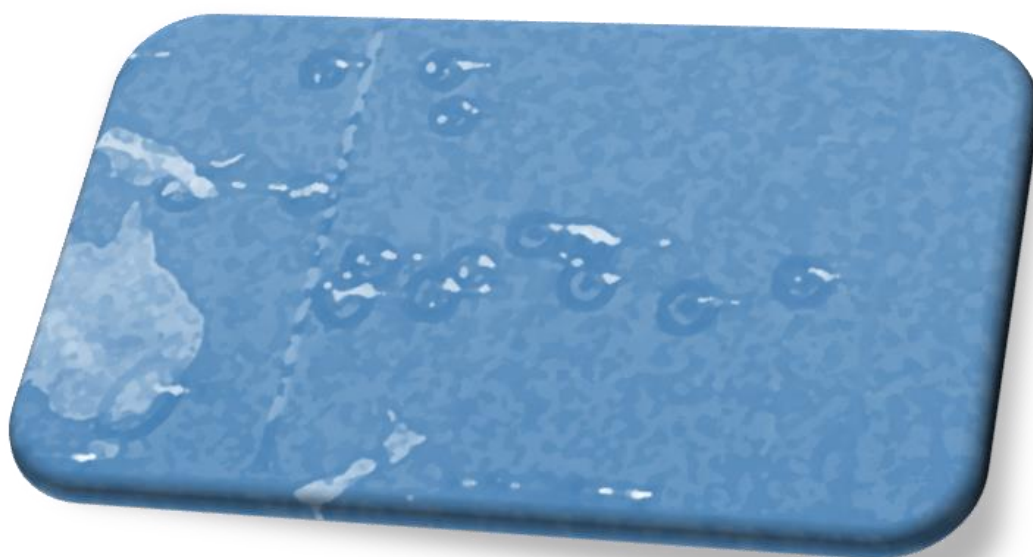


TYPSS Phase III Road Map (DRAFT)

*Enhancing the public value of statistics for
evidence-based decision making in the Pacific*



TYPSS Phase III ‘Road Map’ (DRAFT)

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1. Strategic Context

Reliable and timely statistics are indispensable for informing policy making and programming by governments and development partners and to monitor progress towards achieving desired goals. To be useful, statistics need to be made public in a timely fashion and produced in accordance with international guidelines and standards that ensure their quality and comparability. A range of national, regional and international factors drive demand for statistics in the Pacific, including national development strategies, development partner programs, regional frameworks and indicator sets, global reporting frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and sectoral reporting to a range of international organisations and agreements. Traditionally, domestic demand for statistics in the Pacific has not been strong, while demand from international frameworks and users has steadily increased and placed considerable pressure on limited resources and capacity.

The Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) 2010-2020 is a regional framework to drive improvement in the production and quality of statistics in the Pacific. It seeks to mobilise and make efficient use of resources across the region through priority setting and enhanced coordination. It is an ambitious strategy that is being implemented in three phases. TYPSS assumes that, despite Pacific diversity, there are a number of common constraints to statistics in the region and that these could be effectively addressed (at least in part) through coordination and action at the regional level.

The adoption of TYPSS was a considerable achievement and shaped thinking and action in the region. The first phase (2011-14) focused on survey collections for core social statistics, in particular regular census, demographic and health surveys (DHS) and household income and expenditure surveys (HIES). Following a mid-term evaluation in 2014, the focus for Phase II (2015-17) was designed to enhance coordination and governance arrangements, foster domestic demand for statistics through improved advocacy and communication, promote greater use and integration of administrative data, and enhance region-wide systems, methodologies and tools. The Phase II design also adopted five TYPSS objectives which remain broadly relevant.

The third and final phase of TYPSS is due to commence in 2018 for a three-year period through to 2020. A recent evaluation of Phase II commissioned by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) concluded that there continues to be improvement in statistical capacity in the region, however several challenges remain relating to coordination, governance, dissemination, and

accountability. Previous reviews have also highlighted similar progress and challenges, in particular that achievement of the TYPSS objectives has been hampered by poor coordination, resource constraints and limited governance and accountability. It is envisaged that these and other challenges will be addressed in Phase III of TYPSS (2018-20), within available resources.

This document briefly summarises progress to date as assessed by recent evaluations and reviews of TYPSS, articulates priorities and a refined set of objectives and potential activities for Phase III, and sets out a 'road map' for delivering on these commitments over the 2020 timeframe.

2. TYPSS progress to date and priorities for Phase III

Thanks to the efforts of Pacific NSOs, technical assistance providers and donors, there is a growing awareness in the Pacific that timely and reliable statistics on economic, social and environmental issues are critical for evidence-based policy making. As the importance of statistics is more widely recognised, there is increasing demand for quality and timely statistics from all users.

There have been multiple reviews of statistical provision in the Pacific region over the past five years (including at least three significant reviews in the last 12-18 months), each providing useful recommendations, lessons learned and priorities for the way forward. These reviews concur that the region has made significant progress in many areas, such as stronger support for data collection programs, greater consistency in major collections and statistical outputs, increasing availability of data through PRISM¹ and National Statistics Office (NSO) websites, strengthened leadership skills of government statisticians, completion of several national statistical development strategies (NSDSs), and improved partnerships and coordination. There have been clear improvements in relation to the quality of economic and social statistics and regional coordination under TYPSS.

However, the recent reviews of TYPSS Phase II highlight that progress has somewhat stalled in some areas and several challenges, constraints and gaps remain. While technical capacity and confidence of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to undertake major statistical surveys and collections has considerably improved, there remains significant variation in capabilities of countries across the region and a sustainable model for statistical delivery is needed that recognises these differences. Further, despite the collection of large amounts of statistical data over the past five years, users still find it difficult to locate the data that they need to inform decision-making. This highlights deficiencies in the analysis and dissemination of statistics in the region. A lack of leadership and coordination among technical assistance (TA) and capacity development (CD) providers has resulted in duplication, competing approaches, and suboptimal outcomes.

While the recent reviews highlight these and other challenges faced by the region, it should be acknowledged that the TYPSS objectives are highly ambitious and in this context the progress made to date has been significant. **Table 1** provides a brief scorecard against each of the five TYPSS objectives, highlighting where progress has been made as well as ongoing challenges and gaps. Corresponding priorities for Phase III are also highlighted. A key challenge for Phase III will be to prioritise statistical work in the region, and optimise the limited resources available for the provision of statistics by focusing on a targeted set of actions that can leverage the strongest outcomes.

¹ Pacific Regional Information System Management: <https://prism.spc.int/>

Table 1: Scorecard of progress on TYPSS objectives and priorities for Phase III (based on recent reviews)

