



- Building a Culture of Education Data Use in the Pacific
- Pacific Community digitalizes education data collection in Kiribati
- More regional news*

Building a Culture of Education Data Use in the Pacific

Successful delivery of capacity building and support to education systems, particularly in the Pacific, requires addressing both technical solutions and political challenges. To that end, the Pacific Community (SPC) is currently reinforcing its support to education statistical capacity in the region. The inherently political nature of educational systems sometimes results in difficulties in terms of using data for decision-making. Progress in educational outcomes is more achievable when we consider the intersection of what is both politically possible and technically sound.

Thirteen individuals from four Pacific Island ministries of education are participating in a five-day sub-regional workshop this week to examine the role of education data and the demand for such data to be used in data-informed decision-making in Pacific Island education systems. SPC, with

the support of the Australian Government (DFAT), is working in collaboration with the University of Alberta and participants from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tuvalu, from 14-18 August in Nadi, Fiji.

The workshop will be an opportunity for SPC to dialogue with national experts and following the workshop participants along with SPC EQAP staff will undertake interviews with some of their senior policy makers and decision makers in their government ministries. In particular, the exercise aims to depict the challenges (political, technical, capacity or cultural barriers) to effective use of data to improve practise and any incentives and motivations around data use for the countries participating in the study. The findings from these interviews then will feed into formulating a set of key indicators of data use which may be used by countries to inform further action and share best practises within the region.

Author: SPC - <http://www.spc.int/blog/building-a-culture-of-education-data-use-in-the-pacific/>



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



* This newsletter is a collection of articles sourced from various stakeholders, as indicated at the end of each article. The articles include the views of the respective authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of SPC, or indicate a commitment to a particular policy or action. SPC cannot guarantee that the information contained in the articles is free from errors or omissions. SPC does not accept any liability, contractual or otherwise, for the contents of this newsletter or for any consequences arising from its use.

SPC has not edited the externally sourced articles.

Pacific Community digitalizes education data collection in Kiribati

Kiribati Education Ministry officials have recently been trained by the Pacific Community (SPC) to use tablets for collecting data that would inform the education sector's performance.

SPC Education Management Information's Systems Team Leader, Scott Pontifex explained that the officials and outer island representatives were trained to use the tablets for data collection from schools for important statistical reporting against the Sustainable Development Goals and Pacific Education Development Framework for example, as well as tracking performance of schools and the Ministry of Education (MOE) against the sector's operational and strategic plans.

Digitizing this process would allow the ministry officials to assess and address the accuracy of the data before it is submitted to their headquarters Information Management System, resulting in efficient data verification, increased reporting on data oriented performance indicators, and reduced lead and turnaround times for decisions on previously unanalysed data.

Data will now be verified in the field rather than requiring the ministry headquarters to question the data and wait for a response from schools, eliminating long waits due to limited connectivity and the expanse of islands.



The ministry would now be able to report against 75% of their data-orientated performance indicators with the remainder of indicators awaiting changes to legislation and training of school leaders by another programme. Previously, the ministry could only report against 25% of their data-orientated performance indicators.

Mr Pontifex stated that data collection lead times would be reduced from 12 months to under six months, adding

that some data previously collected on paper forms that were never analysed will be available for decision-making in three to four weeks e.g. student and teacher attendance data.

Data will also be transferred from the field using mobile data connections, or Wi-Fi connections at the Island Councils or senior secondary schools.

Mr Pontifex explained that while tablets use the internet to synchronize with MOE to receive questionnaire assignments and transmit the collected data, they do not need a continuous connection.

The collected data remains on the tablet until it is possible for the (IEC) Island Education Coordinator to reconnect to the internet and synchronize with the ministry. If internet services are broken for any reason the tablets will be returned to the ministry, where data is removed and the tablet reissued.

