importance of statistics to inform sustainable development policies and evaluate the implementation of internationally agreed sustainable development goals.

¹² For example in one of the original TYPSS strategic focus areas for which SPC undertook implementation - Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS). Its success thus far, as well as the collaborative nature of technical agencies involved in the process (coordinated by SPC and the University of Queensland School of Population Health, the Brisbane Accord Group comprises academia (UoQ, UNSW, FSM, QUT), UN technical agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO), and the ABS), has prompted the mid-term review to recommend this activity to be continued throughout Phase-2.

¹³ These include DFAT funding for an Education Management Information System to be managed through SPC, in coordination with TYPSS work on vital statistics.

¹⁴ At the HOPS meeting in 2013, environmental issues were recognized as cutting across traditional boundaries in statistics and relevant to national accounts. Further, a seminar on the 2008 System of National Accounts and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting during August 2013 highlighted the need for coordination of economic and environmental statistics through better strategic planning.

national and regional development¹⁵ and needs to be given priority attention. Alongside these developments, areas such as migrant labour, youth employment, disability, gender, tourism, informal sector employment, SMEs, access to credit, green growth and culture have all been supported by Pacific leaders as important areas of focus for the future of the region. Commitments by leaders to assess progress in these areas necessitates increased amounts of data. A key issue for TYPSS will be to support countries to develop appropriate performance indicators or benchmarks which enable them to track and report national level progress in these emerging development areas.

Technological innovations/statistics: The technology available to support statistical collection, analysis and dissemination is evolving. This is relevant in the Pacific where there are particular challenges related to data collection from geographically remote populations, as well as challenges in effective dissemination and communication of information. New technologies have been trialled in recent years.¹⁶ While significant challenges remain in rural and remote areas of the Pacific, there needs to be opportunities for Pacific countries to be made aware of and take up these new technologies to promote increased efficiency and effectiveness of data collection and dissemination.

Aid budgets and performance-based measures of support: Internationally and in the region, aid donors have shifted towards results-based management of development assistance and tracking results requires timely, accurate and statistical reporting systems. There is also continued emphasis at a global level on measuring development outcomes and aid effectiveness. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) process brought high-level attention to the importance of compiling statistics in order to monitor development. At the global level, there has been a continued emphasis on the importance of statistics - most recently in the outcome statement of the Rio+20 outcome statement¹⁷ and the Post 2015 High Level Forum¹⁸. Pacific countries will be part of new formulations for 'sustainable development indicators' and this will have human resource and capacity implications at a national level if not planned for.

Development partner coordination: Development partners have made an important contribution to the progress in statistical development but have also struggled to collectively provide a cohesive and transparent programme of assistance across the region. Some NSO provided feedback that they were not aware of the way in which decisions were made about how resources were made available across the region and the degree to which this was equitable and/or was able to demonstrate the most effective value for the money invested.

In part this is the inevitable consequence of having a range of development partners, each of which has its own mandate and areas of focus. In part it is also been due to the limited resourcing originally provided for program management under TYPSS. In addition, while most of the technical providers

¹⁵ For example the Pacific stands to benefit from resourcing around climate change, and better statistics in this area will enable financing arrangements linked to sound national policy.

¹⁶ E.g. SPC report review of trial and review of several options including referenced household listings (sampling frames) and maps for enumerators; electronic data capture (scanning); testing and gradual introduction of tablets for statistical collections; and development of innovative national and regional web-based data dissemination/mapping facilities

¹⁷ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

¹⁸ <http://www.beyond2015.org/un-high-level-panel>

reference the TYPSS strategy in their work plans, the document clearly does not provide a basis for coordination of inputs or accountability for particular work areas.

It has been difficult for both NSO and NSS to manage and make the best use of the diverse range of development partner inputs related to statistics in the region. This has been identified as an issue by FEMM¹⁹. It is compounded when donors and international bodies look to improve data collection in specific sectors such as health or education or across thematic areas such as disability and gender, sometimes bypassing statistical development entirely or giving inadequate attention to the relationship between sectors and the role of the NSO. It is also complicated by particular relationships between development partners and countries or territories which can see those countries and territories overlooked in the planning by other resource providers.²⁰

There are some positive examples of coordination and collaboration to learn from. This includes approach taken by the BAG on CRVS²¹. Notwithstanding the wide range of organisations and institutions involved in the BAG, people across the region identified it as an effective group contributing to coordinated inputs to country development in line with regional standards.

The experience from this example suggests that in phase 2 of the program, attention should be given to increased coordination of development partners, including bringing them together around specific areas of work, and developing agreements for identified outcome areas and agreed standards of work. The strategies for engagement by development partners ought to be transparent and appropriately differentiated to different country needs and capacities. Their forward planning should be transparent. This is in line with the approach taken in other areas of regional assistance²². Attention also needs to be given to strengthening the role of the PSSC to oversee this coordination.

PSSC leadership: While the PSSC has played a useful role in providing a focus on statistical development across the region it has struggled to achieve all objectives. The extent of its additional engagement in wider co-ordination issues was not foreseen when it was established as the main regular and frequent meeting of Pacific Statisticians. As noted above, one of the crucial issues that confronted the PSSC in phase 1 was ensuring the balance among the development partners’

¹⁹ The Forum Economic Ministers Meeting 2014 Action Plan includes the following item:

Ministers supported actions to improve coordination between technical assistance providers and users of statistics (Action item 50).

²⁰ For example, Tokelau NSO noted that while they value their special legislative and historical relationship with New Zealand and the support they receive from Statistics New Zealand, this can sometimes lead to them becoming a lower priority in the planning undertaken by other development partners and therefore limiting the specialist support available to them.

²¹ The group has a focused mandate and is modest about its areas of influence and interest. The group acknowledges and utilises the differences between members. There is a high level of commitment by all partners, who all adhere to core principle that all members must actively contribute to the BAG process. It has taken time to differentiate and understand the needs of different PICT and develop strategies which are appropriate to different subgroupings. Significant time and resources are dedicated by SPC to facilitating the group and maintaining coordination and communication. The premise of the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan is that priorities are country led but fit within the regional framework. The technical providers come together independently of NSO and National governments to coordinate their approach and strategy. The country engagement is then negotiated and managed through a direct relationship with country CRVS committees.

²² For example the recent DFAT Pacific Regional Health Program Delivery Strategy (2013 - 2017), proposes that the provision of technical assistance under that strategy will be “.....aligned to national strategies and country needs rather than driven by institutional agenda already in-house skill mix of the agencies providing it.” (pg. 5)

engagement. It was also difficult for them to ensure that all stakeholders were well informed of all decisions. Consultation for this design indicates that NSO (inside and outside PSSC) and development partners would like to see further development of the PSSC mandate and leadership. Experience from similar groups elsewhere in the region suggests that this will require clarity about the group's legitimacy and accountabilities as well as assistance with facilitation and communication, both during and between meetings.

Assessment of progress: In phase 1 the monitoring and evaluation focused upon reporting on activities, which was appropriate given the need to increase the statistical outputs across the region. As the program moves to phase 2 it is important to focus on outcomes. To this end there needs to be clarity about the objectives for this second phase, as well as assessment of changes experienced both at country and regional level. Under phase 1, monitoring and evaluation was undertaken through individual reporting by development partners. In phase 2, the monitoring and evaluation will need to focus on cumulative outcomes. That is, what are development partners and NSO achieving together at national and regional levels?

TYPSS theory of change

TYPSS assumes that, despite Pacific diversity, there are a number of common constraints to statistics development in the region, including persistent, severe domestic funding constraints on national budgets for statistics. The strategy further assumes that these constraints can be effectively addressed, at least in part, through coordination and action at the regional level. TYPSS identifies several existing 'levers' for change:

- National statisticians; competent public servants who tend to remain long term in their positions and are therefore able to contribute to stable regional leadership.
- International definitions and frameworks for statistics and standards which can be utilised to establish common standards and approaches across the region.
- Clearly defined projects, where the purpose is quite narrow, and not subject to multiple interpretations, or adaptations, will promote a focus on results.²³
- Development partners and technical providers in the Pacific region already offering a range of supports and services across the region. TYPSS identified that harnessing and coordinating this assistance could offer efficiencies and maximise available resources.
- Increased interest on the part of Pacific Governments' in statistics, both for representation at the international level and full reference in regional and national dialogue
- New opportunities to increase the use of national statistics by making better use of administrative data.

TYPSS was underpinned by an assumption that regional action, coordination and voice would support more efficient use of limited regional resources, which would in turn, lead to increased NSO capacity and better quality statistical products. In turn this would support more use of statistics for program

²³ PC-TRADE typifies the ideal focus, as does PRISM. PC TRADE processes export and import entries into external trade statistics. Its basic approach to place records in a database rather than spreadsheet, in a commonly used tool. The system can run in a mix of low budget environments. It is readily transportable across the Pacific (It was once installed in Albania) and the maintaining the currency of the technology needs to be done only once, for all user countries. The expertise in its use is able to be shared across countries. PRISM is an SPC innovation to provide a common repository for Pacific statistics

and policy work in the region and provide better regional representation in international frameworks. This positive experience of statistics would contribute to an ongoing virtuous cycle of increased national support and therefore further increased resourcing.

The consultations for the design of phase 2 suggested that these fundamental assumptions remain relevant for a second phase. The achievements in phase 1 suggest the TYPSS approach is valid and should be continued. However the changing context, together with lessons from the implementation process so far, suggests that the emphasis of phase 2 should expand to also include:

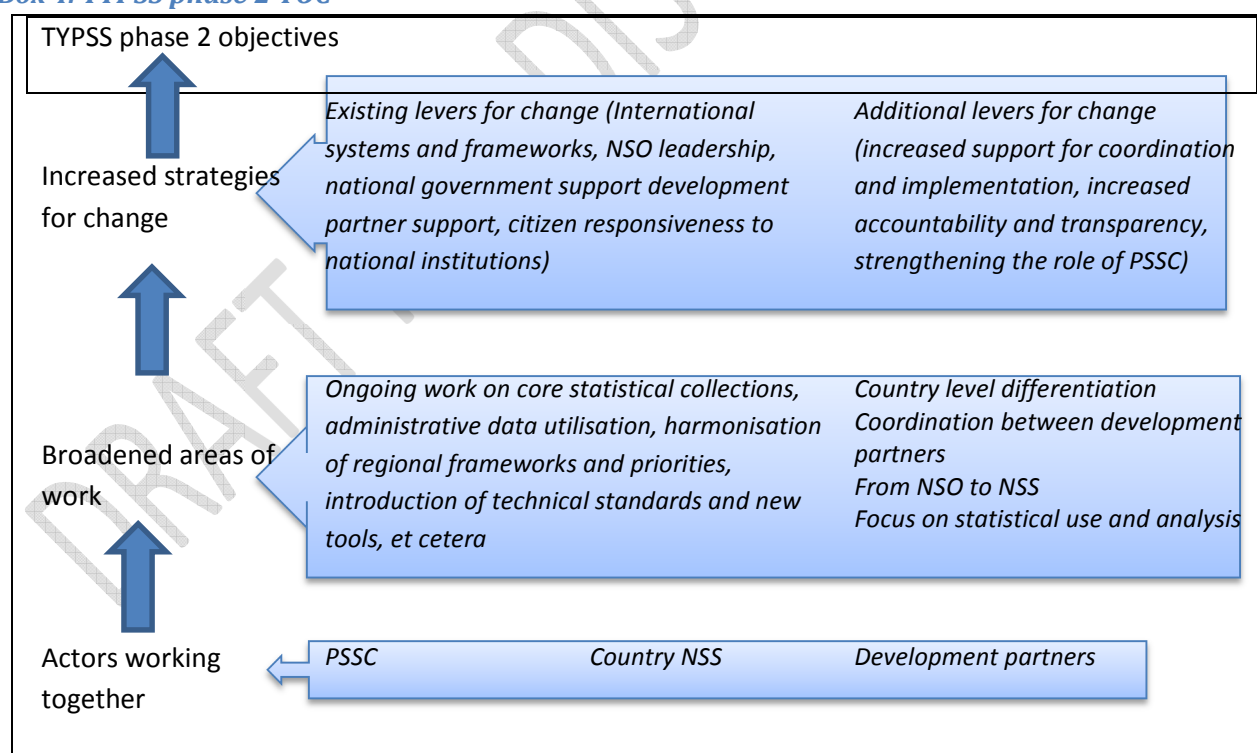
- Increased country level differentiation,
- More deliberate emphasis on coordination between development partners
- A movement from a focus on NSO to NSS (through an emphasis on development of NSDS)
- A more enhanced focus on statistical use and analysis alongside ongoing improvement of statistical production.

In order to support these shifts there needs to be:

- Attention to strengthening the role of PSSC
- More attention to communication and accountability
- A 'surge' in the resourcing provided for coordination and implementation. .

This revised theory of change is summarised in Box 4.

Box 4. TYPSS phase 2 TOC



Phase 2 Vision and objectives

The following vision was articulated for TYPSS throughout the consultations:

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

Working towards this vision and in line with learning to date, the objectives from phase 1 of TYPSS can be updated to develop a second phase set of objectives. *These objectives are deliberately comprehensive to cover the change sought throughout the whole Pacific region. At the national level each objective needs to be contextualised and adapted to the current situation and longer term intentions of that particular country or territory.*

<i>Phase 2 Objectives</i>	<i>Related assumptions²⁴</i>
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assumes a technical supplementation process in place for some SIS that ensures adequate resources in those locations for core statistical collection. ○ Assumes that a focus in phase 2 of the program will be on capacity development of NSS/NSO, as appropriate, particularly focused on analysis and dissemination. ○ Assumes all users will have access to the data that they need ○ Assumes that national level statistics users will be engaged in national statistics strategies and that their interests and concerns will be addressed in the strategies.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assumes agreement about a core set of statistics ○ Assumes national development strategies and objectives with quantitative indicators to allow for statistical systems alignment. ○ Assumes that national develop strategies have reporting process ○ Assumes a functioning NSS to align core statistics with national development plans ○ Assumes Pacific island countries and territories have their own capacity or are accessing regional capacity, to undertake agreed core and some specialist statistical functions. ○ Assumes there is assessment and agreement about those countries where technical supplementation is required in the medium to long term.
3. All countries and territories have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan in line with their national development strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assumes an NSS governance mechanism is in place ○ Assumes that national level statistics legislation and policies are in place to support NSS and role of statistics. ○ Assumes that countries will work with TA providers and donors to support user-producer dialogue and engagement. ○ Assumes that the relationship between CRVS and other administrative data and formal core statistics (demographic, social and economic) is identified and supported to maximise the efficient use of available data.