TYPSS Objective	Progress and challenges in Phase II	Needs and Priorities for Phase III
1. PICTs have technical capacity (either in-house or through TA) to manage and implement all core statistical collections, including key administrative databases as required by national development plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increased capacity of PICT NSOs, particularly in collection and production of core statistical collections (e.g. as evidenced by improvements in the Statistical Capacity Index of World Bank). Strong advances in leadership capabilities of Government Statisticians. Larger PICTs moving towards independence. ✓ Availability of a range of statistical education, training and development programs for PICTs. ✓ Increased capacity for developing and integrating administrative databases, in particular economic, CRVS and EMIS. ✗ Lower capacity of PICTs to process, analyse, use and disseminate data, and a lack of accountability for the publication of data (e.g. a lack of domestic pressure and demand for release of data). ✗ Considerable variation in PICT capacity across the region. Capacity development and training has tended to be fragmented and ad-hoc (and 'one-size-fits-all'), rather than tailored to country needs, particularly as they have evolved. ✗ Retention of qualified and experienced staff remains a challenge for most countries. Resourcing challenges remain, including access to technology, qualifications of key personnel and staff numbers. ✗ Lack of a broader understanding and consolidation of capabilities and capacity needs at the national level across all PICTs. Lack of a regional statistical capability framework to guide this understanding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a tailored approach to capacity development or substitution in consultation with each PICT - a 'light touch' approach for larger more advanced PICTs, and a shared services approach for smaller PICTs. • A shift in emphasis of TA and CD to analyse and disseminate data, critically evaluate the quality of data, and utilise administrative data. • Develop a regional capability framework for the Pacific which can be used to consolidate available information on statistical capacity gaps and priorities of PICTs.
2. PICTs are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors, 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"> ✓ Increased frequency and adequacy of data collection; a considerable amount of economic and social data collected over last 5 years. Improved coverage of social and economic statistics, in particular population and education. ✓ Overall, quality of economic and social statistics has improved in terms of consistency and collection methods. For economic statistics, quality is comparable to other regions. ✓ Priority indicator sets identified (NMDIs, SDGs) and expanded over time to include emerging issues and provide guidance on statistical priorities. ✓ Considerable progress in vital and education statistics and roll out of regional programs on EMIS and CRVS. ✓ Domestic demand for statistics from Pacific leaders, politicians and policy makers has steadily strengthened. ✗ Concerns raised with data quality, timely publication and dissemination of collected data, and inconsistencies between datasets. Timing between collection and publication a significant issue for users. Mixed level of confidence and trust in quality of statistics produced. Overwhelming feedback that dissemination is a key gap in the region. ✗ Lack of clarity around the 'agreed core set of statistics' for the Pacific and linkages to the NMDIs and SDGs. Many data gaps remain in NMDIs. Few PICTs have clearly defined national core sets. ✗ A significant lack of data relating to emerging development issues (e.g. environment, gender, disability, SDGs). In particular, coverage of environmental statistics is poor. ✗ Users face difficulties in accessing datasets, particularly microdata. ✗ Administrative data is underutilised in the region, including geospatial data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifying the agreed core set of statistics for the Pacific and priorities at the national level. Mapping and consolidation with NMDIs and SDGs. • Continued support for the five-year plan for collections with greater coordination by multiple partners, recognising differing capacities of PICTs and expertise of partners. • Finalise and implement a Data Dissemination Strategy. • Further developing administrative data systems and integration, building on success with CRVS and EMIS, and through collaboration with a broader range of partners.
3. All PICTs have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan in line with their national development strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continued progress in the adoption of NSDSs – from 1 to 5 PICTs with completed or adopted strategy; further 3 under development. Support for NSDS framework in the region. ✗ Progress on NSDSs has been slower than expected. Process and timeframe for completion of NSDS takes too long, and not suited to small PICTs. Several NSDS challenges – resourcing, expertise, buy-in, and accountability at regional level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of a national statistics plan for all PICTs (NSDS or scaled-down approach depending on capacity).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing NSDSs used to inform and tailor TA priorities, capacity needs and activities in the region.
<p>4. National 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ International definitions and frameworks for statistics and standards are used in the region to establish standard questionnaires and methodologies. This has had a positive impact on quality. ✓ Some progress on adapting international standards to the Pacific regional context (e.g. PACSCO and HIES). ✓ Progress on the use of contemporary technologies and systems to support collections in the region, particularly the use of tablets, scanners, GIS and GPS. ✓ Ongoing development of web-based platforms for dissemination (PRISM, NMDI, PopGIS, SDGs). ✗ Current approaches remain expensive and less efficient. Some survey methodologies are considered overly complex and expensive, for example when they are based on a global 'gold standard' for data collection (e.g. HIES). ✗ NSOs sometimes find survey questionnaires too long and hard to implement. This may lead to adaptations which reduce the integrity of the survey. Differing views on importance of comparability of data also influences the adoption of international standards. ✗ PSSC (and TWGs) had mixed success as a regional body dealing with key technical or methodological issues, and ensuring that statistical stakeholders are advised on an ongoing basis about emerging tools, systems, and processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Pacific Statistics Methods Board responsible for adapting and scaling down standard methodologies and approaches that are fit-for-purpose for the Pacific.
<p>5. National and regional governance is functioning effectively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TA inputs in line with country priorities, transparent and delivered efficiently PICTS leaders receive recommendations about priorities for statistical collections at national and regional level with accompanying data about resource and technology requirements TYPSS 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>Governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PSSC has ensured a mechanism for PICT ownership of TYPSS, and a voice for Pacific statistics. ✓ Regular meetings of PSSC bringing together NSOs, planners, technical partners and donors have assisted in building relationships and sharing information. This has also contributed to South-South collaboration, which is desirable. ✗ Too many demands have been placed on PSSC for it to be effective (e.g. governance, monitoring, coordination, methodological development). PSSC has lacked resources, authority and capacity to fulfil all of these roles. ✗ Lack of an agreed framework for monitoring and evaluation of TYPSS. ✗ Mixed progress in the PSSC TWGs. <p>Leadership & Coordination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strong (and expanding) technical capacity and expertise available to countries in the region, and a combination of regional and national support activities delivered by a range of partners. ✓ TA support for surveys effectively guided by the Calendar of Major Statistical Events which is developed in consultation with PICTs to meet national needs. This support is effective and valued. ✗ PSSC has not provided an effective platform for coordination of donors and technical partners. Partner reporting under TYPSS to PSSC is inadequate for coordination and prioritisation purposes. ✗ Existing coordination and planning tools do not capture considerable activity related to statistical CD and TA. ✗ TA and CD activities can be repetitive, duplicative or generic and not tailored to the evolving needs of larger PICTs, or not relevant or fit-for-purpose for smaller PICTs. ✗ TYPSS Phase II design was high-level, and did not provide operational detail which is needed for TYPSS implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear delineation between governance and coordination roles under TYPSS. <p>Governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a clear governance framework for the Pacific. Refocus the role of HoPS and PSSC on governance rather than coordination. Establish clear lines of accountability to FEMM/PIF. Develop a TYPSS Roadmap to provide strategic-level guidance on priorities and milestones over Phase III. Review the structure/value of existing TWGs under PSSC. <p>Leadership & Coordination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDD and a new TYPSS Development Partner Group to oversee coordination of TA and support activities in the region. A greater leadership, coordination and broker function for SDD. A harmonised regional statistics operational plan incorporating the full spectrum of TA and CD activities by partners in the region.

3. Phase III: Theory of Change, Objectives, and Description of Activities

TYPSS assumes that, despite Pacific diversity, there are a number of common constraints to statistics in the region that can be more effectively addressed through coordinated action at the regional level. These constraints include the small size, population and isolation of PICTs, limited domestic demand and support of statistics, considerable variation in technical capacity and capabilities across countries, weak regional governance and coordination mechanisms, and a lack of prioritisation in the face of an ever-increasing international mandate and scope of official statistics. In response, TYPSS identified a range of levers to overcome these constraints and achieve systemic improvements in the provision of statistics. These include developing competent national statisticians, establishing common standards and approaches that are tailored for the region, harnessing the considerable technical capacity of partners in the region, promoting increased political and government interest in statistics, making better use of administrative data, and defining clear activities and projects.

With these constraints and levers in mind, TYPSS Phase II was designed around five key objectives or outcomes. While these remain highly relevant and provide a useful framework for assessing progress, they are also very broad and somewhat overlapping. Partners have found that they do not provide a coherent means for coordinating and reporting on operational activities in the region. This has been a criticism of the Phase II design – that it provided a strong strategic framework, but lacked operational detail which is needed to coordinate the largely technical nature of activities under TYPSS. A more targeted approach is recommended in the final phase of TYPSS to address remaining high priority gaps and challenges and leverage the greatest gains from the limited resources available. Actions taken over the final phase of TYPSS should put in place the necessary changes to ensure the long-term sustainable provision of relevant, quality, and timely statistics in the region.

