Monitoring SDG Target 2.1 in the Pacific region - filling the data gap

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SPC member states

• **Pacific SIDS (12):** Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

• **Associate SIDS (7):** American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Marianas

• **Other SPC members (3):** Pitcairn Islands, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna
FAO-SPC collaboration under P-SPAFS

• In early 2018, the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS) was launched

• P-SPAFS aims to guide the development of agricultural and fisheries statistics in the Pacific and to address demands relating to SDG monitoring

• The plan has objectives relating to SDG 2.1: core set of regional comparable indicators related to food security; improved data dissemination systems and tools; collecting food data; and statistics governance
  • Core set of indicators compiled and disseminated
  • New data collection mechanisms and methodologies
  • Publications on trends in household food consumption and nutrition
  • Regional database for agricultural statistics
  • Curate and disseminate census and survey microdata
  • Training and technical assistance
SDG Target 2.1

By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

- **Indicator 2.1.1** - Prevalence of undernourishment
- **Indicator 2.1.2** - Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity based on the food insecurity experience scale (FIES)
SDG 2.1.1 baseline: Adoption of the 2030 agenda in September 2015

- In the 2015 State of food insecurity
  - SDG 2.1.1: available for 5 Pacific Island countries
  - SDG 2.1.2: no estimate available

Prevalence of undernourishment in the Pacific (SOFI 2015)

- Fiji: <5
- Kiribati: <5
- Samoa: <5
- Solomon Islands: 11.5
- Vanuatu: 6.4

Source: FAOSTAT
SDG 2.1.1 progress as of November 2021

- Parameters updated for 4 countries for which SDG 2.1.1 is based on administrative data (Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Solomon Islands)
- SDG 2.1.1 based on HCES estimated for three new countries (Tuvalu, Tonga and Marshall Islands)

Source: FAOSTAT
SDG 2.1.2 progress as of November 2021

• No baseline

• The FIES module included for the first time in 8 nationally representative surveys (LFS, MICS and HCES)

• SDG 2.1.2 valid estimate for 5 countries published in SOFI 2021

Source: FAOSTAT
SDG monitoring process – more inclusive, but data gaps remain

- In SOFI 2015: only 5 rows for Oceania
- In SOFI 2021: one row for each of the 18 Pacific Islands countries

Source: SOFI 2015
FAO-SPC activities relating to SDG 2.1.1

• Analysis of the food and anthropometric data collected in 7 HCES

• Update parameters for SDG 2.1.1 based on administrative data for 4 countries: Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

• Estimate SDG 2.1.1 for three more countries: Tuvalu, Tonga and Marshall Islands

• Improvement and harmonization of data collection tools (new survey design based on WB/FAO guidelines adopted in Kiribati, RMI, Tonga, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna)

• Development of a regional nutrient database (PNDB) to ease food data processing

• Sub-regional capacity building initiatives on food data processing
FAO-SPC activities relating to SDG 2.1.2

- Using nationally representative sample and the 12 months standard FIES module
- Inclusion of the FIES in 6 surveys between 2018 and 2021 (Tonga MICS, Samoa HCES, Fiji HCES, Vanuatu HCES, RMI HCES, Kiribati HCES)
- Inclusion of FIES in ongoing censuses of FSM, Nauru and RMI, and in the agriculture census of Niue
- Adoption by the Pacific Statistics Method Board for the inclusion of FIES as core module in forthcoming HCES
FAO-SPC activities beyond SDG Target 2.1: informing food security and food consumption policies

• 7 country factsheets on the state of food security and food consumption

• 5 reports on the food consumption patterns based on the analysis of food data collected in HCES to inform on food consumption patterns

• Analysis of the food consumption patterns of the most vulnerable

• Policy oriented analysis of different socioeconomic, demographic and geographic populations requires access to survey microdata
Ongoing and new initiatives

- **PACSTAT project**: statistical innovation and capacity building in the Pacific region
- **Data dissemination**: Pacific Data Hub: Microdata Library, .stat, PopGIS
- **Food systems project**: building the evidence-base for food policy in the Pacific region
- **FAOSAP TCP**: technical assistance to countries to collect and analyse data to estimate SDG Target 2.1

Source: Andrew et al. 2021
Challenges relating to reporting on SDG Target 2.1

- **Low capacity environments**: small NSOs with a broad statistical scope, limited experience in food data processing and food security analysis, high staff turnover, infrequent conduct of HCES and agricultural census, small labour force, low connectivity, limited secondary or administrative data sources, small and remote populations, high transport cost, under-resourced statistics systems

- **Culture**: multiple languages, food culture, subsistence affluence, transitioning diets, inequality in dietary and nutrient distribution

- **Low survey frequency**: few baselines and limited time to remeasure and respond under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

- **Conflicting results**: phone survey v face-to-face; short v long reference period; representative surveys v mobile-based; FIES and other indicators of food insecurity; coexistence of under-and over-nutrition; FBS v HCES

- **Food data processing**: conversion factors, estimates of energy sources from food away from home, no benchmark / baseline

- **Data access**: limited access to survey microdata constraining secondary analysis and policy dialogue

- **COVID-19 pandemic**: remote technical assistance; fieldwork to CATI surveys; postponed censuses/surveys; budget reallocation
Recommendation

APCAS29 is invited to advocate for:

- Increased investment in statistical production and capacity development to meet reporting commitments under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; specifically, increase financing for more frequent household consumption and economic surveys (or equivalent) to improve monitoring of SDG Target 2.1.

- The use of the 12-month as well as the 4-week Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) module to allow for estimation of SDG 2.1.2 for global monitoring and to better capture impacts of short-term shocks on food security, such as those associated with the COVID-19 pandemic; the inclusion of the FIES module in all nationally representative household surveys, such as labour, agricultural and social surveys; and the implementation of FIES at both the individual and household level in order to identify populations that are vulnerable to food insecurity, such as women and children.

- Continued capacity building in relation to SDG Target 2.1 and including multisector stakeholders to food systems, such as those from statistics, agriculture, health and education.

- Continued delivery of technical assistance to Pacific stakeholders via partnership between international and regional partners, such as FAO and SPC.

- Facilitating access to and use of anonymised survey microdata to enable disaggregated policy oriented research to identify populations that are vulnerable to hunger.

- Continued research in relation to the production and compilation of food data, including empirical research to further develop methods for estimating calories and nutrients sourced from food away from home and for guidelines on food data processing.

- Continued investment in innovation, such as mobile phone surveys, and for development of integrated household surveys to enable reporting against multiple indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Development of administrative data systems to fill data gaps and complement the use of food data sourced from household surveys, such as trade, market, prices and health.
Thank you!

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