²⁴ A list of significant assumptions is attached to each objective as a process for Pacific countries and territories to identify the additional changes required in order to work towards the overall objective.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assumes the engagement of all statistics producers and users in a country
4. National level statistic stakeholders 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assumes that TYPSS Phase 2 will have in place processes/systems to identify emerging tools, systems, processes and assess the value of contribution of these to regional and national statistics. ○ Assumes that TYPSS Phase 2 will be regularly informed about innovative tools, methodologies and classifications. ○ Assumes that the PSSC has in place a systematic and effective communication process with all NSS across the region.
5. National and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively: <i>i. TA inputs are in line with country and territory priorities, transparent to all stakeholders and are delivered efficiently across the region.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assumes that country priorities have been identified through a national statistics strategy which is suitable to provide direction for development partners. ○ Assumes all development partners will engage with these national strategies ideally throughout their development, and hold themselves accountable to the intentions and objectives of the strategies ○ Assumes that development partners work together, balancing institutional mandates with a commitment to maximising regional and national outcomes.
<i>ii. Pacific leaders receive recommendations about priorities for statistical collections at national and regional level with accompanying data about resource and technology requirements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assumes that the PSSC will set up processes for research, debate and agree on sector and thematic statistical priorities in the immediate and longer term. ○ Assumes PSSC will be supported to identify associated resource implications. ○ Assumes that TYPSS phase 2 includes attention to effective communication processes at national and regional levels. ○ Assumes that donors and other international organisations will communicate with and seek the engagement of the PSSC around key thematic and sectoral priorities.
<i>iii. 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.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assumes that additional capacity will be provided on a regular basis for coordination, monitoring and evaluation and logistics. ○ Assumes that both development partners and NSO are prepared to work in ways which maximise efficiency and outcomes of TYPSS. ○ Assumes that development partners as well as an NSO and other national and regional stakeholders will make available information as required for six-month performance assessments reports.

Principles

It is proposed that progress towards these objectives ought to be guided by the following principles.

Country owned and driven prioritisation: Phase 2 is rooted in the principle that an NSS is accountable, first and foremost, to its national government. The means by which they are achieved

will not need to reflect unique requirements given the many commonalities in systems and the necessity of regional integration and comparison of most statistics. However, development partner resourcing of statistical projects should seek to align with requirements at a national level and the policy priorities that relate to those requirements, while reflecting international obligations and regional requirements.

Accountable and transparent partnerships: While it is possible to establish systems to monitor outcomes and to communicate information between TYPSS stakeholders, the experience from phase 1 suggests that by itself this will not be sufficient to promote the co-operation and sharing required to maximise efficiencies in the program. In phase 2 all development partners and country representatives need to commit to be transparent about their work plans, activities and intentions. Further, all stakeholders are encouraged to commit to some level of accountability for shared outcomes at country and regional level. Where there are limits to this accountability due to institutional mandates, development partners and others are expected to be transparent about these limits and the implications of this for their contributions.

Work to collective strengths for greater efficiency: Development partners and NSO bring a range of skills and experience to this task. In particular development partners are able to draw from international frameworks and experience to introduce best possible practice in statistical standards. NSO together with Pacific regional organisations such as PIFS²⁵, SPC and PFTAC bring important information about Pacific context and approach. Collectively this range of knowledge and experience provides a strong basis for TYPSS. However for the full potential to be realised, development partners, NSO and regional organisations will need to commit to working together seeking to maximise the strengths of each other.

Focus on innovation and leveraging off change: Official statistics are highly dependent on information technology, which is a significant driver of innovation. A further key principle for Phase 2 is the expectation of Pacific-wide innovation, particularly those sourced from the application of technology, adoption of systems or analytical practices that have worked in one of the Pacific countries. This principle is about development partners resourcing regional leadership to promote adoption and sharing of innovation. It is also about countries thinking creatively about statistical areas where they can leverage off innovation and change. In Phase 1 some countries have adopted and shared innovation in areas such as website development, satellite mapping, GPS, automated data capture (scanning) and also trialled mobile data capture. In Phase 2 this ought to be extended in ways that are relevant to Pacific countries. The recent development of an address register for emergency management in the Cook Islands is a good example of an initiative with strong whole of government implications particularly for official statistics.

Regional relevance: During Phase 2, the expectation is that all development partners design inputs, models or processes in ways that enhance the efficiency of the regional architecture as a whole. This principle is about improving the relevance and quality of external statistical inputs in a cost-effective manner while establishing mechanisms to expand the reach and impact of individual statistical projects. Examples of efficiencies associated with Phase 1 include the provision of regionally based

²⁵ In particular PIFS have responsibility for policy directions by leaders including those emerging areas likely to require statistical capability.

workshops in leadership and data analysis, the publication of regional statistics in NMDI and the pooling of costs and experience involved in survey and administrative database training. These outputs need to be delivered (or used) as a priority during Phase 2.

Commitment to best practice and quality: While it is recognised that individual Pacific countries and territories have varying capacity and resources to commit to statistical production, phase 1 has demonstrated that good quality products are able to be produced throughout the region. National statistics users need to be assured of the quality of the data made available to them. In order for Pacific data to be utilised in regional and international forums it is important that a commitment to high, known quality is maintained and that international standards or regional standards are followed. This applies not only for formal statistics but also for wider administrative data and information gathered through dedicated surveys and other research. The NSS in each PICT, together with the PSSC and other regional stakeholders ought to uphold a commitment to excellence and quality in all data production and analysis.

Implementation processes

Strategies for change

TYPSS phase 2 is expected to maintain and build upon the work from phase 1. A number of key strategies from phase 1 remain relevant for phase 2 including the following:

- a) Capacity development and learning between Pacific countries
- b) Ongoing exploration of the use and interaction of administrative data with formal statistics
- c) Improved use of existing data, including a commitment to making micro data²⁶ available and accessible as far as possible
- d) An ongoing commitment to long-term capacity development for statistical production and use in the region including a focus on appropriate tertiary education and formal training
- e) Continuous experimentation with and exploration of the best available technologies for statistical collection, analysis and dissemination
- f) A focus on increased methodological efficiency, adaptation and 'fit-for-purpose' to Pacific contexts for statistical production and dissemination
- g) Ongoing and increasing engagement with national planning departments and other relevant stakeholders
- h) Engagement with development partners at bilateral level to inform them about national as well as regional level priorities and strategies for statistical production and dissemination.²⁷

In line with the objectives developed for phase 2 there are some additional areas for action and development to be given particular attention throughout 2015-17.

²⁶ An observation data collected on an individual object - statistical unit. Microdata is data on the characteristics of units of a population, such as individuals, households, or establishments, collected by a census, survey, or experiment.

²⁷ Development partners working regionally and bilaterally on areas of statistical production or use beyond TYPSS will be encouraged to shape their support and programming in line with national level priorities and regional standards and recommendations for statistical approaches for the Pacific.

- i. **National statistics systems priorities.** Building upon existing national plans and strategies²⁸, country priorities for statistical production and use will be identified and clearly communicated to external stakeholders. These priorities will give attention to existing statistical strengths and gaps, identified national data priorities and existing and relevant administrative data. As far as possible they will reference international standards. The NSDS approach developed by PARIS21 and jointly adjusted with SPC to suit Pacific statistical environment, be a valuable guide for this process, but modified planning processes may also be utilised as appropriate²⁹.
- ii. **Staged capacity development:** The experience of Phase 1 suggests that there are foundational processes or 'building blocks' for strengthening national statistical systems including: the existence of relevant and up to date statistics legislation; systems and processes for different user and producers of statistics to communicate; a strategic planning document, which sets the medium-long term direction for statistics; and an NSS governance mechanism. Countries and development partners are encouraged to complete or 'refresh' these building blocks early on in Phase 2, to ensure TYPSS contributes to sustainable institutions at a country level.
- iii. **Regional leadership and direction.** The PSSC need to be strengthened to provide the leadership and direction for statistical development required at regional level. In particular the decision-making role of the PSSC will be strengthened through increased resourcing of and attention to meeting and communication processes, and additional approaches for the provision of regular informed technical advice. (The PSSC role will be examined in more detail later in this document)
- iv. **Coordinated technical assistance.** Phase 2 needs to see stronger emphasis on coordination of technical assistance and increased communication about the value and impacts of this assistance. Particular attention will be given to coordination of development partner planning and imports. Attention will also be given to improved monitoring and evaluation. There have already been agreed approaches for coordinated technical assistance in the area of economic statistics.³⁰ It is proposed that these are adopted for all technical assistance provision.
- v. **Agreed set of core statistics.** The ESCAP committee on statistics has established a number of agreements on core statistics in the context of Asia and Pacific. In addition, following a specific request by Pacific Leaders in their original Pacific Plan, and subsequent endorsement by CRGA, SPC has developed a core set of development statistics and associated indicators across a

²⁸ It needs to be acknowledged that Pacific countries and territories are at different steps in the process of developing results focused national development strategies. NSS priorities need to be built upon existing plans and expand in an iterative way with national development plans as they become available.

²⁹ The Samoa experience provides an important example here. Samoa has developed its own national statistics strategy in line with national development plans and in consultation with national statistics users and producers. The NSO has reviewed this process and summarised the key features for shared learning with other NSO and NSS.

³⁰ These include:

*TA agencies together should provide a single primary point of contact in each main area of statistics so that members do not have to search to find the right provider of the right assistance;
Allocation of responsibilities should be along functional lines of comparative advantage of provider agencies, not along geographical lines or by country. This is particularly important for providing consistent, high quality TA in each functional area;*

Each lead agency should be able to draw on the collective expertise of all the relevant TA providers to the region. This is especially important both for making the most out of our individually limited resources, and for taking maximum advantage of comparative strengths and specialty skills in each organization. (Taken from the paper developed by PFTAC, 'Technical Assistance on Economic Statistics for the Pacific Island Countries and territories', 2014.)

broad range of sectors in collaboration with member countries, which are contained in the SPC National Minimum Development Indicator database.³¹ These and other sets of information provide the starting point for each country and territory to define what is core to their national and international obligations for evidence based policy formulation. TYPSS phase 2 will give attention, through PSSC and coordinated technical assistance, to work towards clear identification of agreed core regional statistics (which include post 2015 SDG reporting requirements), and how this should inform national level core statistics.

- vi. **Increased emphasis on data analysis and use.** As indicated in analysis of phase 1 of TYPSS there is now a strong concern to move to focusing on data use and analysis. While attention will continue on regular statistics production, technical assistance will now also focus on analysis and use of information. This will require a shift from a focus on NSO to NSS in development partner planning. It will require building the capacity of the whole NSS. As noted that this is an opportunity for particular development partners such as UN agencies, the IMF and the ADB who have existing relationships with policymakers across national governments, to support an integrated approach to the production and utilisation of statistics.
- vii. **Proactive communication between all stakeholders.** Communication needs to be given high priority, particularly communication back to development partner institutions and national government systems.

Support mechanisms

Supporting these strategies will be core mechanisms.

- **A revised and strengthened PSSC.** PSSC will be supported to clarify its terms of reference and improve its ability to oversight and assess TYPSS implementation. It will be supported by additional resources channelled through a coordination unit, as below.
- **The PSSC technical working groups.** These will be task focused; time bound groups drawing together an appropriate mix of institutions and personnel, to provide the PSSC with informed advice for decision-making. This model is already in place with an ICT technical working group already established, following an earlier HIES technical working group which developed a HIES Pacific regional methodology.
- **The TYPSS coordination unit.** This unit will be tasked with providing coordination support to the PSSC chair and members, in order to facilitate an effective TYPSS Phase-2 implementation. It will work with development partners and NSS, in order to facilitate transparent accountability, communication and decision-making.
- **Monitoring and evaluation.** Located in the coordination unit, the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism will be tasked with providing regular reporting on progress against TYPSS phase 2 objectives drawing from regular monitoring by all PSSC members of their respective TYPSS implementation. M&E will enable all stakeholders to understand both the progress of TYPSS as well as the contribution being made by different stakeholders to that progress.

In order to ensure effective progress towards the objectives of TYPSS phase 2, all objectives will be assessed every year. However, in to ensure the surge capacity required to position TYPSS to move

³¹ This is a comprehensive set of cross-thematic indicators including Agriculture, Fisheries, ICT, and a wide range of Health indicators. It is supported by a fully accessibly website – English/French translation and the inclusion of 6 territories.

ahead the first year of TYPSS, phase 2 will be focused on establishing the core mechanisms described above, and ensuring their effective operation across three action areas. Particular attention will be given at the end of the year to the viability of these mechanisms and the degree to which they have effectively supported positive change and further development and implementation of TYPSS

Interim activity plan

The implementation process outlined above will clearly take some time to be established and become operational. It is important that during this time TYPSS continues to move ahead with both development partners and NSO beginning to embrace a more coordinated and accountable way of working. To this end, drawing upon available information from development partners and NSO, a proposed activity plan for the interim period is attached at Annex 5.

Roles and responsibilities

While the proposed 'surge' in capacity provided through additional resources and supports is expected to assist TYPSS phase 2 progress, all stakeholders will need to focus their efforts towards mutual achievement of phase 2 objectives. Proposed roles and responsibilities include the following.

Country level

NSO

The NSO in each PICT is expected to be an active participant in TYPSS at both national and regional levels. This is likely to involve the following responsibilities:

- Leading the development of national statistics development plans and strategies in line with country or territory national development planning
- Proactive identification and communication of the priorities for NSS development, including information about how these are likely to be addressed and what implications this has for the external TA requirements and/or for learning and support through other Pacific NSS.
- Participation in country level monitoring and evaluation of statistical production and use in line with the national statistics development strategy appropriate for the country and/or relevant work plans. This is likely to include reporting on outcomes, sharing learning and proposing areas and issues for regional consideration.
- Active participation in regional level statistical leadership and development through the PSSC (either as a nominated PSSC member or through communication with the nominated PSSC representative).
- Communication to relevant national government departments and leaders about regional statistical standards and frameworks and recommendations for priorities and approaches.
- Proactive communication with relevant government departments including planning, and departments responsible for administrative data in order to further the objectives of TYPSS phase 2.
- Preparation of short-term and medium-term resource plans for presentation to national budget committees and leaders

Other areas of National Government

The recent PSSC meeting has introduced the participation of national ministries of planning, which has been understood to be a positive development and one that should be extended through phase 2 implementation. National planning ministries are most often responsible for defining national

development indicators to be monitored. Their participation in NSS and NSDS is critical. To this end, national ministries of planning are encouraged to be active participants in NSS development and mechanisms of regional decision making and leadership.

In addition economic statistical implementation clearly requires cooperation with and coordination with national ministries of treasury and ministries of finance as well as other government departments and other stakeholders such as the national reserve banks, customs and taxation authorities. Innovation and systems development will need to occur in these institutions in order for effective statistical development and the production of economic information that serves national development. Engagement with these institutions needs to be a feature of capacity development and technical assistance focused on economic statistical priorities and use.

In addition to the regional focus outlined for statistical resourcing for PICT, many countries will continue to require significant support at the bilateral level. For the two larger PICT in particular there are likely to be several mechanisms operating in parallel with TYPSS.