3.1 TYPSS Phase III Objectives

The five revised objectives proposed for Phase III are listed below. They are largely based upon the Phase II objectives, but revised slightly to reflect the need for a more targeted and tailored approach for Phase III and to reduce duplication.

1. PICTs have technical capacity and statistical capability (either in-house or through TA) to manage and implement core statistical collections, including greater utilisation and integration of key administrative databases.
2. PICTs are producing and disseminating (either in-house or through TA) an agreed core set of high-quality economic, social and environmental statistics in a timely and user-friendly manner in line with national priorities, and integrating SDGs and regional reporting requirements.
3. All PICTs have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan that articulates national priorities in line with their national development strategies and is aligned with the agreed core set of statistics.
4. National statistics stakeholders are advised on an ongoing basis about emerging statistical tools, systems and international standards, and scaled-down methodologies and approaches that are fit-for-purpose for the Pacific.
5. Regional governance and coordination of statistics are both functioning efficiently and effectively.

There are also several important cross-cutting issues that have guided the development of the priorities and activities for Phase III:

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- Clear prioritisation of statistical activities and support based on domestic and international user needs.
- A sustainable approach based on country differentiation and tailoring of assistance to the needs and capabilities of PICTs.
- Scaled-down approaches that are fit-for-purpose for the Pacific.
- Stronger leadership, accountability and coordination.

3.2 Delivery Approach: Description of Priorities and Activities for Phase III

The recent reviews of Phase II of TYPSS highlight a range of priorities for Phase III, which are briefly captured in **Table 1** above. These priorities and corresponding activities are further elaborated below, under each of the objectives for Phase III. All of these activities stem from the recent reviews and consultations relating to the TYPSS, and progress has commenced in several areas².

Objective 1: PICTs have technical capacity and statistical capability (either in-house or through TA) to manage and implement core statistical collections, including greater utilisation and integration of key administrative databases

Objective 1: Priority Activities for Phase III

1.1 Adopt a tailored approach to capacity development based on a statistical capability framework (e.g. based on GSBPM and ABS frameworks). Use the framework to consolidate assessments of the capacity of PICTs (e.g. in NSDSs), identify gaps and priorities for technical support (including identifying where capacity substitution is required), and cataloguing where capacity exists with TA providers.

1.2 Apply a tailored approach to TA and CD activities which differentiates between countries using a 'light touch' and targeted approach for larger PICTs (through a 'help desk') and supplementation for smaller PICTs for major surveys and most statistical production processes.

1.3 Regional TA and CD activities to continue to support agreed major statistical collections and shift in focus towards:

- *analysis, dissemination and quality evaluation, including formal training of new statisticians to meet rising demands in these areas;*
- *the use and integration of administrative databases;*
- *human resource development and successional planning;*
- *statistical literacy training for policy makers, data providers and custodians in the broader NSS; and*
- *increased leverage of a broad range of technical partners and south-south cooperation.*

Statistical Capabilities and Priorities for Capacity Development

The capabilities required by an NSS to manage and implement core statistical collections and administrative databases are broad and complex. These capabilities are articulated in existing frameworks. For example, the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) sets out eight business processes that are needed to produce official statistics³. This provides a framework for defining the key technical processes and skills required for statistical production, however there are also broader capabilities needed for effective national statistics governance and coordination. The

² Several activities outlined in this document are further detailed and elaborated in papers submitted to the 2017 HoPS meeting. For example, relating to governance (information paper 3), methods board (working paper 3), regional collections plan (working paper 6), and dissemination.

³ 1. specify needs; 2. design; 3. build; 4. collect; 5. process; 6. analyse; 7. disseminate; and 8. Evaluate.

ABS Statistical Capability Framework⁴ captures these technical and broader capabilities across three spheres: **statistical leadership**, **statistical production** (based on the GSBPM), and **statistical use**. This provides an intuitive framework for reviewing national statistical capacity in the Pacific as well as for defining capacity development priorities to guide the provision of TA and CD to PICTs. The current proposal developed by SPC and the UN for a five-year statistical collections plan adopts a similar framework to define and catalogue the capacity of TA providers in the region based on a statistical value chain⁵.

In terms of **statistical production**, the recent reviews highlight that there has been a measurable improvement in the statistical capacity of PICTs as a result of the TYPSS⁶. In particular, capacity has increased in the initial process phases relating to prioritising, designing, collection and processing. PICTs have developed capacity and confidence in designing and undertaking major surveys, and a considerable volume of data has been collected over the past five years. However, the reviews also highlight ongoing capacity gaps in subsequent business processes relating to processing and analysing statistics, disseminating statistics in a useful format for users, and evaluating the quality of data. These gaps were confirmed by Pacific NSOs who were interviewed in the latest review (Kiribati, Tonga, Fiji). All three countries identified future priorities for developing national capacity needs as: data analysis and dissemination skills⁷, greater focus on the NSS and developing the capacity of administrative data producers and custodians⁸; and IT skills to support greater uptake of technology and automation. While support for major surveys must continue in line with the agreed Calendar of Major Statistical Events⁹ (particularly for smaller PICTs), these broader capabilities represent priorities for TA and CD in Phase III.

In terms of **statistical leadership**, there have been notable improvements in the capabilities of government statisticians, which has been supported by regional initiatives such as the ABS Leadership Program as well as mentoring, staff attachments, formal training and other initiatives of technical partners such as Stats NZ and the University of the South Pacific (USP). These activities are valued and should be continued in Phase III. However, an important element of statistical leadership is to promote and increase the relevance of (and demand for) statistics at the national level, and support collaboration and coordination across the NSS to enhance the use and integration of administrative databases. The recent reviews highlight that these are areas where further capacity development is needed in Phase III.

Another related challenge for PICTs is the retention of experienced and qualified staff. Many countries highlight staffing as a critical issue across the NSS, with challenges in recruiting and retaining staff in different areas of statistical expertise. Many posts remain vacant and capable staff are poached to higher-paying jobs. The provision of South-South cooperation will add further pressure on limited resources. There is scope in Phase III for capacity development in areas of human resource development, successional planning, and formal training of statisticians to fill priority gaps in the region (e.g. analysis and dissemination).

⁴ <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/a3121120.nsf/home/ABS+Statistical+Capability+Framework>

⁵ Refer to Working Paper 6 for the 2017 HoPS Meeting: 'Supporting Statistical Collections Through Coordinated Partnerships and a 5-year plan.'

⁶ For example, as evidenced by the World Bank Statistical Capacity Index.

⁷ For example, in-depth and thematic analysis of national data sets, data visualisation, and development of statistical products that respond to user needs.

⁸ For example, NSO skills in the use of data linking and integration methods; NSS training and tools to support improvements in data collection, management and data sharing.

⁹ Enhanced planning and coordination arrangements for statistical collections are outlined in a separate paper for the HoPS 2017 meeting (Working Paper 6).

Effective use of data in the region also relies upon **statistical use** (and literacy) skills of statistics producers and users. Building this capacity has received limited attention to date. In some countries there remains a lack of understanding of the utility and practical applications of data which results in limited demand for statistics and a lack of accountability for the publication of data. There is scope in Phase III to raise awareness and develop further capability in statistical literacy among policy makers. Broadening statistical training to data providers and custodians in the NSS would facilitate greater use and integration of administrative data.

Tailored Approach to the Delivery of Assistance: Country Differentiation

There is considerable variation in statistical capabilities across the region, with some larger Pacific NSOs moving towards independent management of core statistics, while smaller PICTs will require ongoing technical supplementation for the foreseeable future. Capacity building needs between these country groups are vastly different and a one-size-fits all approach will not work. Regional technical assistance and capacity building activities need to be tailored to country needs and priorities. The statistical capability framework outlined above can assist with this process. For example, it may be feasible to build the broad spectrum of statistical capabilities for larger PICTs (e.g. across the GSBPM), however this is not possible for smaller PICTs and supplementation of these skills by TA providers will be needed. Phase III will focus on national priorities with a view to what is realistic and sustainable. The recent reviews underscore that investment in staff training and development has been fragmented and ad-hoc, rather than tailored to country priorities and circumstances. There is often disconnection, repetition and duplication of training and assistance.

