Coordinating Technical Assistance to Pacific Island Countries

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Outline

• Pacific regional statistics governance framework
• Examples of successful delivery of coordinated technical assistance in the Pacific region
• Facilitating mechanisms
• Challenges
• Opportunities
• Proposed recommendations
Pacific region statistics governance

Strategies/Plans
• Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS), 2011 to 2020
• Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS), 2018 to 2026

Governance
• Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM)
• Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS)
• Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC)
• Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB)
• Donor and Development Partner Group (DDPG)

Pacific Sub-Set of Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)
Coordinated technical assistance

Example 1: Optimising the collection of consumption data produced through household income and expenditure survey (HIES)

- Macro and microeconomic applications (incl. SDG 2.1.1)
- Challenges with current regional method
- Unexploited opportunities
- RMI HIES Experiment:
  - Diary or recall?
  - Complementary modules (incl. FIES)?
  - CAPI or PAPI in SIDS?
- Partnership: NSO, SPC, WB, FAO, UNICEF, ILO, IMF

- 7-day recall is around six-times cheaper to implement and there is no apparent trade off in terms of data quality
- Complementary modules (FIES, FAFH, partakers, market survey, labour force) are suitable for inclusion in HIES
- Despite connectivity challenges, CAPI pros outweigh cons
- Leverage advantages of partners
Coordinated technical assistance

Example 2: FAO-SPC Partnership and Technical Cooperation Programme (2019 to 2020)

• Strengthened regional capacity to collect and analyse data to measure food security (PoU and FIES)
• Production of the Pacific Nutrient Database (conversion factors, classification)
• Participate in international forums (ICAS, APCAS)
• Sustainable capacity transfer via strengthening capacity of regional organisation (SPC)

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<th>Code (2018)</th>
<th>Food description in the PNDB</th>
<th>Edible portion (%)</th>
<th>Source of edible portion</th>
<th>Energy (kcal)</th>
<th>Protein (g)</th>
<th>Fat (g)</th>
<th>Carbohydrates available (g)</th>
<th>Dietary fibre (g)</th>
<th>Alcohol (g)</th>
<th>Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)</th>
<th>FAO food commodity group classification</th>
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<td>Cereals and products</td>
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</table>
Coordinated technical assistance

Example 3: Integrated statistical collections and partnership approaches in Kiribati

2018 Household Listing
- NSO, SPC, UNFPA, UNICEF
- Sampling frame (age, sex)
- Enumeration area demarcation

2019 Social Development Indicator Survey
- NSO, UNICEF, UNFPA, SPC
- Integrated MICS (domestic violence)

2019 Integrated HIES
- NSO, MOH, MOF, SPC (stats, fish and health), academia, World Bank
- Fisheries, consumption and health

2020 Population and housing census
- NSO, SPC, UNFPA
- Sampling frame (agriculture and fisheries)
Facilitating mechanisms

• Functioning statistical governance
  • DDPG
  • SPC’s role as Statistical System Leader and Coordinator

• Existing regional capacity
  • Peer-to-Peer (South-South), Resident Advisor
  • SPC

• Centralised infrastructure
  • Methodologies, classifications, instruments
  • Data portals and repositories

• Agreements, work plans and financial exchange
  • MOU, TCP, PCA, IPA, IDA

• SPC integrated programming “One-SPC”
  • Food Systems and One Health
Challenges

• SDG monitoring is a crowded space
  • Duplication of activities (e.g., training)
  • Lack of coordination
  • Organisational KRAs conflict

• Regional statistical capacity
  • Small NSOs covering broad set of statistics
  • Complexity of SDGs (e.g., Tier 3 and FIES)
  • Agricultural Statistics capacity at SPC

• Pacific contextualisation (e.g., FIES) and linkage to national indicator frameworks
  • Consultant approach is unsustainable

• Pacific sub-set vs. global set of SDGs

• Cost of data production

• Apparent lack of buy-in by academia
Opportunities

• Strong statistical governance framework; SPC designated as statistical system leader
• Established regional partners
• Functioning partnership programme
  • Pacific Statistical Collections Financing Facility
  • IDA project
• Leverage advantages of different organizations
  • Efficiency gains through partnerships
• Goal 17
Proposed recommendations

• Improved coordination and strategy among UN Agencies (e.g., capacity building) that considers Pacific regional statistical capacity.
  • Asia-Pacific model does not necessarily work across the Pacific sub-region

• Continue to work with and strengthen the capacity of regional organizations, such as SPC, to develop regionally appropriate statistical methods that are suitable in the Pacific context, yet meet global standards, and to ensure sustainable capacity transfer
  • SPC is a statistical mediator

• Fundraise for the production and compilation of statistics required to report against FAO’s custodian indicators, including strengthening regional statistical capacity
  • Agricultural Statistician and CAPI programmer
Thank you!

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