Papua New Guinea

PNG is a complex country with a large population and a number of significant government departments engaged in national level statistical collection and utilisation. Experience to date has shown that the level of assistance required by the NSO requires ongoing engagement with this large office. Further, support directed only at the NSO is insufficient to meet the complex data needs in this country. The Australian government, together with other development partners, provides significant bilateral support to various data collection and analysis processes in this country. In this situation while the NSO will continue to participate in regional processes as outlined above, additional negotiated bilateral agreements should be the main framework for support and engagement with statistical capacity development in the country. Attention needs to be given to ensure that these multiple inputs are coordinated and complimentary.

Solomon Islands

In the Solomon Islands there have been some recent positive examples of combining both bilateral engagement with regional technical assistance to support the NSO and NSS: recent population and housing census (EU, SPC, UNFPA); most recent household income and expenditure survey (DFAT, SPC, WB); recruitment by SPC of three locally-engaged statistical officers to support broader national programmes in civil registration and education; upcoming DHS (DFAT, SPC, UNICEF). For this country it appears appropriate to continue this mix of coordinated bilateral engagement with appropriate regional technical assistance. As with PNG, the Solomon Islands NSO will continue to participate in regional processes as outlined above, with additional negotiated bilateral agreements representing the main framework for support and engagement with statistical capacity development in the country.

Development partners

Development partners responsible for providing technical assistance are expected to shape the provision of their assistance to further that the objectives of TYPSS phase 2. This is likely to involve:

- The provision of technical assistance that balances development partner expertise and focus with identified country priorities (as articulated in the NSDS and /or medium-term work plans) and regional priorities. TA providers could articulate links in their work plans between activities and objectives in NSS, NSDS or NSO strategic plans. Where there are tensions and

differences between these mandates, these ought to be clearly identified by the technical provider.

- Active participation in development partner meetings³² to ensure the most effective and efficient provision of technical assistance across the region. This is likely to involve virtual participation in meetings, sharing of proposed work plans and timetables for work, sharing technical materials and harmonisation of activities.
- Active participation in TYPSS monitoring and evaluation including reporting of outputs and outcomes and sharing of learning.
- Communication back to the development partner institution about regional decisions and recommendations particularly in relation to international frameworks and regional reporting.
- Communication to national and regional stakeholders about proposed development partner programs of policies which will impact upon statistical production and use in the Pacific.
- Active participation in PSSC technical working groups to develop an informed regional approach to technology, frameworks and methodologies, responses to international reporting requirements and other areas.
- Active participation in PSSC meetings supporting informed decision making, relevant to the Pacific and owned by PICT.

Development partners providing funding support and other assistance to statistical development in the region are likewise expected to shape their engagement in ways that further the objectives of TYPSS phase 2. This is likely to involve:

- Proactive sharing of work plans, program details and performance assessments relevant to statistical production and use at national and regional level with each other and with PSSC as requested.
- Commitment to the key principles of TYPSS phase 2 in particular seeking to maximise the collective strength available for national and regional statistics development and promoting regional relevance in particular sharing innovations, tools and processes with all PICT.
- Active participation in TYPSS monitoring and evaluation including reporting of outputs and outcomes and sharing of learning.
- Communication back to the development partner institution about regional decisions and recommendations particularly in relation to international frameworks and regional reporting.
- Communication to national and regional stakeholders about proposed development partner programs and policies which will impact upon statistical production and use in the Pacific.
- Active participation in PSSC technical working groups to develop an informed regional approach to technology, frameworks and methodologies, responses to international reporting requirements and other areas.
- Active participation in PSSC meetings, supporting informed decision making, relevant to the Pacific and owned by PICT.

³² It was identified in the design consultations that there is value in both development partners and NSO and other national representatives, meeting separately prior to formal meetings such as PSSC, to negotiate positions, agree common language and expectations and coordinate across areas of mutual interest. There may be other instances where development partners choose to meet together without their NSO or national government counterparts for the purposes of coordinating the inputs and technical responses.

The consultations for the design highlighted the role of particular development partners³³:

The UN agencies represented in the Pacific have a significant expertise in statistical standards, production and analysis. In particular they play a role in the implementation of regional and international statistical collections. While much of this work is funded and implemented outside of TYPSS, it can both impact on and potentially enhance TYPSS outcomes at national and regional levels. It is important therefore to encourage UN agency participation in TYPSS mechanisms to avoid duplication and improve the outcomes, quality and efficiency of these mechanisms.

In particular UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and UNESCAP ought to be supported to be active participants in regional statistical development. These institutions, together with other relevant UN agencies, ought to continue to be invited to participate in PSSC working groups as appropriate. They should be strongly encouraged to be active participants in the sharing of skills, tools and processes which can be of benefit across the region and should ensure that they take account of the Pacific regional experience in developing these. UN organisations, alongside international organisations such as the IMF, World Bank and ADB, have particular role to play in statistical advocacy, promoting the use of statistics and statistical capacity development for national government sectors.

The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) has in place a strategy for training coordination and implementation in the Asia-Pacific region. In the Pacific the commitment is to leverage this training to strengthen coordination and work more closely with partners in training development and delivery. There is an existing cooperation mechanism in place between SPC, USP and SIAP on the training for agriculture and rural statistics. Furthermore SIAP has wider plans to provide training in areas of data analysis, environmental accounting and agriculture and rural statistics. Increased regional coordination with SIAP through phase 2 of TYPSS would be of value in ensuring training modules are developed which are relevant to national and regional needs.

SPC Statistics for Development Division (SDD) plays a very significant role for TYPSS as the largest and most comprehensive technical provider to NSO. The SDD technical assistance role has been strongly endorsed by NSO, in particular the SIS where resources are limited and Pacific sensitive technical assistance and supplementation is essential. As part of a regional organisation with a broad technical and social mandate operating across 22 PICT, SDD has been able to translate and mediate between international standards and frameworks and Pacific contexts and focus³⁴. This, together with the regional coordinating role in multi-partner CRVS activities, and leading a regional Education Management Information System (EMIS) technical support facility, have been an important additional features of the technical assistance provided by the Division.

SPC is currently moving to a program approach where departments will work together to provide the best possible service to PICT. This is a significant opportunity for SDD to model a statistical systems approach at the regional level. SDD have already taken responsibility to support this shift in

³³ This is not intended to be an exhaustive overview of all development partners. This section is included to highlight particular roles that should be undertaken in phase 2. However some development partners have also particularly requested that they be included in this section.

³⁴ The SPC work for example on development of Pacific National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) is an important example of the way in which international frameworks and requirements can be mediated to a more reasonable number of regionally owned indicators.

approach³⁵. SDD have the opportunity under the SPC program approach to make this systems understanding of statistical processes more transparent, in order to demonstrate to countries how statistical systems can interact with, serve and promote effective statistical underpinning for a wide range of key development areas. Given the SPC wide sector mandate, there is also the opportunity to influence key development sectors at a regional level on the production, analysis and use of data for policy-making and program accountability. A strategic approach to this role will illustrate to NSO how these processes can be implemented in practice.

IMF/ PFTAC play a significant role in TYPSS, leading the support for and capacity development around macro-economic statistics. PFTAC is a part of the IMF regional technical assistance centre network, supported by regional and bilateral donors. The IMF provides statistics TA to PICT through the IMF Training Institute, IMF headquarters and PFTAC³⁶ based in Suva, Fiji. PFTAC is well placed to take on a lead (i.e. first point of contact) and coordinate TA in national accounts statistics. In addition, the IMF headquarters is well placed to take on the lead on (i) external sector statistics including international investment position and external debt statistics; (ii) government finance statistics;³⁷ (iii) financial soundness indicators and monetary and financial statistics. PFTAC and IMF HQ provide both bilateral TA as well as regional training courses for their respective areas of expertise. PFTAC has started reviving the Pacific Islands National Accounts Compilers and Local Experts Association (PINACLE) to further assist in developing the capacity, expertise and infrastructures for the production and dissemination of high quality national accounts statistics in the region.

Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) provides support to PICT in the development of their NSS, through technical assistance in the design, implementation, and monitoring of NSDS; coordination of the NSS by establishing governance and dialogue mechanisms between and among stakeholders (i.e., creation of national statistical councils and working groups/task forces on statistics, facilitation of consultation meetings and workshops); statistical law development and revision; statistical advocacies at the national and regional levels to promote evidence-based decision making, increased investment in statistics, and involvement of national stakeholders in statistical development.

PARIS21 likewise contribute in strengthening data dissemination in PICT through the Accelerated Data Program (ADP), jointly implemented with World Bank, and International Household Survey Network particularly in the areas of census and survey data catalogue, micro data management and use. It also supports NSO to participate in global and regional meetings and discussions on statistics to ensure representation of the Pacific region.

³⁵ There is existing significant collaboration between SDD and the SPC Human Development Division (HDD), including collaboration around gender and cultural statistics and between SDD and the divisions of health and fisheries.

³⁶ PFTAC TA is provided to Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

³⁷ IMF headquarters provides TA and training to PIC in the areas of external statistics and government finance statistics under a dedicated funding arrangement provided by the Japanese Government.

The established cooperation and coordination work of PARIS21 with PICT NSO and NSS, SPC, DFAT, and other development partners would contribute to the attainment of goals of TYPSS phase 2 particularly in the areas of NSS strengthening, NSDS, data dissemination, and advocacy.

The New Zealand Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) provides development assistance to strengthen statistics in the Pacific, including regional and bilateral support.

The Australian Government, through DFAT, provides significant support for TYPSS through funding to technical providers, for regional meetings and communication. It is proposing to provide additional funding to support the coordination unit proposed for phase 2. DFAT and other Australian government departments provide bilateral assistance to many of the PICT alongside regional programs of support including those directed at health, education, trade and economic development and other areas.

The new emphasis for TYPSS phase 2 will see increased attention to country development priorities and the way in which statistical production and use can best serve those priorities. Given the strong role of DFAT at national level in Pacific countries, it will be important for there to be regular communication with those bilateral programs about the activities, intentions and outcomes of TYPSS in country. As far as possible the DFAT bilateral programs ought to be encouraged to be active participants in NSS facilitation and development, as it overlaps with other areas of development assistance. Furthermore, the bilateral and regional DFAT and Australian government programs ought to be informed about regional priorities and approaches and encouraged to work in ways which complement these.

PSSC

The PSSC will remain as the body to monitor and direct regional statistical activities and developments³⁸. It will be supported to focus its role and make best use of the range of skills, experience and knowledge brought by all stakeholders to this regional strategy. The significant areas of work for PSSC will involve the following:

1. Providing regional voice for statistics³⁹

- 1.1. Establishing priorities for statistical work in the region particularly with reference to new and emerging data requirements.
- 1.2. Providing recommendations to national governments both through NSO and through regional leadership mechanisms, on priority areas for statistical collection and analysis for the region and advice.

2. Providing an international voice for Pacific statistics

- 2.1. Representation at relevant international meetings in particular UN statistical meetings⁴⁰

³⁸ This is the role originally determined for the PSSC by Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) at its meeting in Noumea, July 2010. See PSSC TOR.

³⁹ It is noted that this expands the role for the PSSC beyond its original terms of reference. This proposed work area comes from consultation with NSO. It should be reviewed as part of the review of PSSC TOR proposed below.

⁴⁰ This is in line with current practice. The PSSC Chair, and one/both vice-chairs (depending on funding) attend UN Statistics Commission meetings; the former PSSC chair is one of the 3 vice-chairs of the ESCAP Committee of Statistics and he is a member of the Paris21 Board.

- 2.2. As far as possible promoting regional and international use of high quality Pacific statistical products.

3. *Overseeing the implementation of TYPSS*

- 3.1. Identifying areas where common developments would enable country investments in statistics to be significantly transformed and expanded.
- 3.2. Identifying ways most relevant to bringing about particular types of common investments
- 3.3. Providing leadership in thinking about obtaining the benefits of information and communications technology initiatives across the Pacific can benefit statistics.
- 3.4. As far as possible, working to problem solve issues related to NSO and development partner engagement with TYPSS, referring unresolved issues to more senior levels of accountability.
- 3.5. Facilitating a process of transparent and timely communication among all NSO, particularly those NSO not physically represented at PSSC meetings.
- 3.6. Receiving advice on the equality of access to services and support for NSO under TYPSS, highlighting areas of concern, and, where appropriate, referring matters to more senior levels of institutions.
- 3.7. Approving the annual work plan for the coordination unit
- 3.8. Encouraging South- South cooperation

4. *Overseeing the assessment of progress of TYPSS*

- 4.1. Receiving a monitoring and evaluation report on the progress of TYPSS at national level ⁴¹, drawing any recommendations from these for revised strategies and/or issues of concern and communicating this information to national governments and development partners.
- 4.2. Overseeing the monitoring and evaluation of TYPSS at the regional level, including oversight of a TYPSS annual report which will be made available to all stakeholders.
- 4.3. Communicating progress, lessons learnt and change recommendations to key Pacific leaders and in relevant regional forum

5. *Providing leadership for statistical improvement in the Pacific region*

- 5.1. Drawing from informed advice and in consultation with NSO, national governments and other statistical providers, establish and promote appropriate standards, methodologies and approaches for statistical use, analysis and dissemination.
- 5.2. Providing recommendation to national governments both through NSO and through regional leadership mechanisms, on resource implications for existing and new data requirements as well as methodological and resource implications of new commitments made across the region to reporting and standards.
- 5.3. Identifying major capacity gaps and recommending appropriate regional and national level training development

The PSSC will be supported by a series of technical working groups (TWG) which will be time bound and project focused - working to provide informed advice and recommendation to the PSSC on identified priority areas. The membership of these TWG will vary according to need⁴² and participation

⁴¹ The M&E should be focused on what has been achieved through the TYPSS mechanism,

⁴² For example an IT working group has been recently established with responsibility to provide advice on appropriate directions in technology to be considered in the Pacific. This follows on from an earlier working group which developed a common Pacific HIES methodology.

will be organised by task not representation. The TWG will meet either virtually or opportunistically as other events allow. Terms of reference will be developed for each TWG (with assistance from the coordination unit if required), with a clear expectation of the required task and set of advice or recommendations to be received from the group. Once the group has achieved this task they will be disbanded. The coordination unit will be responsible for facilitating the meeting arrangements for these groups but will not be responsible for chairing the groups. The chairmanship will be delegated to an appropriately qualified working group member. This chair will be held responsible for the timely completion of the task.

PSSC will need to schedule its meeting agendas over the next 2 years, drawing from relevant TWG to enable it to oversight progress towards phase 2 objectives. To facilitate this process and initial draft of PSSC and working group agendas for the next two years is included at Annex 6.

The *Friend of the Chair* position will be asked to continue as a support mechanism for the PSSC for the next 24 months of phase 2⁴³.

The current terms of reference for the PSSC will need to be revised in light of these areas of focus and the other supports being proposed for Phase 2. This should form an item of business at the next PSSC meeting.

Regional coordination unit

The regional coordination unit will be tasked in the first year with establishing effective working mechanisms and identifying blockages and problems to effective implementation of TYPSS phase 2. A draft activity plan for the first 12 months of the coordination unit is attached at Annex 7.