The development of a national statistics plan (full NSDS or simplified version) provides an effective means for articulating national capacity needs and priorities, and should provide the basis for tailoring technical support. A statistical capability framework and the GSBPM provide an effective approach for consolidating this information across the region and prioritising technical assistance and capacity development activities to address key capability gaps. Phase III should therefore define a statistical capability framework for the region, and use this to consolidate assessments and information on capacities and capabilities of PICTs, and identify strengths, gaps and priorities for TA and CD support. This can be also be used to identify and catalogue the expertise of TA providers and to coordinate the provision of TA by partners, as well as for identifying opportunities for south-south collaboration and building greater regional capacity.

An illustrative example of a capability framework for PICTs is provided in **Figure 1**. To recognise and address country differences, the approach for TA and CD support in Phase III should be based on¹⁰:

- a ‘light touch’ approach to TA to be adopted for larger PICTs who feel more confident and which focuses on building statistical capabilities in areas currently lacking (especially for those with a NSDS). This could use a ‘help desk’ approach with central coordination by SDD and multiple TA partners responding to country requests for assistance in line with their NSDS and priorities. This should ensure that larger PICTs can still access the assistance needed to ensure common methods and classifications are adhered to and that major surveys are effectively planned and implemented.
- a supplementation and shared services approach for small PICTs. A more limited core set of statistical capabilities would be the focus of capacity development in line with national priorities (e.g. leadership and coordination, statistical literacy), with much of the technical production processes delivered through shared services and supplementation by technical partners.

¹⁰ For medium-sized PICTs which do not fall neatly in these two categories, an appropriate combination of light-touch and shared services could be adopted. PICTs themselves would be able to identify where they best fit along this spectrum.

Country Differentiation	Statistical Leadership	Statistical Production					Statistical Use/Literacy
		Specifying needs	Designing and building	Acquiring and processing	Validating and disseminating	Evaluating	
Larger PICTs	Positioning, influencing, enabling	Light-touch approach focused on NSOs and data producers with targeted TA and CD based on clear assessment of national priorities and needs (e.g. NSDS). Could be established as a 'Help-Desk' coordinated by SDD and supported by all expert technical providers. Each large PICT to define priority areas for capacity development.					Discovering, analysing, applying
Smaller PICTs		Shared services arrangement with supplementation of collections, data analysis and processing, and dissemination (led by SDD). Agreement to be developed and agreed in consultation with group of smaller PICTs.					
Partners & TA providers		Clarify areas of expertise and comparative advantage for each expert technical provider - with respect to each capability (SDD, PFTAC, ABS, StatsNZ, UN, Paris21 etc.)					

Figure 1: Illustrative Statistical Capability Framework with Country Differentiation

Objective 2: PICTs are producing and disseminating (either in-house or through TA and shared services) an agreed core set of high-quality economic, social and environmental statistics in a timely and user-friendly manner in line with national priorities, and integrating SDG and regional reporting requirements.

Objective 2: Priority Activities for Phase III

2.1 Clarify the agreed core set of statistics for the region. This would align and consolidate existing sets of priority development indicators (NMDIs, SDGs), map them to the core sets of statistics and the major surveys and collections that underpin them, and provide supporting information to guide national prioritisation and planning.

2.2 Continued support for the five-year plan for collections with greater coordination by multiple partners, recognising differing capacities of PICTs and expertise of partners.

2.3 Adopt a Dissemination Strategy for the regular and timely publication and dissemination of core statistics in the Pacific region.

2.4 Establish a central one-stop-shop to access data which is convenient, reliable, up-to-date and user-friendly.

2.5 Undertake annual monitoring and non-compliance reporting of the publication and dissemination of core statistics and development indicators in line with agreed timeframes.

A Core Set of Statistics for the Pacific

The statistical capability framework outlined above provides one tool for assessing statistical capacities and needs. Another important consideration is the scope of statistical needs of policymakers and users. In this regard, the starting point in the statistical production cycle is specifying statistical needs. This should be done by considering factors such as their application in public policy and service delivery, national progress measurement, legislative requirements, and international reporting obligations and comparability. At the regional level, TYPSS foresaw that statistical priorities in the region would be framed and guided by an agreed set of core statistics for the Pacific. At the national level, a core set of statistics would guide the formulation of national priorities and core sets (e.g. as part of the NSDS process). Given the limited resources available and

considerable variation in capacity and needs across the region, prioritisation of a concise set that adequately meets user needs is critical. To be useful, such a set should provide clear guidance for setting priorities as well as set expectations regarding disaggregation, frequency, timeliness and other considerations.

In the first Phase of TYPSS, the SPC developed a set of National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDIs) as a database of indicators which was integrated into its web platform. The set has been expanded over time (currently 200+ indicators) to include emerging priorities such as the MDG indicators and reporting requirements and frameworks of international organisations. The set has been used as a guide by some PICTs for priority setting developing their national core sets of statistics. The NMDIs represent a broad set of priority development indicators and online database and there are many gaps in data for countries in the region.

The recent adoption of 232 global SDG indicators is likely to expand on statistical demands in the region, which will place increasing pressure on the limited resources available. Under the leadership of PIF (through its SDG Taskforce), the region has developed a Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (PRSD) which aims to tailor the global 2030 Agenda to the Pacific context. The PRSD was endorsed by PIF Leaders in September 2017 and highlights the importance of integrating implementation into existing national and regional planning, monitoring and reporting processes. The draft implementation strategy includes a menu of 132 SDG indicators, which are appropriate to the Pacific context, as agreed through various multi-stakeholder forums. The intention is for individual PICTs to select indicators from the regional menu, which align with their own development priorities and information needs.

The focus to date in the Pacific has been on defining sets of priority development indicators. These priority indicator sets provide useful frameworks for national reporting and monitoring progress on various aspects of development that often align with user needs. However, they are not well suited to planning of statistical activities and collections unless they are mapped to the statistical surveys, collections and administrative datasets that underpin them, along with guidelines regarding collection, production and dissemination. Since the adoption of the TYPSS, several core sets of statistics have been adopted at the regional or global level which focus on key policy domains and statistical themes that are common across countries. They are the result of extensive consultations (including with PICTs) and span across three dimensions: population and social statistics¹¹, economic statistics¹², and environment statistics¹³.

Based on the outcomes from the recent reviews, a priority under Phase III is the clarification of the agreed core set of Pacific statistics as envisaged under TYPSS, particularly given recent developments in international reporting frameworks such as the SDGs. There will be overlaps between existing

¹¹ UNESCAP Core Set of Population and Social Statistics for Asia and the Pacific, comprises 11 domains considered essential for measuring lives and living conditions (Population; health; income, wealth and expenditure; employment; education and training; housing and infrastructure; information and communication; crime and justice; family and community; culture and leisure; and governance). It is structured based on: policy domain, statistical theme, characteristics (i.e. disaggregation), and related development indicators.

¹² UNESCAP Core Set of Economic Statistics (2010) sets out the minimum set of statistics needed for effective economic analysis and monitoring. It comprises eight main categories/domains (prices and costs; demand and output; income and wealth; money and banking; government; labour market; natural resources and the environment), key statistics within each domain, their frequency and link to existing international standards (e.g. the IMF's General Data Dissemination System – GDDS). The GDDS also provides additional information regarding the periodicity, timeliness, and quality of data.

