

Closing data gaps to understand the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters and climate change in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories

Key messages

1. Main policy issues:

Brief description of the socio-economic effects of Natural Disasters and Climate Change on the Pacific communities:

- a) Food security and Livelihoods
- b) Water security
- c) Health
- d) Migration
- e) Gender
- f) Poverty

Box on current monitoring efforts and good practices implemented in some countries of the region:

Description of most recent efforts by NSOs/SPC to capture climate change and natural disasters impact on households via household surveys, censuses (e.g., Kiribati 2020 and Nauru 2021 population censuses; Federal States of Micronesia 2016 and Fiji 2020 Agricultural censuses¹) and other methodological developments (e.g., Regional Framework for Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific SIDS or SEM-Pasifika).

2. National Statistics Offices and Head Ministries' response

What actions are expected from NSOs and related ministries to address data gaps?

¹ See also: <https://www.fao.org/3/ca8984en/ca8984en.pdf>

Climate change and natural disasters statistics enable a comprehensive assessment of socio-economic effects and strengthen evidence-informed policymaking at all levels for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation. Governments, NSOs, head ministries, DRR agencies and other relevant actors must ensure and support sustained socio-economic and natural disaster statistics production.

Policy recommendations include:

- a) Data for all: supporting Pacific communities, particularly the most vulnerable to climate change (women, elderly, ethnic and disabled), to collect their own data. Encourage as well a broad dissemination and use of socio-economic climate change data.
- b) Modernize frameworks for data transformation: Strengthening the policy and legal framework around the modernization of statistical institutional frameworks that allow household surveys to go beyond the traditional topics and cover a new range of economic, social and environmental indicators. HH surveys must continually transition to face particular challenges concerning climate change impacts.
- c) Unlock NSOs potential: NSOs should assume a primary role in data production on the socio-economic impacts of climate change and natural disasters and thus support evidence for government ministries and agencies.
- d) Encourage and promote the implementation of the Climate Change and Natural Disasters survey module and prioritize its inclusion into National Statistical Systems.

(Box on the core module and Sourcebook characteristics)

Immediate actions

SPC is working with a few Pacific NSOs to field test the core module in existing planned household data collections in 2023. This will allow us to review the efficacy of the questions and the indicators derived. The results of these pilots will be shared with the Pacific Statistics Methods Board.

SPC will also continue dissemination and advocacy activities for the Sourcebook, with NSOs, development partners and donors.

Role of SPC and the PACSTAT Project

Briefly describe SPC Strategic Framework and PACTSTAT project objectives and specific actions in this realm.

Acknowledgements

References