Staffing for the unit was initially proposed as one person. Following review of the range of tasks required to be fulfilled it was decided that a three person team would be the minimum required to address all these tasks. This is likely to involve:

- A full-time coordinator for the first 12 months of phase 2 (this is expected to drop to a part-time position by the second year of phase 2)with the following responsibilities:
 - Update the TYPSS action plan: including a schedule of major activities by all TA providers. Communicating with all donors and development partners, to establish a shared operational plan identifying available development assistance for core statistics. This work will initially entail a rapid review of partner plans and operational documents.
 - Annual Operational Plan. Drafting an initial operational plan which combines development partner planning with identified PICT needs and priorities. The first draft of this plan should be made available to the first PSSC meeting in 2015.
 - TYPSS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. The coordinator will, together with the monitoring and evaluation advisor, provide annual reports to the PSSC on the progress towards phase 2 objectives.
 - Establish National Baseline Priorities and Capacities: Communicating with all NSO to establish a baseline of priorities and capacity needs, starting with the skills audits of

⁴³ The Friend of the Chair position is a voluntary position that was requested by Pacific Statisticians. They should make the decision to cease the position as it suits them.

NSO conducted by SPC in TYPSS Phase I, and draw on existing NSS, NSDS (relevant sections) , interim work plans aligned with national development strategies. This will initially entail a rapid review of country needs which can then be progressively improved and better informed over time.⁴⁴

- Oversee development partner coordination. Establish and facilitate development partner meetings that bring together development partners to promote efficient and effective technical assistance to NSO across the region. This is likely to involve virtual meetings of relevant stakeholders, facilitating communication between stakeholders to identify opportunities for complimentary activities, and other activities.
- PSSC Communication Strategy. Establish and facilitate a process of communication to underpin the operations of TYPSS Phase 2. This will include communications support for PSSC as well as communications for the purpose of transparency and accountability between stakeholders. It will also include attention to communication for the purposes of learning, particularly between NSO and NSS across the PICT
- TYPSS Coordination Strategy. Identification of progress and problems. Informed by the monitoring and evaluation reporting as well as observation and participation in the processes outlined above, the coordinator will be responsible for reporting to all stakeholders through the PSSC, about the progress or otherwise of the new coordination mechanisms and the degree to which these are now contributing to a more effective process for achievement of TYPSS phase 2 objectives.⁴⁵
- Other tasks as directed by PSSC
- Provide managerial oversight of the coordination unit.
- A half time M&E advisor, who will be employed for the three years of phase 2 with the following responsibilities:
 - Implementation of monitoring and evaluation activities for phase 2 at country and regional level in cooperation with other stakeholders, in line with the monitoring and evaluation framework outlined in this document.
 - Preparation of an annual TYPSS report which is provided to all stakeholders including national governments and development partner institutions, that informs everyone about progress towards objectives and vision of TYPSS. This report will not be an activity report but will focus on outcomes and impact.
 - As requested by PSSC, undertake other monitoring, evaluation and research activities which contribute to the knowledge and progress of TYPSS.
- If funding permits, a part-time logistics advisor for the three years of phase 2 with the following responsibilities:
 - Assisting the coordinator with logistics for virtual meetings and actual meetings.
 - Assisting with the M&E advisor with preparation of reports
 - Assisting with communication across all stakeholders in TYPSS

⁴⁴ It is acknowledged that comprehensive understanding of complex NSS requires time and ongoing learning and examination. This should be an ongoing task throughout phase 2.

⁴⁵ This may include recommendations around problem-solving with particular development partners. It may also include identification of NSO or national governments work where has been insufficient utilisation of assistance made available. While this aspect of the role will need to be carried out in a culturally appropriate and diplomatic way, it will be important that the coordinator is in a position, particularly in the first year of the program, to actively identify roadblocks and make recommendations to the PSSC about solutions.

- Supporting PSSC meetings with (i) timely distribution of papers prior to the meeting, and (ii) distribution of minutes and action points within two weeks of meeting completion.
- Arrange travel, accommodation, meeting facilities and per diems for PSSC meetings
- Other logistic and communication tasks as directed by the coordinator.

Detailed terms of reference for these three positions are provided at Annex 8.

Resourcing for the coordination unit

The Australian government through DFAT has agreed to provide operational funding for the coordination unit for the next three years. A budget which reflects the support is included at Annex 9. In addition both the ADB has agreed to provide in-kind support for the coordination unit. Additional support will be sought from other development partners to increase the effectiveness and reach of the coordination unit.

Sustainability

It is recognised that the coordination unit needs to be established in a way that supports ongoing capacity development in the region and ensures its work is directly relevant to the region. This could be promoted in several ways. These include the secondment of NSO staff into the unit, for senior NSO staff to be mentored by the coordinator and in turn to ensure regional relevance of the work of the coordinator.

It is proposed that an additional task for the coordination unit will be to explore these and other options.

Governance arrangements

It was noted during the consultation for this design that the current governance arrangements for the PSSC need further attention. Up until this time PSSC has maintained a formal accountability to HOPS. This has served TYPSS well in phase 1. In Phase II there will be a greater focus on engaging users of statistical services and in order to increase the influence and legitimacy of PSSC some stakeholders see the need to broaden its lines of accountability more directly to users of statistical services in ministries of Finance, Treasury and other line ministries such as health and education.

Various options were considered towards this end throughout the design process⁴⁶. There were also suggestions that PSSC should move to constitute itself as an independent committee drawing its legitimacy and authority from its individual membership; that is NSO, national planners and development partner representatives.

⁴⁶ A particularly useful suggestion was that PSSC be more closely modelled on the Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC). The PIDC operates as an independent group, with its authority derived from its membership. The PIDC is a forum for Official Immigration Agencies of the Pacific Region. The PIDC enables heads of immigration agencies to discuss issues of mutual interest and to foster multilateral co-operation and mutual assistance aimed at strengthening members' territorial borders and the integrity of their entry systems. The membership of the conference is open to 23 countries and territories across the Pacific. The PIDC functions through a management group made up of members and is supported by an independent Secretariat. Notably the PIDC is not directly accountable to any specific Pacific organisation or development partner. It draws its legitimacy from its comprehensive membership and specialised technical focus.

This last suggestion would provide PSSC with the authority and independence to fulfil its role. However it is recognised that this requires further consultation with all stakeholders and the implications would need to be carefully explored. For this reason for the next 12 months the PSSC will maintain a formal reporting relationship with HOPS. At the same time the coordination unit will be tasked with developing a detailed brief on the long term governance options, including the steps that would need to be undertaken for the PSSC to become an independently constituted Pacific statistics committee. A formal decision on the long term governance arrangements will be made at the second PSSC meeting in 2015.

In the interim the PSSC will extend its reporting to include a regular report to Pacific leaders through FEMM. It will also develop communication mechanisms through its membership to ensure national governments and development partners are directly informed about PSSC activities and recommendations for regional statistics.

Management arrangements

The coordination unit will be accountable for its work plan to the PSSC. It will produce an annual work plan which will be approved by the full PSSC. A subcommittee of PSSC will have responsibility to oversight and direct the work of the coordination unit based on the agreed annual work plan. This subgroup (to be decided at the first PSSC meeting in October, 2014) will include at least the Chair (or nominee) of PSSC, a representative from DFAT, a representative from one of the NSO and one development partner.

In addition, given the unit will be supported through donor funds and will be responsible for the hiring and supervision of staff, there also needs to be a formal arrangement in place to oversight management and financial probity. The design team explored various options and associated costs for this auspice arrangement throughout the consultation process. The following management arrangements will be established for phase 2.

- The coordination unit will be located in the SPC Suva office, primarily to provide cost effective and efficient accessibility for regional development partners and the NSO throughout the region.
- The coordination unit will be under the line management of the Director General of SPC.⁴⁷
- Day-to-day management will be deputised to the SPC Suva Deputy Director General.

This arrangement has the advantage of facilitating coordination with SDD as well as enhancing opportunity for coordination with other development partners and NSO.

Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation for TYPSS phase 2 aims to identify progress towards outcomes at against national and regional objectives. It is designed to capture change and learning. Currently reporting by development partners tends to be at the level of activities and outputs. This leaves stakeholders with no clear basis for assessing the value of inputs and activities or the value of the strategy overall. Important questions such as efficiency and effectiveness as well as the value being

⁴⁷ This reflects the view of the Director General of SPC that statistics is a critical service for the region.

achieved for the money invested, are unable to be addressed. Phase 2 of TYPSS will be characterised by a strong focus on good quality monitoring and evaluation about outcomes⁴⁸.

The monitoring and evaluation for phase 2 needs to take a long term view. As noted, TYPSS is a broad strategy for change across a 10 year period. Phase 2 outlines a program of work drawing from key assumptions of TYPSS, which, if those assumptions hold true, can be expected to contribute to significant progress towards the TYPSS vision. The objectives of phase 2 will be achieved through various inputs and activities and different stakeholders and partners working together. Assessing progress against those activities will require more than drawing simple attribution from activities through to outcomes. It will require attention to the key political effects of many actions and actors and how this is understood in each national context.

In practice the monitoring and evaluation will have the following elements⁴⁹:

- Assessment at regional level of progress towards phase 2 objectives
- Evaluative enquiry against key assumptions
- Assessment of stakeholders' commitment to and practice of TYPSS phase 2 principles.
- Lessons learned
- Commentary on broader contextual issues and factors of relevance to statistical use and production in the region but beyond the responsibility and influence of TYPSS
- Risk assessment, as outlined in the next section

Each of these is outlined in detail in Annex 10.

Monitoring and evaluation for the Coordination Unit

The coordination unit is a new mechanism and as discussed below brings with it some risk in terms of its capacity to cover tasks and its ability to manage the relationships and facilitation required. To this end specific attention will be given to assessing the performance and value of the unit. This will include an independent mid-term review of the unit, to report to the PSSC in May 2016 (providing for a review following one full year of operation).

Indicators for the performance of the coordination unit are attached at Annex 11. The MTR will assess the coordination unit against these indicators and other criteria as determined by the PSSC.

Risk management

TYPSS is a challenging program as successful implementation relies upon the interventions and support of multiple development partners and attempting to serve 21 diverse and dynamic Pacific

⁴⁸ Monitoring and evaluation undertaken by the coordination unit will not include activity reporting. Activity reporting remains the responsibility of technical providers and development partners in their reporting to donors and funding bodies. It also remains the responsibility of individual NSO and ministries of planning in their accountability to national government systems. While activity reports may be utilised in construction of outcome reporting and should be made available upon request to the monitoring and evaluation advisor, activity reports are not the focus of phase 2 monitoring and evaluation.

⁴⁹ It is important to note that DFAT is the largest donor to TYPSS and will fund the coordination unit. Under the new Australian Government aid policy a high emphasis has been placed on performance assessment. The measures outlined represent the minimum that is expected under the new aid policy.

countries and territories. While the intention of this design has been to identify additional mechanisms and approaches to change to increase the likelihood of achievement of phase 2 objectives and the long-term vision of TYPSS, the long list of assumptions indicates the ongoing high risk associated with the program.

The major risks associated with phase 2 have to do with technical assistance coordination, effective leadership by PSSC, the increased focus on national statistics systems and the introduction of the coordination unit.

A key limitation in phase 1 of TYPSS was the limited coordination of technical assistance by development partners. There is considerable risk that despite the additional supports and new arrangements to facilitate increased coordination and matching of technical assistance to specific PICT needs, some development partners will choose to not cooperate in this process. This will lead to inefficient and less effective utilisation of regional technical resources. This is a significant and major risk for program and needs to be carefully monitored by PSSC. Each PSSC meeting will receive a report on coordination of technical assistance.

A further risk is that PSSC itself will not be able to provide the voice, technical oversight and leadership as proposed for phase 2. This would create a vacuum in the region, leading to increasing bilateral arrangements and a failure to have agreed regional standards or appropriate regional representation at the international level. The consequences would be increased cost and decreased relevance in utilisation of national statistics. This risk needs to be monitored by both national governments and development partners. Attention to strengthening PSSC as required needs to be a priority.

In order for there to be increased utilisation of statistics and a focus on statistics that serves PICT priorities, the emphasis needs to move in phase 2 from NSO to NSS. While this will happen incrementally and in different ways in each country and territory, this shift is a key step in achieving the major objectives of phase 2. For this reason, the PSSC needs to be advised through monitoring and evaluation reports, about progress towards national statistics systems and national statistics strategy development in each PICT as part of the reports it receives from the coordination unit.

The coordination unit is a new function which will step into an existing program. There are several risks associated with this, including the willingness of all stakeholders to cooperate with the coordination unit. There are also risks associated with staffing for the unit and ensuring that the coordinator in particular is able to operate in a credible and legitimate way in the Pacific region. There are risks associated with the minimal resourcing available for this unit and ensuring that these are adequate to the high expectations for this unit. (This unit has been sought by National Statisticians for some time, and the expectations for it are high.) The coordination unit performance and work plans will be overseen by PSSC. In addition, in recognition of the risks identified above, an annual review of the coordination unit will be undertaken by a representative of PSSC, DFAT representatives and other stakeholder representatives as nominated by PSSC.

Given the year to year accountability of DFAT and other donor organisations to their own country for the use of resources they provide, and the long term duration and benefits for pacific countries of many of the funded statistical developments, there are many monitoring and evaluation obligations that do not overlap, either in time or scope. There is a risk that these could become burdensome. Managing these tensions requires a degree of transparency, trust and reporting that needs to be

carefully balanced, to ensure that the overheads of planning, reporting and review do not become excessive.

Sustainability

TYPSS identified that the Pacific as a whole is unlikely, for the foreseeable future, to be able to be adequately resourced to undertake the full range of essential statistical functions and requirements. However, it identified that with good quality technical support and effective regional governance, Pacific countries will develop to the position of being able to *control* and *manage* their statistical collections. TYPSS acknowledges that some PICT would always need to receive specific technical supplementation to *produce* core statistical outputs.

The intention for program sustainability therefore is not whether at the end of phase 2 or indeed at the end of the 10 year program that Pacific countries will operate independent of any external support, rather than the appropriate systems for ongoing support will be understood and in place and that the full potential capacity of PICT has been realised.

In addition, TYPSS highlighted the important role of tertiary education in the region in preparing the next generation of statisticians and also preparing future policy makers and program implementers to be able to understand and use statistics. These are important and critical steps towards sustainable statistics in the region. Ongoing attention needs to be maintained to this important longer term development.

As part of attention to long-term sustainability the PSSC will be tasked with a standing agenda item to consider progress towards a sustainable state by the end of TYPSS. This will provide opportunity to invite participation from tertiary education providers and other training institutions. It will provide a useful framework from which to consider the implications progress under phase 2 of TYPSS. Development partners, particularly donors, undertaking additional support for data production in the region will be strongly invited to consider how their additional activities are contributing to a more sustainable state for Pacific statistics production and use.

Reporting from this discussion will be contained in the annual progress report for TYPSS, made available to all development partners and national governments in the region.