¹³ UNSD has identified a Core Set of Environment Statistics as part of its Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics. It serves as an agreed, limited set of environment statistics that are of high priority and relevance to most countries and have a sound methodological foundation. It comprises six components (Environmental conditions and quality; environmental resources and their use; residuals; extreme events and disasters; human settlements and environmental health; environmental protection, management, and engagement) and many sub-components, topics and core statistics.

core sets of statistics and the priority development indicators adopted by the region (e.g. NMDIs and SDGs). There is considerable scope under Phase III to align and consolidate the region's priority indicator sets and map them to the core sets of statistics and the major surveys and collections that underpin them. A core set of Pacific statistics should not be another framework for reporting, rather it should be a regional guideline and planning tool to support prioritisation, gap analysis and needs assessment, and for setting expectations around factors such as periodicity of collections and timeliness of publications. Ultimately, it will be the responsibility of each PICT to develop their own national core set of statistics in line with national priorities. Regional guidance on core sets of statistics and linkages to priority development indicators (e.g. SDGs) can assist with consultations at the national level to assist with prioritisation of statistical collections and desired TA support.

Some Pacific countries have already developed their national set of core statistics through the NSDS process (e.g. Solomon Islands, Samoa), however this is not widespread. Australia also has a set of essential statistical assets which includes expectations and guidelines across a range of factors. Using these existing sets as a guide, **Table 2** sets out the potential structure and contents for a consolidated core set of statistics. This could also provide the framework for the finalisation of national core sets in consultation with PICTs, for example through the completion of their NSDS or scaled-down national plan. The differing capabilities of PICTs will also need to be factored into the prioritisation process, ensuring that the scope of national core sets is realistic and sustainable.

Table 2: Potential structure and contents for a core set of Pacific statistics

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimensions: divided into three dimensions - economic, social and environmental statistics. • Policy domains: corresponding to the main policy domains of interest (e.g. prices (economic), health (social), energy (environment) etc.). • Statistical theme: identifying each core statistical theme under each domain. • Description/development indicators: description (as needed) including related development indicators (e.g. NMDIs and SDGs). • Priority/Tier¹⁴: to categorise statistics in terms of priority for collection (higher priorities delivered first e.g. high, medium, low). • Critical disaggregation: e.g. sex, age, industry etc. • Availability/source: the key datasets that inform each statistic (including surveys, administrative datasets, other possible alternative sources). • National lead/custodian: the data custodian(s) generally responsible for maintaining each existing dataset. • Frequency/periodicity: minimum frequency for the statistic to be reported (e.g. quarterly, annual, 5-yearly). • Timeliness: required timeframe for publication/dissemination (e.g. 1-2 months; 6-9 months). • Dissemination: identified means of dissemination (e.g. publication, web etc.). • Regional TA providers: this could identify TA providers with expertise capable of providing support.
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Data Collection and Improved Dissemination

Overwhelming feedback from the recent reviews underscores that dissemination is the key gap in the region. Considerable efforts have been made to collect statistical data and a considerable volume of economic and social statistics has been collected over the past five years. This has resulted in improvements in the availability of economic and social statistics. It will be important to continue the collection of this data in Phase III, with the delivery of major surveys and collections in line with the agreed Calendar of Major Statistical Events. A considerable number of major national statistical collections (about 35) have to be completed within the next five years and will require

¹⁴ For example, the ABS adopts a tiered system to assist prioritisation. Tier 1 comprises statistics that are considered to be the foundation work of a NSO; Tier 2 comprises important areas of statistics where there is a significant government outlay or public interest; and Tier 3 comprise other statistical work to meet user requirements and international reporting obligations.

ongoing support from TA providers to complete. SPC and the UN have developed a proposal for enhancing coordination and partnerships in support of these statistical collections through a five-year plan which should be developed under Phase III¹⁵. Further arrangements for improving coordination under TYPSS are outlined under Objective 5 below.

However, the reviews highlight concerns regarding the time lag between collection and publication/dissemination of statistics as well as problems with the quality of the statistics produced. SPC has played a central role in dissemination through the development of key platforms such as the NMDI database and PRISM, however there are many data gaps and improvements can be made. This includes addressing significant gaps in data relating to emerging development issues (climate change, gender, disability, SDGs). Users face difficulties in accessing datasets, including microdata. Administrative data is underutilised in the region and difficult to access, including geospatial data.

The reviews confirm that users desire a central place to access data which is convenient, reliable, up-to-date and user friendly. To achieve this, a greater focus on dissemination is required under Phase III. SPC should continue to play a central role in data dissemination for the region, and the proposed development of a Dissemination Strategy is anticipated in this regard. Over the past 12 months, SDD has undertaken internal changes and reprioritised its work towards dissemination, and is now well-positioned to develop the Strategy. This should be prioritised for the first quarter of TYPSS Phase III with the support from relevant technical partners with strong capabilities in this area (e.g. ABS, StatsNZ).

The Dissemination Strategy should articulate the current problem and the purpose and desired outcome for dissemination taking into consideration end user needs, and then consider the drivers of high quality dissemination that will be adopted for the region. This should include regular and timely publication and dissemination of statistics and development indicators (in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Core Set of Pacific Statistics), as well as increasing microdata access so that experienced and expert users can access raw data and conduct their own analysis¹⁶. Ongoing monitoring and reporting on the publication and dissemination of statistics and development indicators should be undertaken, to ensure that agreed timeframes are being met and to report on non-compliance. Technical expertise in dissemination is readily available in the region (e.g. through the ABS or StatsNZ), and this expertise should be called upon to support the development of the strategy.

Objective 3: All PICTs have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan that articulates national priorities in line with their national development strategies and is aligned with the agreed core set of statistics.

Objective 3: Priority Activities for Phase III

3.1 Finalise a scaled-down approach to NSDSs for smaller PICTs.

3.2 All PICTs to complete and adopt a national statistics plan (e.g. NSDS or scaled-down plan).

3.3 Adopted NSDSs used by partners and donors as the key national reference document to guide TA and CD activities in the region.

¹⁵ Refer to Working Paper 6 submitted to the 2017 HoPS meeting entitled 'Supporting Statistical Collections Through Coordinated Partnerships and a 5-Year Plan'.

¹⁶ As part of this, SPC has prepared a proposal for improving access to Pacific microdata (see paper submitted to HoPS 2017 entitled 'Improve users' access to Pacific microdata and other statistics regularly collected by member countries').

Progress on the adoption of National Statistical Development Strategies (NSDSs) has proceeded under TYPSS Phase II, increasing from one to five PICTs with strategies adopted or completed, and a further three under development. There is mixed support for the NSDS framework in the region, which to date has been rolled out under the OECD Paris21 framework, using an established process and delivery model. However, progress has been slower than expected, and experience has shown that the process and timeframe for completion of each NSDS takes too long, and is not suited to small PICTs.

NSDSs provide the basis for national capacity development and coordination across the NSS, around which support can be targeted. Completion of NSDSs or plans for all PICTs should be a priority for Phase III, but should adopt a scaled-down approach for small PICTs. A scaled-down approach is currently under development by Paris21. A simple approach could be developed based upon the capability framework (to assess capacity needs and gaps) and the core set of statistics (to prioritise the scope of statistical work) along with a detailed work plan to schedule activities. This could include a simple framework for defining the forward work program of statistical activities for an NSO over the collection cycle as indicated in **Figure 2**. National and regional commitments to a national plan or NSDS should be confirmed at the 2017 HOPS meeting and agreement sought from member States to be accountable for developing their plan as part of overall TYPSS implementation and monitoring. Existing NSDSs should be used by regional partners and TA providers to tailor their support and prioritise activities. Particularly for larger PICTs where a more nuanced and fit-for-purpose approach is needed that effectively aligns with national priorities.