Annex 1: Key design documents

Country corporate plans and statistics strategies

Cook Islands	Hanks, M. et al, Roadmap for Cook Islands National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (CINSDS), August, 2013.
Marshall Islands	Statistics Office Overview
Palau	'Strategic Planning – Statistics and Demography Programme' - Abstract from Country Strategy,
PNG	Why PNG needs good statistics – Advocacy booklet
Samoa	Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Corporate Plan 2008 – 12, 2008 Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2011 - 2021
Solomon Islands	Roadmap for the NSDS of Solomon Islands, Draft, March 2013
Tokelau	Statistics Rules 2013, Background and Rules, Tokelau National Statistics Office, 2013
Tonga	Corporate Plan, Statistics Department, February, 2014
Vanuatu	Vanuatu National Statistics Office, Strategic Plan, 2008

Development partner and regional plans and statistics strategies

Australian Bureau of Statistics	International Relations Strategy – Version 1.0, 2010 TYPSS Phase 2: ABS draft proposed work plan for 2015 – 2017
Asia Development Bank	ADB Pacific approach 2010-2014
BAG	The Brisbane Accord Group and the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan, 2011- 2014, Outline Document, 2011
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)	AusAID, An Effective Aid Program for Australia Making a Real Difference – delivering real results, updated June, 2012.
Paris21	Secretariat Programme of Work and Budget 2013 – 2015, 2013, Paris21 Meeting, April 2013
PFTAC	Objectives and Work Plan for FY 2014, PFTAC Annual Report, 2013 Review of FY 2013, PFTAC Annual Review, 2013
PIFS	Pacific Plan Review, Report to the Pacific Leaders, Volume 1 and 2, 2013 2013 Forum Economic Ministers Action Plan, Forum Economic Ministers Meeting, 3 – 5 July, 2013 Forum Economic Action Plan 2009, Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting, 27-28 October, 2009 Strengthening Statistical Services through Regional Approaches: A Benchmark Study and Way Forward, July 2009
SPC	Monitoring Development Progress, Sustainable Development Brief, Statistics for Development Division, March, 2013 Mid-term review of the Pacific Statistics Action Plan Phase I (2011-2014) Pacific Statistics Design and Action plan – Phase One (2011 – 2014) A Pacific Island Region Plan for the implementation of Initiative for Strengthening Statistical Services through Regional Approaches, 2010 – 2020, dd

Other	Turnbull, P. and Guteland, G. (2009) Strengthening Statistical Services through Regional Approaches: A Benchmark Study and Way Forward, Report Prepared for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, in Association with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Final Report—July 2009 From downloaded from: http://forum.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/economic-governance/forum-economic-ministers-meetingfemm/femm-2009.html
	Cook, L and Paunga (2010). A Pacific Island Region Plan for the Implementation of Initiatives for Strengthening Statistical Services through Regional Approaches, 2010-2020. SPC/HOPS 2010/Working Paper. 6 July 2010
	Robertson, K. (2013). Contribution and effectiveness to improved gender and culture statistics in the region. Review of Phase 1 (2011 – 2014) Action Plan of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy.

Other relevant regional agreements and reports

Pacific Island Forum Secretariat	Pacific Plan review 2013 – Report to Pacific Leaders, Volume 1 and Volume 2, 2013 The Pacific Plan for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration, November, 2007
PSSC	Minutes of the seventh meeting of the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee, May, 2013 Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee, December, 2012 Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee, October, 2012 Pacific Statistics Steering Committee Terms of Reference, November, 2010
SPC	Helping Pacific People Achieve Their Development Goals, SPC Corporate Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015, 2013

Other relevant international agreements and reports

United Nations	UN Task Team on Post 2015 UN Development Agenda, Statistics and indicators for the pos-2015 development agenda, July 2013. United Nations. The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, May 2013. United Nations, High Level Forum on Post 2015 UN Development Agenda, A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development, 2013 UNICEF - Joint UNICEF/Eurostat/OECD Work Session on Statistical Metadata (METIS) – Generic Statistical Business Process Model, Version 4.0, April 2009 http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/download/attachments/8683538/GSBPM+Final.pdf?version=1 UN, Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
World Bank	World Bank (2013) Statistical Capacity Indicator, Bulletin Board on Statistical Capacity: http://www.worldbank.org/data/bbsc World Bank, The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics, February 2004.

Annex 2: TYPSS Phase 1 MTR: Executive Summary & Recommendations

The purpose of the evaluation mission is to prepare a Mid-Term Independent Evaluation Report of implementation of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS). The findings of the review will inform national, regional and international stakeholders, initially through Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC), on progress of implementing Phase 1 of the Pacific Statistics Action Plan 2011-2014, along with scope and focal areas of future activities under the Action Plan. Implementation of the TYPSS has been evaluated against the criteria defined in AusAID's Evaluation Guidelines being: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability as well as monitoring and learning, and gender equality. The team has undertaken document reviews and used semi-structured interviews in its evaluation.

Relevance: The TYPSS has contributed to higher level objectives of the Pacific Plan, Millennium Development Goal (MDG) tracking and the reporting requirements of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT). Relevance would be further improved with the development of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) which outline key country and international reporting requirements.

Effectiveness: The TYPSS has been effective with some variation across the objectives. The evaluation team received widespread praise about achievements under TYPSS.

- Objective 1 supports PICT to undertake key statistical collections as scheduled. Census and survey plans have been prepared and pre-enumeration activities completed. All countries interviewed indicated sufficient capacity as provided by TA providers now existed for most aspects of data collection. Some gaps in technical capacity were outlined such as in the use of specialised software. A related concern was expressed about the turnover of skilled staff.
- Objective 2 activities help PICT to produce an agreed core set of statistics across key sectors. The National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) dataset is being used and improvements in the quality of economic and vital statistics noted. Emerging issues include gender, climate change, food security and environmental risk management even as the dataset appears to have too many indicators for some country collection capacities. Education Management Information System (EMIS) software and limited capacity to improve education statistics were highlighted as constraints.
- Objective 3 focuses on PICT having their own capacity or accessing regional capacity to undertake agreed core and some specialist's statistical functions. Skills audits are to be completed for most countries by PSSC 6 and are required for the development of long-term training and professional development plans. A regional pool of national staff with specialist statistical skills has been evolving, although work demands in larger National Statistics Offices (NSO) influence the degree to which this form of cooperation can take place.
- Objective 4, promotes national, regional and international users having increased access to user-friendly statistical information systems and databases. The Pacific Regional Information System (PRISM) has been upgraded and evidence of use tracked using Google Analytics. PopGIS, a geographic information system, and associated training still require further development. Data use training and advocacy were identified by interviewees as key areas for focus in the next phase of the TYPSS Action Plan.
- Objective 5. New and innovative statistical tools and systems have been introduced. Use of GPS (geographic positioning system) technology, automated data capture (scanning) and PDA (portable digital assistant) has been tested. Vanuatu has utilised a fit-for-purpose household survey prototype, while regional sign-off on a standardised Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) is scheduled for later in 2013.

- **Objective 6.** Only one PICT has a completed a NSDS plan. Interviewees noted that statistics are often available in-country but not readily accessible and communicated between agencies. NSDS plan development and focus of TYPSS on system-wide issues would help address this issue. PSSC meetings have generated valuable data and provided a forum for TYPSS implementation discussion, although the monitoring and evaluation framework is noted as requiring improvement.

Efficiency: TYPSS Phase 1 has generated considerable achievement given the degree of technical support. Much of the achievement has been associated with collections, along with improvements in economic and vital statistics. Future effort needs to target data analysis, advocacy and results communication. Improved coordination is required. NSO and SPC expressed concern to the evaluation team and in PSSC meetings about the timing of technical assistance. Working groups and committees need to include a broad range of providers and national agencies.

Impact and Sustainability: The evaluation team found significant evidence of positive impact. The World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator has increased since 2010 for Pacific countries, while it has decreased across the East Asia and Pacific region as a whole. TYPSS has increased certainty in regard to funding for major surveys reducing transaction costs. Continued donor funding of the program on a rolling basis would sustain this efficiency.

Monitoring and evaluation: The M&E framework has in part effectively measured progress towards meeting objectives. A reporting template that explicitly states inputs, outputs and outcomes by country/objective is required. Activities need to be time-bound and include indicators which can measure progress. Following recommendations from PSSC 5, a real-time online calendar is required in order to better monitor and communicate TYPSS activities.

Gender: There should be an improved longer term gender balance on the PSSC. Activities such as the Australian government's \$320 million Pacific Gender Initiative and MDG reporting require gender statistics. The NMDI has greatly improved access to gender indicators. Basic data use training could further assist in providing this information.

Key Findings and Recommendations Specific findings and recommendations are summarised below and described in the recommendations section that concludes the report. They include:

- **Substantial Achievement.** The TYPSS has facilitated considerable output, particularly in the area of developing country capacity for collections, vital registration, economics data and development of their own national websites accessible also through PRISM. NSO and major technical assistance providers need to be commended for this achievement. The objectives of TYPSS remain relevant.
- **Limited National Statistical Plan Development.** Countries must clearly identify the need for and better schedule technical assistance. National statistical development strategies (NSDS) are critical for NSO to assess reporting requirements and provide a road map for system-wide statistical development. NSDS development should be a high priority for TYPSS.
- **More Focus on Data Analysis and Demand for Official Statistics.** Much of the technical assistance has focussed on collections and data processing. More attention should be paid to support processes for analysis and dissemination. Data analysis, managerial and communication skills development require greater attention in the next phase of TYPSS. The development of accredited programs with teaching institutions is currently underway and should be further explored.

- **Improved M&E Framework.** The reporting framework and template should be enhanced to capture inputs by country/objective, along with outputs and results/outcomes. Reporting should be against time-bound action plans. Indicators measuring outcomes such as training should also be reported in the TYPSS M&E framework. Resources allocated to each objective and country needs to be specified for strategic monitoring of expenditures.
- **PSSC Requires Strengthening.** The terms of reference (ToR) of the PSSC should be reviewed to coincide with the upcoming HOPS meeting in order to strengthen its role in operations, reporting and coordination. A part-time coordinator should be engaged to assist with M&E data compilation, PSSC reporting and agenda-setting, and sustaining a real-time calendar of regional statistics activities. Guidelines need to be prepared for standards endorsement and the operation of technical working groups. Communications support should be provided to PSSC representatives.
- **Independent Phase 2 design.** The overall design and objectives of the TYPSS are appropriate. An independent design team should be commissioned by the PSSC to design the follow-on activities of TYPSS for all TA providers under existing objectives for consideration by the PSSC. Activities should be scheduled with agreed deliverables and timeframes. Indicators for tracking outputs and outcomes need to be specified in an M&E framework, which will be reported at each PSSC. Donors should provide predictable longer term financing for follow-on phases of the TYPSS to assist with staff retention and planned implementation.

Evaluation Criteria Ratings

Evaluation Criteria	Rating (1-6)	Explanation
Relevance	5	Survey collections and the maintenance of key economic, health, vital registration and education databases are key functions of government. 'Upgrading and extending country and regional statistical information systems and databases across all sectors' to support public policy is a major Pacific Plan Strategic Objective, 12.4 making TYPSS highly relevant to Pacific countries and donors. Sound design of the first phase followed benchmarking and implementation plan development studies.
Effectiveness	5	Effectiveness was found to be high. Progress towards Objectives 1 and 2 - which include undertaking statistical collections as scheduled and producing an agreed core set of statistics across key sectors was found to be substantial during mission consultations and reflected in statistical capacity indicators produced by the World Bank. All countries interviewed indicated sufficient capacity now existed for most aspects of data collection.
Efficiency	5	TYPSS has been delivered efficiently, with most activities being implemented as stated in the plan. Coordination appears to be satisfactory, although improved scheduling would be valuable. Working groups and committees need to include a broad range of providers, data users and national agencies. Greater emphasis on data analysis and dissemination was nominated by numerous stakeholders as a key focus for the next phase of TYPSS
Sustainability	4	Sustainability in the strict financial sense is not achievable due to the large expenditures associated with collections and technical assistance inputs. TYPSS has increased certainty in regard to funding for major collections, reducing transaction costs. Continued donor funding of the program on a rolling basis would sustain this efficiency. Increasing demand for statistics, through improved data analysis and advocacy would encourage governments to further support national statistical services.
Gender Equality	3	TYPSS could do more to advance gender equality in the region. Output data, such as the gender of training participants should be provided by all TA providers, along with more analysis of survey results from a gender viewpoint. Such analysis could assist with commitments to the Pacific Plan.
Analysis & Learning	5	TYPSS evolved from benchmarking and regional statistical strategy implementation plans. Implementation has been responsive to feedback from forums. The structure and content of PSSC meetings, for example, is evolving to better manage and coordinate the regional program.

Evaluation Criteria	Rating (1-6)	Explanation
Monitoring & Evaluation	4	The M&E framework has provided input and output level data, although reporting should quantify inputs and outputs for each country and objective. More outcome indicators should be adopted. A part-time coordinator should be engaged to assist with M&E data compilation and sustaining a real-time calendar of regional statistics activities.

Rating scale:

Satisfactory		Less than satisfactory	
6	Very high quality	3	Less than adequate quality
5	Good quality	2	Poor quality
4	Adequate quality	1	Very poor quality

Recommendations for future support

- Recommendation 1. TYPSS overall structure and objectives should be maintained. The overall structure of TYPSS and its prioritisation of sectors remain relevant. The addition of new thematic areas - such as gender, climate change, food security, disaster risk, disability, and environmental- economic accounting should be considered as part of each individual country's NSDS priority setting.
- Recommendation 2. PSSC should endorse an increased TYPSS focus on capacity to generate demand for official statistics. The planned focus of the 2015-2017 phase was to complete region-wide statistical systems, which includes fostering demand for official statistics through improved advocacy and communication. Greater emphasis should be placed on these activities in TYPSS.
- Recommendation 3. PSSC should endorse an increased TYPSS focus on data analysis and dissemination. With increasing availability of data there is greater need to improve the skills of national statisticians in data analysis and dissemination. ABS, StatsNZ (Victoria University) UN and SPC have experience in data analysis and dissemination training and mentoring which should be provided across the region. Completion of the skills audit will provide guidance for longer term training needs. Where possible, training should be accredited with the cooperation of training institutions such as USP.
- Recommendation 4. The PSSC should identify NSDS development as a major priority. Countries must clearly identify the need for better scheduling timing and scale of required intensity assistance. National statistical development strategies (NSDS) are critical for NSO to assess reporting requirements and provide a road map for statistical system development
- Recommendation 5. All TA Providers and countries should improve M&E reporting. The reporting framework and template should be enhanced to quantify inputs by country/objective, and allow for strategic monitoring of expenditures by country/program, along with outputs and results/outcomes. Reporting should be against time-bound action plans. The first priority for measuring outcomes is associated with tracking the benefits of

training and technical assistance. Training assessment and surveys of participants should be used to determine the outcomes of these activities.