Activity	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Cyclical											
Population census	P&D	C&P	A&D								P&D
Household Income and Expenditure Survey			P&D	C&P	A&D						
Demography and Health Survey					P&D	C&P	A&D				
Agricultural Census/Survey							P&D	C&P	A&D		
Labour Force Survey									P&D	C&P	A&D
etc.											
Ongoing											
National Accounts	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Annual Business Survey	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Government Finance Statistics	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Consumer Price Index	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
International Merchandise Trade	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q
Overseas Arrivals and Departures	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q
etc.											

Figure 2: Illustrative framework for capturing core collections and forward work plan¹⁷

Objective 4: National statistics stakeholders are advised on an ongoing basis about emerging statistical tools, systems and international standards, and scaled-down methodologies and approaches that are fit-for-purpose for the Pacific.

Objective 4: Priority Activities for Phase III

4.1 Establish a Pacific Regional Statistical Methods Board to facilitate the adoption of fit-for-purpose statistical methodologies and solutions for the Pacific region.

4.2 Review the value of existing TWGs, with a view to restructuring or discontinuing.

The special characteristics and challenges of PICTs (e.g. small, geographically remote populations) lend themselves to regional solutions that are fit-for-purpose. Experience to date has demonstrated

¹⁷ P&D = plan and design; C&P = collect and process; A&D = analyse and disseminate

the potential for reducing costs by adapting international methodologies and standards for use in the region (e.g. PACSCO, HIES). However, results have been mixed, and some stakeholders have noted that approaches adopted have been overly complex for small Pacific countries.

While the support provided through TYPSS has been well-received by NSOs and essential to their development of statistical capacity, there is a need to find more appropriate, scaled-down approaches for PICTs, particularly for the smaller states. Scaled-down versions of statistical methods, classifications and tools are needed that are more appropriate to national contexts.

Developments in ICT 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. They present cost-effective opportunities for improved data collection and processing (e.g. increased use of computer assisted personal interview techniques; and increased application of mobile, smart-phone and tablet based data collection). These techniques have already been successfully applied in the region, and provided clear benefits by reducing the double handling of data. There are also considerable opportunities for better use of administrative data to meet statistical data needs. For example, substituting large surveys with smaller scale collections and investment in population registers and other administrative data sources.

The development of such approaches and systems presents significant methodological and technical challenges that will need expert consideration and advice. There is no shortage of technical expertise and advice available in the region, including in methodologies, classifications, technology and dissemination. Technical Working Groups (TWGs) established under the PSSC were intended to provide a means for harnessing this expertise to develop regional responses. Despite progress in some areas (e.g. HIES), the expertise in the region needs to be harnessed more effectively under Phase III to provide advice on regional approaches, methodologies and systems for adoption by PSSC.

The preferred option for addressing this gap is the establishment of a Pacific Regional Statistical Methods Board as a priority for Phase III. Progress on establishing the Methods Board has commenced¹⁸. The Board would be responsible for adapting and scaling down standard methodologies for key statistical collections and compilations that are fit-for-purpose for the Pacific, ensure quality of data, and facilitate comparison. The Methods Board would evaluate and agree upon proposed and material changes to methodology, standards, and classifications and make recommendations to PSSC/HoPS for adoption. Some initial priorities could include Pacific international merchandise trade statistics and census standards. Over time, the role of the Board could also be expanded to consider and provide advice on regional applications for existing and emerging technologies, and the integration of administrative and alternative data sources. ABS, StatsNZ and SDD are well-positioned to participate in the Methods Board, along with other regional partners and NSOs. With the establishment of the Methods Board, a review should be undertaken by PSSC of the value of continuing with existing TWGs with a view to discontinuing or restructuring (e.g. along lines of economic, social, and environmental themes).

¹⁸ A more detailed proposal for the Methods Board along with a Terms of Reference have been drafted by SPC for consideration at the 2017 meeting of HoPS for consideration (Working Paper 3).

Objective 5: Regional governance and coordination of statistics are both functioning efficiently and effectively.

Objective 5: Priority Activities for Phase III

5.1 A revised governance framework comprising a Ministerial meeting (standing item for FEMM), Heads of Pacific Statisticians meeting (HoPS), and Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC). HoPS and PSSC to oversee progress on the TYPSS Roadmap, with greater focus on governance, monitoring progress, authorising regional approaches, and advocating political commitment to statistics.

5.2 Continued collaboration with PIF on SDG indicators and reporting.

5.3 SDD to play the role of Pacific statistics leader and coordinator.

5.4 Establish a TYPSS Development Partners Group (DPG) to oversee coordination of TA and CD activities through annual meetings.

5.5 Develop a harmonised Pacific statistics operational plan capturing all regional and national TA and CD activities.

5.6 SDD to actively seek new technical partners to fill gaps in expertise and support for priority thematic issues, including environmental statistics.

Regional Statistics Governance Arrangements

The PSSC was established in 2010 as the main regional institution responsible for overseeing the implementation and monitoring of TYPSS. These governance arrangements have remained in place, with PSSC membership based on NSO representation and observers from TYPSS partner organisations. PSSC has met regularly (one or two times per year) bringing together NSOs, planners, technical partners, and donors, and has assisted in building relationships, contributing to south-south collaboration, and providing a voice for Pacific statistics. However, it has not been an effective model for driving coordination, implementation and accountability and has not been supported by effective performance reporting. Reporting lines of PSSC to HoPS and the Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting (FEMM) have not been clear which has affected accountability.

The limitations of the current governance arrangements have been discussed in recent regional meetings and reviews. In response, SPC has developed a proposal for a revised governance structure for statistics in the Pacific region, with the aim of creating a clear governance framework with a strong, strategic oversight and guidance component¹⁹. For Phase III, the preferred governance framework comprises the following:

- **Ministerial meeting:** statistics and data to become a formal, annual standing item at the FEMM, which would fall under the joint convening and reporting responsibility of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), in order to ensure that outcomes and decisions can be directly integrated, from a governance perspective, into both organisations and acted upon within the bounds of the respective mandates of SPC and PIFS. FEMM would become the strategic guidance and decision-making body in the statistics area with the ability to push significant issues to Pacific islands leaders via the traditional PIFS process.
- **Heads of Pacific Statistics meeting (HOPS):** a biennial meeting at the most senior officials level. To replace the existing three-yearly meeting of Heads of Planning and Statistics. The role of HOPS would be to provide senior-level strategic oversight, guidance, recommendations and decisions on the matters placed before it. These recommendations would then, through active

¹⁹ Refer to Information Paper 3 submitted to the 2017 HoPS meeting entitled 'Regional Statistics Governance Framework'.

concertation and collaboration between SPC and the PIFS, be discussed during the standing agenda item on statistics at the FEMM.

- **Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC):** to evolve into an official subsidiary body of HoPS that would meet biennially when HoPS does not meet. The revised PSSC would monitor implementation and progress on TYPSS Phase III, provide a space for members to share updates on progress in statistical activities, and make recommendations to HoPS on issues of importance for statistics development in the Pacific.

Both the HOPS and PSSC would oversee progress on Phase III based upon the TYPSS Roadmap included as part of this design document (see [Section 4](#)). This includes clearer articulation of priority activities and targets as well as roles and responsibilities of technical partners and donors. The standing item to be included on the agenda of the annual FEMM would raise awareness of Pacific statistics and help to build interest and demand for data. Increased collaboration with PIF on SDG indicators and reporting represents another opportunity to increase political interest in statistics. The revised governance arrangements will need to ensure accountability for implementation as well as authorising regional approaches and solutions.

Discussions and activities such as coordination of statistical development and support activities, and addressing methodological and technical needs and issues will occur through separate mechanisms and forums – the Methods Board mentioned above, and the TYPSS Development Partner Group described below.

Regional Leadership and Coordination Arrangements

A key strength of TYPSS is the opportunity to mobilise a range of donors and development partners around clear objectives for statistical development. The region is well-served by technical assistance and expertise provided by a range of donors and development partners. However, coordination of TA in the region remains a challenge, with poor coordination leading to duplication of efforts, gaps in assistance, and inefficient allocation of limited resources.

The Calendar of Major Statistical Events provides a useful mechanism for coordinating the provision of TA for major statistical surveys and collection activities. However, the calendar does not capture all of the TA and CD assistance delivered by partners in the region. There is currently no effective mechanism for coordinating the full range of assistance and aligning it with country priorities. The current approach of providing activity updates to PSSC serves as a means of information sharing, but it is not an effective mechanism for coordination or ensuring the efficient use of resources in the region. This can result in assistance being driven by donor interests rather than national priorities, as well as duplication and competition, and can distract from the core business of statistical production.

The use of PSSC as a coordination mechanism for activities under TYPSS has not been effective. Improved mechanisms for coordination were to be a key focus under Phase II, however did not reach fruition. Effective coordination in the region requires several important factors, including a central organisation with a strong regional leadership and coordination function. SDD is ideally placed to be an effective coordinator, broker, convenor and system leader. There are many capable technical providers in the region (including SDD), but only SDD can provide the coordination and system leadership role that is greatly needed. Such a role entails aligning the supply of support with country needs by facilitating coordination amongst technical partners and donors so that duplication is reduced, genuine partnerships established, and agreed priorities and standards applied.

Under Phase III, several improvements could be made to address coordination challenges in the region. A clear delineation between the governance role of HoPS and PSSC and the coordination function of partners will be made. This includes a stronger leadership and coordination role for SDD, combined with an annual TYPSS Development Partner Group meeting to oversee coordination of TA and CD activities.

Building on the existing Calendar of Major Statistical Events, SDD and the TYPSS partners should develop a harmonised operational plan capture major statistical events as well as other national TA and CD activities requested by countries and programmed by partners. SPC and the UN have developed a proposal for enhanced coordination through a comprehensive Five-Year Regional Plan for Statistical Collection that will define collection schedules and associated technical assistance provision, and identify funding sources and gaps to support resource mobilisation²⁰. This is an important development but would not include all TA activities in the region. The development of a broader Pacific Statistics Operational Plan could include all TA support in the region and updated regularly as a single reference document for planning and oversight by the TYPSS Development Partners Group. The Plan should be managed by SDD and clearly set out the areas of expertise and agreed 'division of labour' among TA providers and enable efficient scheduling, coordination and financing of TA. Again, the mode of delivery would focus on a 'light touch' approach for larger PICTs, with supplementation delivered to smaller PICTs.

The adoption of the SDGs provides an opportunity to expand collaboration and partnerships in the region, bringing new technical partners to the table. The broad scope of the SDGs includes new and emerging thematic areas with vastly different statistical and data requirements and methodologies (e.g. environmental statistics). New partnerships should be actively explored by SDD and SPC with regional research institutions and organisations that can provide this expertise²¹.

4. Implementation Arrangements: Roadmap for Phase III

Drawing from the previous analysis, **Table 3** below compiles the priorities and activities outlined in this document into a 'roadmap' for TYPSS Phase III. The intent is to provide a brief, strategic level document to guide implementation priorities and monitoring of progress against the five objectives of TYPSS Phase III. The focus of priorities and activities is at the regional level, harnessing and optimising the use of regional technical expertise and resources to support and enable the sustainable development of national statistical capabilities and production of statistics.

4.1 Management and Governance Arrangements and Timeline of Meetings

The roadmap foresees several adjustments to the governance and coordination arrangements under TYPSS. Progress on the roadmap would be monitored by the revised HOPS and PSSC with clearer lines of accountability to FEMM. Delivery of the roadmap would be the responsibility of PICTs and the range of technical partners and donors supporting statistics in the region. SDD will take a stronger leadership role, managing a more detailed operational plan, registering requests from PICTs for statistical assistance (including through a 'help desk'), and coordinating technical assistance and capacity development from partners. The TYPSS Partners Meeting will oversee the operational plan and enhance coordination among partners. The Pacific Regional Statistical Methods Board would provide advice on scaled-down methodologies and approaches that are fit-for-purpose for the

²⁰ Refer to Working Paper 6 submitted to HoPS 2017 entitled 'Supporting statistical collections through coordinated partnerships and a Five-Year Plan'.

²¹ Regional organisations such as SPREP, UNESCAP and UN Environment could provide leadership on environment statistics. Partnerships with research institutions could be explored through the Sustainable Development Solutions Network which provides a point of entry with a vast range of research institutions supporting work on the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region.

region. The meetings would need to be scheduled around the annual UN Statistical Commission meeting in New York, as well as the annual ABS Leadership Forum and other commitments.

The proposed timeline for the main regional governance and coordination meetings is provided in **Figure 3**. This timeline is indicative, and the scheduling of meetings will also need to consider cost, secretariat resourcing, and timing of meetings with other commitments.

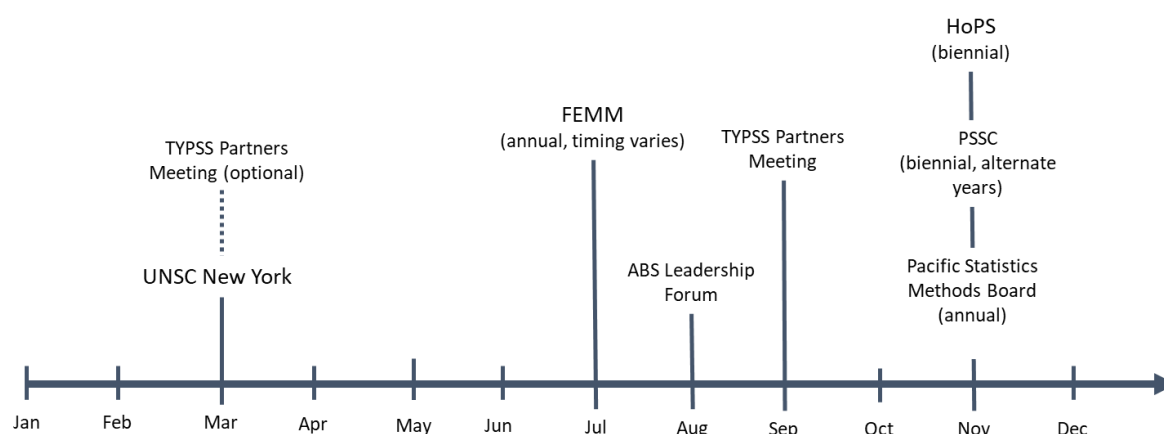


Figure 3: TYPSS Planner – Annual Timeline of Major Meetings

4.2. TYPSS Phase III Roadmap: Objectives, Priorities, and Milestones

Table 3 briefly sets out the proposed objectives, priority activities, responsibilities, and milestones over the final phase of TYPSS. The delivery of these activities and milestones will require support from PICTs and a broad range of technical partners and donors. The leadership role in many cases rests with SDD, which is appropriate given their role as coordinator, broker, convenor and system leader. Key vehicles for funding of the various activities will be through the SDD Strategic Plan as well as programs and funding agreements of a range of other technical partners. Progress on several of these activities has already commenced through SDD's work program.

It is acknowledged that the priorities and activities set out in the roadmap below can only be delivered with adequate resourcing and participation by all partners. The adequacy of existing resources has not been assessed and will need to be reviewed during implementation. While SDD will lead, other technical partners will need to ensure that they contribute effectively to fill key gaps. The activities and responsibilities set out in the table are indicative only, and will be subject to the agreement of the various partners and PICTs involved as well as the availability of resources.