- Recommendation 6. PSSC engage a part time coordinator. A part-time coordinator should be initially engaged to help collate country and TA provider M&E data, assist with PSSC reporting and sustaining a real-time online calendar of regional statistics activities.
- Recommendation 7. The PSSC should develop guidelines for endorsing definitions and standards, along with technical working group operations. Objectives of the PSSC include 'endorsing common definitions and standards that will underpin a greater harmonization of statistical processes' [and] convening 'technical working groups on particular topics involving experienced subject matter specialists', however the nature of these processes are unclear to the review team.
- Recommendation 8. Donors provide PSSC members with communications support. PSSC members represent multiple countries and face difficulties in collating data for meetings as e-mails are often not answered. Communications funds should be provided so counterparts can be readily contacted and PSSC reporting improved.
- Recommendation 9. The PSSC should review its TOR to coincide with the upcoming HOPS meeting in July 2013. A review of the TOR, with increased members input, will allow members to decide the best role for the PSSC, the preferred method of operation, membership, and approach to the next phase of steering and monitoring TYPSS implementation.
- Recommendation 10. PSSC should endorse an Independent Phase 2 design. An independent design team should be commissioned by the PSSC to design the follow-on activities of TYPSS for all TA providers. Activities should be aligned under current objectives and scheduled using Gantt charts on a quarterly timeframe. Indicators for tracking inputs, outputs and outcomes need to be quantifiable and specified in the M&E framework. The proposed design would be presented to the PSSC for endorsement.
- Recommendation 11. Donors should provide longer term rolling funding. Longer term, more predictable funding – such as rolling budgets would assist planning and improve the longer term performance of the TYPSS.
- Recommendation 12. Donors should sustain the civil registration and vital statistics program. The capacity developed for vital statistics should be sustained through continued funding for BAG activities under the UQ Health Information Systems Knowledge Hub, with a stronger focus on developing an integrated health information system for the prevention and control of NCD, amongst others.

Annex 3: List of people consulted for the design

Initial consultations, April 14 – April 30, 2014

Name	Organisation
Roksana Khan, Director	ABS
Annette Bastaja, Assistant Director	ABS
Christopher Edmonds, Senior economist, Pacific Department	ADB
Robert Christie, Pacific Regional Branch	DFAT
Gnari Michael Program Manager, Governance and Growth Section	DFAT
Lauren Waugh, Pacific Regional branch	DFAT
Michelle Rojas, Education team	DFAT
Innes ?, Education team	DFAT
Anna Gilchrist, Health	DFAT
Jacqueline Herbert, Health	DFAT
Rebecca Dodd, Senior Health Specialist	DFAT
Lucy Bechtel, Pacific economist	DFAT
Sophie Mackinnon, Pacific economist	DFAT
Richard Bontjer, Pacific economist	DFAT
Robert Harden, Pacific Senior economist	DFAT
Michael Carnahan, Chief Economist	DFAT
Gina De Pretto	DFAT
Mel Powell, Second Secretary, Regional Partnerships and Aid Effectiveness, Suva	DFAT
Solstice Middleby, Counsellor Development Cooperation, Suva	DFAT
Mehaka Rountree, Monitoring and results advisor	New Zealand Aid
Dr El Iza Mohamedou	Paris 21
Margarette Guerrero	SIAP
Gerald Haberkorn, Director, Statistics for Development Division	SPC
John Morris, Senior Advisor, Principle Advisor, International Relations	Statistics New Zealand
Eduard Jongstra, Adviser Statistics and Population and Development Strategies ?	UNFPA
Jillian Campbell, ESCAP	UN System
Manohar Sharma, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management , East Asia Region	World Bank
Sunil Kumar, Head of school of Economics	USP
Name	Country
Epeli Waqavonovono, Government Statistician, Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics	Fiji
Lorilee Chrisostomo, Director, Bureau of Statistics and Plans	Guam
Tekena Tiroa, Acting Government Statistician, Kiribati National Statistics Office	Kiribati
Sefuiva Reupena Muagututi'a, Government Statistician, Samoa Bureau of Statistics	Samoa
Kele Lui, Government Statistician, Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau	Tokelau
Ata'ata manuetoafa Finau, Government Statistician, Statistics Department	Tonga
Simil Johnson, Government Statistician, National Statistics Office Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM)	Vanuatu

Design Workshop, Suva, May 5, 6

Name	Organisation
Annette Bastaja, Assistant Director	ABS
Lewis Conn, Assistant Secretary	ABS
Roksana Khan, Director	ABS
Christopher Edmonds, Senior economist, Pacific Department	ADB
Robert Christie	DFAT
Lauren Waugh	DFAT
Mehaka Rountree, Principal Development Manager	New Zealand Aid
Jason Symons, Monitoring and Results Adviser	New Zealand Aid
Dr El Iza Mohamedou, Senior Program Coordinator	Paris 21
Russel Freeman	PFTAC
Gregory Legoff	PFTAC
Scott Roger, Coordinator	PFTAC
Charmina Saili, Regional Planning Adviser	PIFS
Gerald Haberkorn, Director, Statistics for Development Division	SPC
Eduard Jongstra, Adviser Statistics and Population and Development Strategies	UNFPA
Margarita Guerrero, Director	SIAP
Jillian Campbell, Statistician, UNESCAP	UN System
Manohar Sharma, Senior Poverty Specialist , East Asia Region	World Bank
Robert Utz, Lead Country Economist	World Bank
Name	Country
Taggy Tangimetua, Government Statistician, Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management	Cook Islands
Epeli Waqavonovono, Government Statistician, Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics	Fiji
Peter Wise, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics	Fiji
Mathew Chigiyal, Assistant Director for Statistics Division, Office of Statistics, Budget and Economic Management, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management	FSM
Lorilee Chrisostomo, Director, Bureau of Statistics and Plans	Guam
Tekena Tiroa, Acting Government Statistician, Kiribati National Statistics Office	Kiribati
Ipia Gadabu, Director, Nauru Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Finance	Nauru
Casmir Remengesau, Director Bureau of Budget and Planning	Palau
Mr Henao Kari, Assistant National Statistician, National Statistics Office	PNG
Ms Maria-Louise Wau, Assistant Secretary, Statistics & Research Branch, Macro Planning Division, Dept. of National Planning & Monitoring	PNG
Sefuiva Reupena Muagututi'a, Government Statistician, Samoa Bureau of Statistics	Samoa
Ms. Maliliga Pisila Sefululua, Principal Sector Planning Officer, Economic Planning and Policy Division, Ministry of Finance	Samoa
Kele Lui, Government Statistician, Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau	Tokelau
Ata'ata manuetoafa Finau, Government Statistician, Statistics Department	Tonga
Mrs Lesieli T. Faletau, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Planning	Tonga
Simil Johnson, Government Statistician, National Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM)	Vanuatu

Design missions, May 15 – May 30

Name	Country
Gerald Haberkorn, Director, Statistics for Development Division	SPC
Arthur Jorari	SPC
Bertram Buffiere	SPC
Nimalah Lal	SPC
Sandra Gianini	SPC
Scott Pontifex	SPC
Karen Carter	SPC
Fabian McKinnon, Deputy Director General	SPC
Cameron Bowles, Director	SPC
Colin Tukuitonga, Director General	SPC
Kim Robertson, Gender Statistics	SPC
Elise Huffer, Cultural advisor	SPC
Sandra Bernklau, Human Rights	SPC
Scott Roger, Coordinator	PFTAC
Epeli Waqavonovono, Government Statistician, Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics	Fiji
Rikke Munk Hansen	UNESCAP
Resina Katafono, MDGs Regional Adviser	PIFS
Bjorn	UNICEF
Laupua Fiti, Independent Consultant, Economics and Agricultural Statistics	Samoa
Clyde Hamilton, First Secretary Australian High Commission	Samoa
Muagututia Sefuiva Reupena, Government Statistician	Samoa
Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Minister Ministry of Justice, Courts Administration, Electoral Commission & Film Censorship	Samoa
Moana Leitaaua, ACEO-Economic Policy and Planning Division Ministry of Finance	Samoa
Rumanusina Maua , ACEO HIS & ICT Ministry of Health	Samoa
Edith Taosoga, Principal Officer -Agricultural Statistician Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Samoa
Ausage Lauano, HOD Maths and Statistics National University of Samoa	Samoa
Mohammed Umar, Director- IRETA (School of Agriculture & Food Technology), Faculty of Business University of the South Pacific, Alafua Campus	Samoa
Dr Netatua Prescott Taufatofua, Director –Climate Change SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environment Programme)	Samoa
Lilika Fusimalohi - Senior Programme Manager, Economic and Public Sector & Climate Change Australian High Commission	Tonga
Meria Russell – Program Manager for Economic and Public Sector Governance Australian High Commission	Tonga
Kathleen Bombell – Second Secretary and lead on Infrastructure and Health Sector Australian High Commission	Tonga
'Ata'ata Finau, Government Statistician Statistics Department-	Tonga
Sione Lolohea, Senior Statistician Statistics Department-	Tonga
Masiva'ilo Masiva'ilo, Statistician Statistics Department-	Tonga
Ma'unga Falevai, EMIS Officer in Charge Ministry of Education and Training	Tonga
Manatu P. Vivili, Tourism & Trade Sector Ministry of Commerce, Tourism and Labour	Tonga
Faleola Mafi, Commerce & Labour Ministry of Commerce, Tourism and Labour	Tonga
Kaho 'Ofa, Head of Investment Retirement Fund Board	Tonga

'Ana Soakai, Senior Economist National Reserve Bank of Tonga	Tonga
Pesi 'Ilangana Tonga Chamber	Tonga
Sione Hufanga Ministry of Health	Tonga
Fatai Soakai Ministry of Internal Affairs- Local Government	Tonga
Temaleti Manakovi A. Pahulu, Chief Registrar Ministry of Justice	Tonga
Lavinia Vaipuna, Fisheries Division Ministry of Agriculture(MAFF)	Tonga
Feleti Wolfgram, Statistician Tonga Energy Roadmap	Tonga
Meleseini Lomu , Economic and Finance Consultant Ministry of Finance	Tonga
Lilu Moala, Climate Change Section MLECCNR –Ministry of Lands Environment	Tonga
Climate Change and Natural Disasters	
Simil Johnson, Government Statistician, Vanuatu National Statistics Office	Vanuatu
Jennifer Kalpakos, Australian High Commission	Vanuatu
Nigel Malosu, Joshua Nava, Henderson Tarago, Finance and Treasury Team	Vanuatu
Michael Buttsworth and team, Health Information Systems, Ministry of Health	Vanuatu
Nancy Wells, ADB/World Bank Coordinator and previous Government Statistician	Vanuatu
Mykaela Nyman, NZAID Country Manager	Vanuatu
Fabiola Bibi and team, Senior Statistics Officer, Department of Education	Vanuatu
Mark Evans, Pacific Institute of Public Policy	Vanuatu
Simeon Athy, Governor, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu	Vanuatu
Kele Lui, Govenment Statistician Government Office, Apia	Tokelau
Kimray Vaha, Government Statistician	Niue

Other consultations

Name	Organisation
Justin Ho, Program Officer, Pacific Bilateral Branch	DFAT, FSM
Neil Young, Program Manager, Pacific Bilateral Branch	DFAT, Nauru
Edward Smith, Australian High Commission, Pacific Branch, Honiara	DFAT, Solomon Islands
Moses Tongare, Australian High Commission, Pacific Branch, Honiara	DFAT, Solomon Islands
Michael Hunt , Australian High Commission, Kiribati	DFAT
Lily Homasi, Australian High Commission	DFAT, Tuvalu
Marina Illingworth, Australian High Commission, Fiji	DFAT
Margaret Vuiyasawa, Australian High Commission, Fiji	DFAT
Lori Banks, Australian High Commission, Fiji	DFAT
Keshwa Reddy, Australian High Commission	DFAT
Andreas Demmke	UNFPA
NSO meeting Nadi 12/09/14	
Semu Malona	Tuvalu NSO
Kimray Vaha	Nieu NSO
Douglas Kimie	Solomon Islands NSO
Benjamin Sila	Samoa NSO
Sefuiva R Muagututi'a	Samoa NSO
Simil Johnson	Vanuatu NSO
Bennel Lenge	Vanuatu NSO
Jovesa Tagivakatini	Fiji NSO
Samuela Ratavola	Fiji NSO

Epeli Waqavonovono	Fiji NSO
Henao Kari	PNG NSO
Roko Koloma	PNG NSO
Siosi'ana Fisi'inaua	Tonga NSO
Aritita Tekaiti	Kiribati NSO

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Annex 4: Pacific National Statistical Systems

A central theme that emerged from the design workshop was the importance of understanding National Statistics Systems (NSS) as a whole in each Pacific country context. Design consultations suggested that by looking at the system collectively, it is possible to identify opportunities to lift the scope and quality of statistics. It is also easier to understand the resource flows, formal and informal procedures and the interests and incentives that are shaping delivery of statistical projects.

In addition to National Statistics Offices, the stakeholder 'map' for Phase 2 of regional strategy must include key government stakeholders such as: the Prime Ministerial/Cabinet office; the Ministry of Finance, Treasury and Central Bank; significant line ministries; and Aid Coordination Units where they have been set up.

- Office of the Prime Minister/Cabinet: is generally responsible for managing the country's development framework and collating key indicators to measure progress against strategic priorities in the National Development Plan.
- Central Bank, Finance and Treasury: are the key producers and users of economic statistics and important players in coordinating funds for development including funds for the national development plan (although this can vary in different countries).
- Line ministries: particularly those producing priority statistics (defined by the National Development Plan), and those that have links to a sub-national statistics structure such as Ministries of Education (collect data through the schooling system) and Ministries of Health (collect data through health workers or health clinics) in some countries.
- Aid Coordination Units: which have an evolving role in managing aid coordination and development effectiveness data for regional and international users

Five additional observations about Pacific NSS are highly relevant to the Regional Program:

- The lack of adequate protocols specifying the mandates, enforcement powers and obligations of these different stakeholders within the NSS: Most countries have Statistics Acts and/or Census Acts (although some are slightly dated), but the mechanism for different data producing agencies to enter into agreements to jointly collect and share data varies considerably. Of the countries visited by the design team, Samoa and Fiji are the standout examples where good progress has been made towards developing these protocols. In Vanuatu some formal mechanisms exist and several informal mechanisms serve to maintain good working relationships between statistical producers.
- The variation in the institutional framework for producing statistics: Most countries have reasonably well defined roles and responsibilities for different statistical producers in the NSS. However, the political mandate given at the national level for the access to administrative records or engagement in national level planning varies considerably. In the small island states, statistics offices are small and located within much larger ministries of planning and budgeting and policy-level interaction is limited. In other countries like Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu, the statistics offices have a direct link to national development planning and budgeting. Samoa is the only Pacific country where the statistics office is considered an independent entity, following the model in developed countries like Australia.
- Mixed and varied financing arrangements: Finally, there are variations in the balance between national government and external financing of the NSS and key statistical productions. In Fiji,

Samoa and Vanuatu, some of the funding for the statistics office comes from the Government with major data collections jointly funded through external aid projects.

- The smallness of the countries has made it difficult to justify infrastructure investments on the grounds of payback in the past. A focus on common regional systems, along with the huge downward shift in the cost of information and communications technologies reduces this historical handicap.
- Many of the next steps in the development of Pacific statistics are outside the leadership of the national statistical office. The management of administrative records and their accessibility, the capacity for the analysis of sector specific statistics and the foresight to identify priorities for new measures are all dependent on the resourcing and development intentions of policy and operational ministries. In many Pacific countries, taxation authorities are the most advanced on a development pathway, and they provide good role models of what can be achieved.

Role and capacity of the National Statistics Office

As most of the training and capacity building support under Phase 1 of the Regional Program has been targeted at NSO and NSO operations, it is worth exploring the opportunities and risks involved in this model. The existence of strong, stable NSO provides an entry point for regional support and a country voice on the role of statistics in national development. However, a focus on the training and capacity building of NSO with insufficient attention to their remit and authority can reduce the impact of statistical project delivery and dilute the outcomes of this work.

Pacific NSO vary considerably in size, mandate and capacity and while there has been an increase in the scope of their activities across the region, developments within the NSO alone will not ensure that the quality of statistics or statistical use in evidence-based policy (the TYPSS vision) will improve. Even in Pacific countries where the model of an NSO 'leading' the NSS (akin to the ABS or NZ Stats model) exists, there are significant limits on what can be achieved, and this is usually in the areas of taxation, external trade, births and deaths. In others however, the NSO is a small office in a much larger Ministry of Finance or Budgeting or Planning. In these contexts, it is impractical to build the capacity of the NSO without allowing for the need for support at the broader NSS level to leverage this change.

At a most basic level, Pacific NSS' needs to have a statistics office with the capability to carry out core statistical collections and produce timely, quality outputs. As these statistics offices increase the scope of their activity however, the most important measure of success is the extent to which they maintain their relevance in the context of national priorities. The World Bank's General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) mapping is a very useful measure of how NSS' as a whole and NSO in particular are tracking vis-à-vis statistical production and periodic GDDS mapping in the Pacific could create baseline information for the regional program and enable improved alignment of development partner coordination and technical assistance (although it needs to be noted that GDDS can be a disproportionately burdensome tool for small countries). The fact that NSO need to be accountable to national government also creates considerations for regional and international statistics processes, where the end users are not national governments.

Users of statistics

A country-level analysis of key statistics stakeholders would not be complete with some mention of statistical users – line ministries, sectoral departments, academic institutions, etc. When Phase 1 was initiated, there was less information about the users of statistics at a county level and the institutional arrangements between users and producers of statistics. However, with the implementation of NSDS, this is changing and countries like Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands and Vanuatu that have more up to date statistics strategies in place, which define users and user engagement.

The following observations about users and user engagement in the Pacific are most relevant to the Regional Program:

- The value that users have been able to attain from statistics generated at the country level is not high and as a result key statistical outputs are not been used adequately in public policy formulation. The design consultations found for instance, that several key users of macro-economic statistics are concerned with the quality and timeliness of outputs produced at a national level⁵⁰. As a result, the link between macroeconomic policy and statistics produced by the NSO or Treasury or Ministry of Finance is quite weak. Often it is hard for both users and producers to identify accurate data and information and match this up to policy expectations. Additionally some NSO and statistics units within line ministries, lack the technical skills to meet user requirements either because of the quality of the data collected or its timeliness.
- Political and institutional processes for the release of statistics at a national level are negatively impacting on the reputation of NSO and other producers: The design consultations suggested that formal governmental processes of release, particularly where Ministers and Parliaments are involved, prevent the scheduling of the release of statistics, and can cause long delays in availability of these statistics. The implications of these delays on the reputation and management of statistics producer agencies are immense.
- Government commitment to staying statistically informed is far from consistent, and where information does exist policy ministries are often not equipped to gain access or analyse it. Despite a strengthening articulation of particular needs, for example in the study of population change, in most countries national governments are only beginning to develop the indicators to measure progress against strategic priorities. Demand for statistics is evolving as and needs to be matched by improvements in the quality, timeliness and accessibility, as well as interpretation. There have been some positive initiatives around establishing dialogue between user and producers of statistics' at a country level. Initiatives such as ABS' 'Statistics for Evidence Based Policy' workshops held in Fiji and Vanuatu or Stats NZ data analysis course run in Tonga have the potential to be triggers for closer user and producer engagement in Phase 2. the NSDS process should also provide for an environment where both producer and user needs are considered and accommodated.

⁵⁰ These concerns were related to several factors including: weakness or even lack of methodology/framework, a lack of or inadequate attention to standards used, delays in data processing, an overburdened NSO, and a lack of human resources.

Annex 5: Proposed (draft) interim activity plan

July 2014 - December 2015

No.	Objectives	No.	Activity focus	ABS	ADB	Aus-bilateral	Bilateral-other	IM/PFTAC	Paris 21	PIFS	SIAP	SNZ	SPC/SDD	SPC/Other divisions	UNSD/UNESCAP	UN - Other agencies	USP	World Bank	Description, notes
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 (NSDS).	1.1	Support to core (ongoing) collections																Population census, CRVS, HIES, other poverty measures, DHS, Agricultural surveys
		1.2	Support in integration, quality and increased use of administrative stats (largely for economic statistics)																National accounts, Prices, External Sector Statistics, Merchandise trade statistics, Government Finance Statistics, Economic Data dissemination, strategic planning for economic statistics, environmental economic accounting, classification and standards, tourism statistics
		1.3	Support to social statistics																Education statistics, Health Statistics, Climate Change, Cultural Statistics, Gender statistics, Disability Statistics

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 as required by the national development plans, with timely analysis and dissemination of results to national users	2.1	Support to NSO capacity building efforts															Capacity building, mentoring or other support linked to NSDS or strategic plan.
		2.2	Improved analysis and dissemination of statistics															Development of common tools, regional and sub-regional training, methodological support, ICT infrastructure and collaboration tools
3	All countries and territories have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan in line with their national development strategies.	3.1	NSDS design and implementation															Support for NSS governance and national legislation development. Note that all development partners would be involved in consultations as relevant
		3.2	Development of national statistical priorities															Development or articulation of NSS priorities where there is no NSDS
4	National level statistics stakeholders 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.																	
5	National and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively:	5.1	Statistics advocacy support (regional level)															Statistics advocacy support

		5.2	Statistics advocacy support (national level)														Capacity building, mentoring or other support linked to NSDS or strategic plan; Support for NSS governance and national legislation development
6	TA inputs are in line with country and territory priorities, transparent to all stakeholders and are delivered efficiently across the region.	6.1	Coordinated approaches to regional and international statistics														
7	Pacific leaders receive recommendations about priorities for statistical collections at national and regional level with accompanying data about resource and technology requirements	7.1	Engagement with Pacific leaders														
8	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.	8.1	Capacity development and learning between Pacific countries														Regional and sub-regional training, capacity building, mentoring, south-south exchanges, work placements, study visits
		8.2	PSSC support														Capacity building support to PSSC members, communication and coordination of PSSC, PSSC meetings and decision making processes, PSSC engagement with TA providers
		8.3	TWG group support														

Annex 6: Proposed (draft) PSSC and technical working group agenda for 2014-2016

PSSC		Meeting no. 9, 2014	10, 2015	11, 2015	12, 2016
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm PSSC model PSSC decision-making, reporting Confirm WG ToR, members Confirm surveys plan NSDS progress Regional NSDS South/south collaboration focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review WG reports Legislation developments Survey methods for future Institution building pathways Innovation potential PNG/ Solomons Propose technical working groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm surveys plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation potential PNG/ Solomons
Possible TWG ⁵¹					
TWG1	Admin Sources [ABS,SPC]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge existing work and mechanisms in place for education (EMIS) and CRVS (BAG) Survey broader needs/interests in NSO management of national administrative data bases [ABS support] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse current position Establish key checkpoints Scope first stage potential Set extension focus (topic, country) Agree projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
TWG2	Regional leverage from local, ABS/NZ initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose 6-10 projects for focus Agree working method and staging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor progress, select highest priority projects PNG/ Solomons links 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review leverage results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review leverage results Identify 4-5 new projects
TWG3	Reporting [SPC, UN, ABS]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree frameworks & pathways Report current economic and demographic applications Propose reporting mechanisms Reporting map (regional, country mix) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting systems options Reporting systems implementation pathway Report social/ cultural applications Food security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report environment applications Gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
TWG4	Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration pathways Economic classification standards Social classification standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment standards Register priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
TWG5	Output strength ⁵² [UN,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOP/HOS linkages NSD priorities/ roadblocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education focus Gender focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health focus Environment focus

⁵¹ These indicative TWG have been proposed by the Friend of the Chair as indicative areas. They can be developed and finalised at the next PSSC meeting.

⁵² Note that Stats NZ are working on delivery of the Certificate of Official Statistics. This will likely overlap with work of this working group and that of TWG6.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USP degree in official statistics Other training initiatives 		
TWG6	Decision uplift (Friend of the Chair to lead)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSDS follow ups Topic workshops/ reviews SNZ/USP users training National/regional strategy links (SPC/ FEMM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population review/workshops Advocacy strategies Innovation review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment review workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation review
TWG7	IT systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Annex 7: Proposed (Draft) coordination unit work plan

O= ongoing

No.	Area of work	Suggested tasks	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 2016
1.	Develop initial protocol and procedures	Finalise PSSC model , decision making, reporting process						
		Prepare and finalise R&R for coordination unit						
		Finalise PSSC and TWG group agenda for 2014 – 2016						
		Review and/or develop TWG TORs						
		Finalise TWG membership and communication plan						
		Prepare and circulate Pacific Statistics contact list						
2.	Coordination unit work planning	Needs assessment and consultation if required						
		Prepare and finalise coordination unit work plan						
		Establish coordination unit performance measures						
3.	TYPSS design and evaluation	Finalise (interim) action plan for phase 2 of TYPSS						
		Prepare and circulate summary of Phase 2 design						
		Identification of bottlenecks to Phase 2 implementation						
		Contribute to annual reporting and evaluation of Phase 2						
		Annual context scan of regional issues and influences						
4.	Support to PSSC	Prepare and finalise PSSC meeting agenda and minutes	O					
		Coordination and support to PSSC chair as required	O					
		Coordination of South-South sharing at PSSC meetings	O					
		Coordination of DP inputs/ training at PSSC meetings	O					
		Assessment of PSSC meetings and interactions	O					
		Regular communication between PSSC meetings	O					
5.	Support to NSDS and strategy development work	Develop and maintain database of NSDS/strategies			O			
		Develop and maintain calendar of core collections			O			
		Communicate regional stds. and frameworks to NSOs	O					
		Develop and support south-south sharing around strengthening user-producer dialogue and other priorities				O		
6.	Support improved coordination of technical assistance	Develop and maintain DP records on plans and strategies				O		
		Work with NSOs to identify gaps and issues				O		
		Coordinate follow-up through TWGs and PSSC				O		
7.	Represent Pacific statisticians at key forum	Identifying scope in line with unit work plan and budget						
		Relevant meeting, advocacy and networking activities	tbc					

8.	Support capacity development and learning between PICT	Coordinate specific activities as per Interim Action Plan	tbc					
9.	Support innovation and experimentation	Coordinate specific opportunities as per Interim Action Plan	tbc					
		Develop evaluative tools and document lessons learnt	O					

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Annex 8: Proposed (draft) Terms of Reference for Coordination Unit Personnel

Phase 2 coordinator

The Phase 2 coordinator position will be a three-year position, initially full-time, dropping to half time for years two and three. The position will be accountable to the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) through the Chair of that committee. Day-to-day management of the position will be provided by SPC. The position will be based in Suva. The position will have primary responsibility for facilitating and supporting increased facilitation and cooperation between stakeholders engaged in the implementation of TYPSS phase 2.

Specific duties are likely to include the following

- Facilitation and support for NSO and NSS work plan and strategy development.
- Facilitation and support for development partner cooperation and communication
- Facilitation of meetings of development partners including assistance with terms of reference for the meetings, facilitating virtual meetings and/or face-to-face meetings, assessing quality of discussions and proposed activities according to the behaviour assessment framework attached to the phase 2 design document, reporting on outcomes and quality of these meetings to the PSSC, actively problem-solving such gatherings.
- Facilitation of TWG to support PSSC advice and information. This facilitation would include establishing communication methods and meeting arrangements, and assisting with identification of required tasks and outcomes. The coordinator would also assess the quality of these TWG against the quality criteria contained in the design document monitoring framework. The coordinator would report on this quality to the PSSC
- Identification of bottlenecks and problems to be addressed in order to facilitate and further phase 2 intentions and objectives.
- Oversight of monitoring and evaluation and logistics and communications for phase 2 is undertaken by other coordination unit staff
- Cooperation with the Chair of the PSSC to ensure meetings are well planned and informed in advance, timely minutes are received and recommendations for action are advised to the relevant actors. Tasks also include regular communication between meetings to advise on progress and actions and identify problems.
- Oversight of the sustainability of the unit including attention to resources required.

A strong emphasis will be placed on a technical knowledge of statistics in order that the coordinator is able to engage appropriately with very stakeholders and have good subject knowledge of the issues in hand. However significant skills are also required in the areas of program management, facilitation and problem solving. The coordinator will need to have Pacific development experience and be able to demonstrate legitimacy and credibility in dealings with a range of different stakeholders at various levels of seniority.

Phase 2 Monitoring and evaluation advisor

This position will be a half-time position for three years of phase 2. The 26 weeks available for the position will be utilised in a series of assignments throughout the 12 months with the person based at the coordination unit office in Suva while on assignment. The position will be accountable to the PSSC

and directly managed by the coordinator. The monitoring and evaluation advisor will be primarily responsible for establishing and implementing a monitoring and evaluation approach for phase 2 of TYPSS. In line with the proposal in the phase 2 design document this approach will focus on generating information about the outcomes rather than reproducing existing activity reports. The person will be involved in facilitating simple monitoring approaches, synthesising information from a country level and the partner reporting to produce high level outcome reports for the region.

Specific duties are likely to include:

- Utilising development partner and technical providers reporting to cross check on country level outcome reporting identifying and exploring difference and providing a synthesis and analysis of overall findings. This information would form the basis of six monthly reports to the PSSC.
- Where appropriate, assisting country NSO and NSS to identify a small set of indicators and methodologies for information collection about work plans and strategies; working progressively across the 21 countries and territories engaged in TYPSS.
- Encouraging identification of learning among NSO and NSS and developing methods to capture and share this learning across the region.
- Challenging development partner and technical providers reporting to increase the focus on outcomes
- Undertaking an annual scan of regional influences and issues which have particular implications for TYPSS implementation
- Assist the coordinator with quality assessment of key phase 2 mechanisms
- Preparing an annual TYPSS report which highlights to external stakeholders achievements and outcomes, lessons learned and contextual influences on phase 2 progress.

This position will require high level and broad monitoring and evaluation skills with the ability to move between a range of different methodologies. In addition the adviser will need to have a good understanding of how to build capacity for monitoring and evaluation in Pacific government institutions and international development organisations. The person will need to have high level written and verbal communication skills, and demonstrate experience in development programming work in the Pacific.