Table 3: TYPSS Phase III Roadmap: Objectives, Priorities and Milestones

Phase III Objectives and Priority Activities	Delivery partners	Targets/Milestones		
		2018	2019	2020
Objective 1: PICTs have technical capacity and statistical capability (either in-house or through TA) to manage and implement core statistical collections, including greater utilisation and integration of key administrative databases.				
<i>1.1 Adopt a tailored approach to capacity development based on a clearly defined statistical capability framework (e.g. based on GSBPM and ABS frameworks). Use the framework to consolidate assessments of the capacity of PICTs (e.g. in NSDSs), identify gaps and priorities for technical support (including identifying where capacity substitution is required), and cataloguing where capacity exists with TA providers.</i>	Lead: SDD Other: ABS, all partners, PICTs	Statistical Capability Framework completed, with consolidation of PICT capacity needs and gaps (in consultation with PICTs)	Framework used to assess PICT capacity needs and gaps (e.g. annual review of priorities in consultation with PICTs).	Framework used to assess PICT capacity needs and gaps (e.g. annual review of priorities in consultation with PICTs).
<i>1.2 Apply a tailored approach to TA and CD activities which differentiates between countries using a ‘light touch’ and targeted approach for larger PICTs (through a help desk) and supplementation for smaller PICTs for major surveys and most statistical production processes.</i>	Lead: SDD Other: all partners, PICTs	Tailored approach incorporated in Capability Framework (1.1), core set of statistics (2.1) and Pacific Statistics Operational Plan (5.6)	Tailored approach applied to TA and CD delivery.	Tailored approach applied to TA and CD delivery.
<i>1.3 Regional TA and CD activities to continue to support agreed major statistical collections and shift in focus towards:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>analysis, dissemination and quality evaluation, including formal training of new statisticians to meet rising demands in these areas;</i><i>the use and integration of administrative databases;</i><i>human resource development and successional planning;</i><i>statistical literacy training for policy makers, data providers and custodians in the broader NSS;</i><i>increased leverage of broad range of technical partners and south-south cooperation.</i>	Lead: SDD (coordination) Other: All partners and PICTs	TA and CD priorities are clearly integrated into the Pacific Statistics Operational Plan (5.6) and specific partner plans and programs.	Annual Pacific Statistics Operational Plan and national plans reflect Phase III priorities.	Annual Pacific Statistics Operational Plan and national plans reflect Phase III priorities.
Objective 2: PICTs are producing and disseminating (either in-house or through TA) an agreed core set of high-quality economic, social and environmental statistics in a timely and user-friendly manner and in line with national priorities.				
<i>2.1 Clarify the agreed core set of statistics for the region. This should aim to align and consolidate existing sets of priority development indicators (NMDIs, SDGs), map them to the established core sets of statistics and the major surveys and collections that underpin them, and provide supporting information to guide prioritisation and planning at the national level.</i>	Lead: SDD Other: all partners/PICTs	Definition of core set of Pacific statistics.	Core set used to guide priorities and core sets at national level (e.g. through national plans, NSDS).	Core set used to guide priorities and core sets at national level (e.g. through national plans, NSDS).
<i>2.2 Continued support for the five-year plan for collections with greater coordination by multiple partners, recognising differing capacities of PICTs and expertise of partners.</i>	Lead: SDD (coordinator) Other: all partners/PICTs	Major statistical collections completed as per agreed calendar and operational plan (5.5).	Major statistical collections completed as per agreed calendar and operational plan.	Major statistical collections completed as per agreed calendar and operational plan.
<i>2.3 Adopt a Dissemination Strategy for the regular and timely publication and dissemination of core statistics in the Pacific region.</i>	Lead: SDD	Dissemination Strategy finalised in first quarter 2018.		

	Other: ABS, StatsNZ, other partners			
2.4 Establish a central one-stop-shop to access data which is convenient, reliable, up-to-date and user-friendly.	Lead: SDD	Review options as part of Dissemination Strategy.	Updated dissemination platform/online database in place and updated with available data	Online databases updated with available data.
2.5 Undertake annual monitoring and non-compliance reporting of publication and dissemination of statistics and development indicators in accordance with agreed timeframes.	Lead: SDD		Report submitted to HoPS/PSSC	Report submitted to HoPS/PSSC
Objective 3: All PICTs have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan that articulates national priorities in line with their national development strategies and are aligned with the agreed core set of statistics.				
3.1 Finalise a scaled-down approach to NSDSs for smaller PICTs.	Lead: Paris21	Scaled-down approach completed early 2018.		
3.2 All PICTs to complete and adopt a national plan for statistics (e.g. NSDS or scaled-down plan).	Lead: PICTs Others: technical partners	Plans completed for FSM, Fiji, Tonga	Plans completed for Kiribati, Nauru, Tokelau, Tuvalu	Plans completed for Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau
3.3 Adopted NSDSs used by partners and donors as the key national reference document to guide TA and CD activities in the region.	All	NSDSs used by SDD and partners to assess and consolidate capacity needs (1.1, 1.2, 1.3) and prioritise TA delivery (5.6)	National plans and NSDSs used by partners to guide TA and CD activities.	National plans and NSDSs used by partners to guide TA and CD activities.
Objective 4: National statistics stakeholders are advised on an ongoing basis about emerging statistical tools, systems and international standards, and scaled-down methodologies and approaches that are fit-for-purpose for the Pacific.				
4.1 Establish a Pacific Regional Statistical Method Board to facilitate the adoption of fit-for-purpose statistical methodologies and solutions for the Pacific region.	Lead: SDD (secretariat), ABS, StatsNZ, 3 NSOs	Methods Board and secretariat established. First meeting held adopting ToRs and agreed work plan.	Annual meeting held in line with agreed work plan. First deliverable(s) adopted by HoPS/PSSC.	Annual meeting held in line with agreed work plan. Second deliverable(s) adopted by HoPS/PSSC.
4.2 Review the value of existing TWGs, with a view to restructuring or discontinuing.	Lead: PSSC	PSSC decision on the continuation or restructuring of TWGs.		
Objective 5: Regional governance and coordination of statistics are both functioning efficiently and effectively.				
5.1 A revised governance framework comprising a Ministerial meeting (standing item for FEMM), Heads of Pacific Statisticians meeting (HoPS), and Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC). HoPS and PSSC to oversee progress on the TYPSS Roadmap, with greater focus on governance, monitoring progress, authorising regional approaches, and advocating political commitment to statistics.	Coordination and Secretariat: SDD	Report on TYPSS Roadmap progress reviewed at annual HoPS or PSSC meeting. Presentation to FEMM on Pacific statistics progress and priorities.	Report on progress reviewed at annual HoPS or PSSC meeting. Presentation to FEMM on Pacific statistics progress and priorities.	Report on progress reviewed at annual HoPS or PSSC meeting. Presentation to FEMM on Pacific statistics progress and priorities.
5.2 Continued collaboration with PIF on SDG Indicators and reporting.	Lead: SDD and PIF	Collaboration on core set of statistics (2.1) and SDG		

		indicators. First Pacific SDG baseline report.		
<i>5.3 SDD to play the role of leader and coordinator of all TA and CD activities in the region.</i>	Lead: SDD	SDD to revise Strategic Plan to address new role.		
<i>5.4 Establish a TYPSS Development Partners Group (DPG) to oversee coordination of TA and CD activities through annual meetings.</i>	Lead: SDD (chair) and all partners	TYPSS Development Partners Group Meeting established and meeting held.	Annual meeting held.	Annual meeting held.
<i>5.5 Develop a harmonised Pacific statistics operational plan capturing all regional and national TA and CD activities</i>	Lead: SDD Other: all partners to contribute	Pacific Statistics operational plan completed and adopted by Partners Meeting	Report on activities and plan updated and adopted by Partners Meeting.	Report on activities and plan updated and adopted by Partners Meeting.
<i>5.6 SDD to actively seek new technical partners to fill gaps in expertise and support for priority thematic issues, including environmental statistics</i>	Lead: SDD Other: all partners	New partners identified and contacted to support Pacific statistics.		