Logistics and communication advisor

This part-time position could operate throughout the three years of TYPSS phase 2. It would be locally engaged position in Suva, with the person providing support across 16 weeks of each year. The person will be primarily responsible for facilitating communication and logistics for TYPSS meetings both actual and virtual. The person will be accountable to the coordinator.

Specific duties are likely to include:

- Logistics organisation and assistance with facilitation for TWG for phase 2 including establishing virtual meeting arrangements as well as occasional face-to-face meetings.
- Logistics organisation and communications for PSSC meetings and ongoing interactions
- Assistance with monitoring and evaluation report production and dissemination
- Assistance with other information dissemination as required

This person would be expected to have high quality organisational and logistics skills with demonstrated experience working with Pacific organisations. The person will need to have a good understanding of Pacific travel and communication systems and how best to apply existing and emerging technologies to those systems. The person will be expected to work flexibly and responsively and be innovative in his /her approaches.

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Annex 9: Coordination Unit Budget⁵³

	2015	2016	2017	
Coordinator C4	\$203,556	\$106,867.00	\$112,210	
M&E advisor C4	\$110,890	\$116,434	\$112,256	
Logistics advisor C3	\$38,960	\$40,908	\$42,953	
Travel costs	\$82,500	\$90,750	\$99,825	
Communication costs	\$72,000	\$72,000	\$72,000	
Office and equipment	144,000	\$158,400	\$174,240	
Subtotal	\$651,906	\$585,359.00	\$613,484	
Plus management fees	\$97,786	\$87,804	\$92,023	
Plus 5% contingency	\$32,595	\$29,268	\$30,674	
Total	\$782,287	\$702,431.00	\$736,181	

⁵³ See associated notes for the details of calculations.

Annex 10: Monitoring and evaluation

Country level progress assessment

An expectation for phase 2 of TYPSS is that all NSO/NSS will develop at least a minimal work plan which identifies priorities and areas where external technical assistance and other support as required. This is an important starting point for interaction with technical providers and for seeking assistance from NSO in other countries. It is also an important process for acknowledging existing supports and strengths within country and identifying areas of achievement and capacity to date. This information will serve, in whatever form, as the baseline and ongoing assessment of progress.⁵⁴

Annually the monitoring and evaluation advisor will meet with NSO and NSS representatives to discuss their report on progress and explore with them the factors which have been significant in this achievement. This will be important for two reasons. It will provides an opportunity for checking the validity of progress reports, examining the data from which information these are drawn and crosschecking or triangulating the findings of progress reports with other information from donor bilateral programs and development partner reporting. It will also provide the opportunity to identify lessons learned and broader contextual issues which have had a bearing upon the progress able to be achieved.

Given there are 21 PICT to be covered, albeit several of which have looser expectations of TYPSS underpinning their future statistical infrastructure, it is unlikely that the monitoring and evaluation advisor will be able to spend time supporting establishment of the system in all countries in the first 12 months. It is therefore proposed that while countries are all expected to develop some form of work plan or strategy with accompanying measures, that more detailed assistance and enquiry is applied progressively over the three years. Once systems are in place it will be possible to undertake verification and discussion for the purpose of lessons learned through telephone and videoconferencing arrangements.

The monitoring and evaluation advisor will be expected to synthesise and analyse the material available from countries about their progress under the first four objectives of phase 2. Drawing from this country material, together with other information available, the M&E advisor will be expected to provide a report on progress to date against each objective. Broad proposed indicators for consideration are outlined in Table 1.

Regional level progress assessment

Regional level progress will focus on the operations of the PSSC and the degree to which this committee has been able to effectively function, utilising information from working groups and the services of the coordination unit, together with progress reports to provide regional leadership and advice. Specific indicators of progress will be negotiated with the PSSC at the first meeting of the committee in phase 2 of TYPSS. Proposed indicators for consideration are outlined in Table 1. The monitoring and evaluation advisor will meet with the chair and deputies of the PSSC prior to preparing an annual report, to review progress against agreed indicators and explore the context for achievement or not of this progress. This information will be synthesised and analysed together with

⁵⁴ The Samoa NSDS, developed through country processes, provides an excellent example of a simple but relevant monitoring framework at the end of the document.

any other relevant information and presented as part of the progress report at the subsequent committee meeting.

Checking assumptions

There will be regular attention given to checking program assumptions. As noted, TYPSS has been developed based on several assumptions about how change can be levered to improve statistical quality in the Pacific. Phase 2 has added further 'levers' and identified many of the assumptions as these relate to achievement of the intended objectives. Evaluative questions outlined in table 1. These are designed to check these assumptions throughout the second phase of TYPSS. These may be further refined in discussion with stakeholders.

Evaluation of fundamental assumptions is also critical. It is proposed that in line with previous practice, this second phase of TYPSS is subject to review at the end of three years. It is strongly recommended that in this review, particular attention is given to assessment of fundamental assumptions before proceeding to further implementation of TYPSS.

Table 1. Proposed (draft) outcome assessment and evaluative questions

<i>Phase 2 objectives</i>	<i>Indicators of progress</i>	<i>Evaluative questions</i>	<i>Methodologies</i>
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 (NSDS)	<p>By the end of 2017, in all PICT, statistical collections, as required by national development plans, are being routinely undertaken and reported in a timely manner.</p> <p>By the end of 2017, in all PICT, the NSS is able to access the capacity required to undertake and disseminate core statistical collections.</p>	<p>How is external technical assistance contributing to management and implementation of core statistical collections?</p> <p>What progress is being made in the PICT towards identification of existing strength and areas for further capacity development?</p> <p>Who is engaged in the development of a national statistics strategy? Who is still to be engaged?</p> <p>In what ways are efficiencies being achieved by cooperation between national statistics collections and administration data?</p>	<p>Draw information from NSS work plan reporting.</p> <p>Interviews with NSS and with selected data users.</p> <p>Review of government policy and programme reports at national level.</p>
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	<p>By the end of 2017, in all PICT, management and implementation of core statistical collections, as required by national development plans, is under the control and at the direction of the NSS.</p>	<p>To what extent does national government budget support the full implementation of the national statistics strategy?</p> <p>What strategy is in place to increase analysis of data at a national level?</p>	<p>Draw information from NSS work plan reporting.</p> <p>Triangulate information with TA reports</p> <p>Triangulate information with interviews with NSO, NSS and</p>

reporting frameworks as required by the national development plans with timely analysis and dissemination of results to national users.

Who is making most use of statistical data in the country/territory?

representatives from other development sectors.

Check national government budget.

All countries and territories have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan in line with their national development strategies.

By the end of 2017 some form of plan is guiding statistical management and development in all PICT

How are the interests and concerns of national level statistics users being identified and addressed in current statistical planning?

Interviews with NSS and with selected data users.

Review of government policy and programme reports at national level.

By the end of 2017, in most PICT, most national statistics data from the NSO are available to be utilised in the formulation of new government policies and are also being referenced in major development program progress reports. Access to data from administrative systems has advanced in several key policy sectors.

What are the likely future data requirements in this PICT and how is the NSS adapting to meet these requirements?

National level statistic stakeholders are advised on an ongoing basis about emerging statistical tools and systems, processes for effective data

By the end of 2015 National level statistic stakeholders can report annually on how far that they have utilised relevant advice received

Do the current stakeholders including technical providers, NSO and other development partners have the

PSSC minutes and minutes from working groups

Interviews with development partners

analysis, communication and quality assurance and Pacific interaction and proposed responses to international statistical standards.

about national statistics production and dissemination.

correct range of skills and knowledge to most effectively inform TYPSS?

Review with PSSC

Feedback from NSO

Is TYPSS able to effectively communicate with all NSO/NSS in ways that address national level concerns and communicate regional recommendations and learning?

National and regional statistics governance is functioning effectively:

TA inputs are in line with country and territory priorities, transparent to all stakeholders and are delivered efficiently across the region.

By the end of 2015 all technical providers have transparent work plans which demonstrate accountability to national priorities.

By the end of 2016 cooperation between technical providers is demonstrating increased efficiencies, making available additional resources from regional assistance.

By the end of 2017 technical providers and NSO have comprehensive plans for national

To what extent is the technical provision made available to each PICT matched to identified capacity needs?

What examples are there of excellence in cooperation between technical providers particularly where increased efficiencies and more effective outcomes are being demonstrated?

What way has cooperation between technical advisers increased the value for money of TYPSS inputs?

Draw information from NSS work plan reporting.

Triangulate information with TA reports and minutes from technical group meetings.

Interviews with NSO and NSS

Value for money review of inputs.

	and regional capacity building for the remaining years of TYPSS		
<i>Pacific leaders receive recommendations about priorities for statistical collections at national and regional level with accompanying data about resource and technology requirements</i>	<p>By the end of 2015 the TYPSS will have made recommendations to Pacific leaders about statistical priorities for the region with accompanying recommendations around resources and planning implications.</p> <p>By the end of 2017 national governments and development partners are making reference to the TYPSS annual report in their ongoing approach to statistical production and use in the region.</p>	<p>What are the priority areas in terms of both sectors and methodologies that require the focus of PSSC?</p> <p>What priorities and demands are being identified by international and regional organisations and in what way do these support or undermine national level development priorities in PICT?</p> <p>To what extent can PSSC identify solutions to such tensions?</p>	<p>PSSC minutes and communications to Pacific senior decision making forums.</p> <p>Communications from Pacific senior decision-making forums to PSSC</p> <p>Communications from regional and international institutions to PSSC</p>

<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>By the end of 2015 all stakeholders report satisfaction with the approach and processes of TYPSS phase 2.</p>	<p>Has the TYPSS maintained its focus on developing common systems and tools</p> <p>Is the coordinator role effective in facilitating both NSO and development partners to work in ways which better meet their needs and expectations?</p> <p>Is the monitoring and evaluation advisor able to develop an increasingly comprehensive picture of a country level and regional level outcomes and communicate this clearly to stakeholders?</p> <p>Development partners and other international institutions choosing to refer to TYPSS processes and approaches in their approach to support for increased data production in the Pacific?</p>	<p>Interviews with NSO and development partners</p> <p>Quality of monitoring and evaluation reports</p> <p>Demand for TYPSS annual report</p> <p>Nature and amount of requests to coordination unit and PSSC for information about TYPSS processes.</p>
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Adherence to program principles

For TYPSS phase 2 to proceed effectively, all stakeholders will be required to operate in ways which maximise co-operation and efficiency. This will require highly respectful working relationships which are in line with the principles outlined in this document. Some regular assessment of stakeholder adherence to these key principles will provide for both accountability and identify areas where problems may need to be solved.

A simple set of questions to be asked on a regular basis in different situations is included in Table 2. The purpose of these enquiry questions is to explore the degree to which stakeholders are working towards and upholding the principles and therefore the essential quality of phase 2 of TYPSS. It will be the

responsibility of the coordinator with support from the M&E advisor to regularly apply this framework and to identify implications of the results. This reporting will go to PSSC, with transparent reporting made available to all stakeholders.

Table 2: Monitoring and evaluation: behaviour assessment (draft)

Questions to be asked	Quality assessment to be undertaken at the completion of the following activities				
	PSSC	Development partner meetings	Working group meetings	Technical provider work plans	NSS work plans
Is there clear evidence that the decisions of planned activities are in line with and influenced by country level priorities and needs?	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Is the proposed institutional capacity building reflecting a sound understanding of the national level existing strengths and developments?		✓		✓	✓
Have stakeholders been transparent in their discussions? Are systems in place to ensure accountability between actors?	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Do the outcomes or proposed actions draw from the respective strength of different stakeholders?	✓	✓	✓	✓	
In what way will these proposals or activities leverage increased change and better outcomes at NSO all regional level?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Will these proposed activities or recommendations have relevance across the region? In what way will all NSO be able to benefit from these activities?

✓

✓

✓

✓

How has quality been ensured for this activity? In what way does the activity reflect a commitment to excellence in practice?

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

What have been the challenges to meeting the principles of TYPSS Phase 2?

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

Lessons learned

Drawing from information from country reporting and reporting by technical providers and development partners the monitoring and evaluation advisor will seek out examples of lessons learned to be communicated in concise frameworks to all stakeholders. This information is most likely to be obtained through direct contact but may also be volunteered by NSO and development partners as they seem relevant. The PSSC may direct the M&E advisor to seek lessons learned in particular areas.

This process should underpin a strong encouragement for cross learning and sharing of skills and experiences between PICT. Information should be maintained by the coordination unit and readily shared and made available through regional mechanisms. This includes opportunities to report to donors and international development partners.

Contextual reporting

The context for TYPSS implementation is complex and will have a considerable bearing on the progress of TYPSS. The Pacific has a wide range of donors and development partners working with the complex range of PICT. In addition there are many other influences and factors impacting upon the Pacific region not least of which include significant economic pressures, climate change related issues and changing social and cultural norms. Whilst statistics play a role in helping to track and report on these important shifts and influences, they are in turn influenced and determined by those same shifts. In particular where resources and attention are diverted away from national priorities or are determined by external forces, the support and resourcing for national statistics and the use of locally produced data may be impacted.

While it is not intended to reproduce the existing range of reports that comment on development progress in the Pacific and on the multiple influences on this progress, it would be useful for there to be a broad contextual scan of important influences provided as part of the annual progress reporting. In other words, helping stakeholders to understand how the progress of TYPSS has been enhanced or limited by other important shifts in the region. This aspect of the report may be developed through a combination of synthesis from other material together with PSSC review and discussion. The M&E adviser will have responsibility for utilising these various sources of information and producing a concise and synthesised contextual overview.

Annex 11 Proposed (draft) indicators of progress for Coordination Unit M&E

<i>TYPSS phase 2 objective and outcome</i>	<i>Indicator of coordination unit progress</i>	<i>Target in year one</i>
<p>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.</p> <p>The outcome sought for the coordination unit under this objective is:</p> <p><i>The Coordination unit demonstrates that is the preferred option to ensure transparent, equitable, effective and efficient delivery of TA to the Pacific countries</i></p>	Timely and clear information being available to PSSC about scheduling of technical assistance	PSSC to have a TA schedule for each country 12 months in advance including planned activities of all TA providers, dates, costs & rationale in terms of sequencing of TA in terms of prerequisite activities
	PSSC member satisfaction with the Coordination Unit's support of PSSC meetings, and TWG.	an agreed PSSC meeting schedule set up for rest of Phase II with dates, strategic issues for discussion Draft agendas are circulated one month prior to meetings, meeting papers and final agenda provided one week before meeting; draft minuted decisions and action items circulated within three weeks of meetings and final within six weeks of meetings
	TA providers providing timely and comprehensive advice to Coordination Unit about the planned TA activities as well as regularly providing updates of changes to scheduled activities	Information available and communicated in report to PSSC
	NSOs, TA providers and users of statistics reporting that the coordination unit is improving the efficient and effective delivery of technical assistance	Reported improved delivery form stakeholders
	The coordination unit demonstrates value for money	Real efficiencies in TA delivery and in communication are being identified by all stakeholders