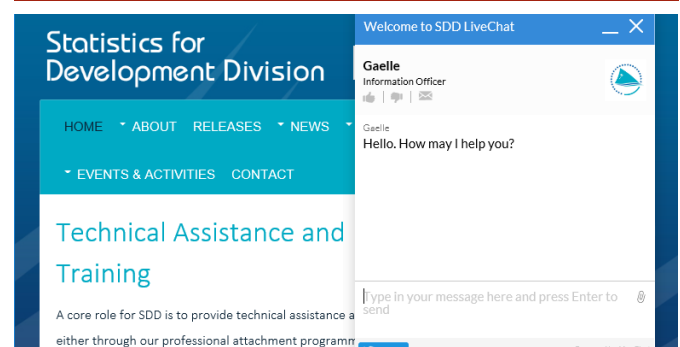
SPC is issuing 27 tablets to the MOE of which 18 will be issued to officials based in the outer islands. The remaining nine tablets will be held at the ministry for Tarawa-based Education officers who are responsible for the South Tarawa schools as needed and to ensure availability of tablets at headquarters that can also be used as replacements.

Author: SPC - <http://www.spc.int/blog/pacific-community-digitalizes-education-data-collection-in-kiribati/>

Any questions about data in the Pacific?
Chat with us.



SDD has gone live.
ASK US.



Pacific Ministers of Health Meeting

The Cook Islands hosted the twelfth Pacific Ministers of Health Meeting in Rarotonga from 28 to 30 August 2017. Ministers at the meeting again emphasised the importance of the collection of data on births, deaths and causes of death through civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) for the health sector, including for monitoring key regional priorities – such as the impact of non-communicable diseases – and reporting against the Healthy Islands Monitoring Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. The importance of a multi-sectoral approach to CRVS and the need for ongoing improvement of health information systems was also noted, along with the need for regional cooperation and working with regional partnerships such as the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) and the Pacific Health Information Network (PHIN).

Meeting documents and further information are available at: http://www.wpro.who.int/southpacific/pic_meeting/2017/en

Author: Karen Carter - Vital Statistic/Civil Registration Specialist

Solomon Islands Legislation Workshop

The Solomon Islands Civil Registry Office (in the Ministry of Home Affairs) and the national civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) committee hosted a national stakeholder meeting in June 2017 as part of the ongoing review of their CRVS legislation. The meeting brought together key national and partner agency stakeholders, and was supported by UNICEF with funding through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia. It was facilitated by the Pacific Community (SPC), with technical support from Brisbane Accord Group partners (SPC, UNICEF, WHO and the Australian Bureau of Statistics), along with the D4H project (including the University of Melbourne and Vital Strategies). While Solomon Islands has made a broad range of improvements in the coverage and completeness of their CRVS system and data over recent years, and the national committee has been extremely active in the implementation of their national CRVS improvement plan, there is still a significant challenge to ensure that registration is available for all vital events in people's lives in the country and that no one is 'left behind'. The government has recognised that the current legislation framework, which has not been updated for nearly 30 years, needs a major revision ensure that Solomon Islands is able to make best use of opportunities, such as new technology and increasing

community outreach through national stakeholders and partners to continue these improvements.

The meeting focused on addressing key structural and design issues in relation to the national civil registration system as a first step to updating the legal framework. The committee and stakeholders agreed on updated reporting pathways, timeframes and delegations that will significantly improve the ability of the system to capture and centrally collate records of vital events. These proposed changes will now be the basis for further consultation by the national committee and will form the basis of a white paper to cabinet in order to issue a formal drafting notice.

Author: Karen Carter - Vital Statistic/Civil Registration Specialist



Work on-the-go

Census

- Fiji – September 17th was fixed as the Census night and the data collection period will last 7 to 10 days.
- Tuvalu – Household listing is being finalised – census planned for late 2017.
- Tonga – Census report be released on the 20th Oct.

Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)

- Cook Islands – Enumeration completed and data being compiled for phase 1 of cleaning.
- Kiribati – Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) HIES scheduled to begin October 2017.

- Marshall Islands – First Pacific CAPI HIES scheduled to begin mid-2017 (collaboration with World Bank and ADB).
- Niue – Final report to be released last quarter of 2017.
- RMI – Survey planned for late 2017/18.
- Tokelau – First HIES completed and survey report to be officially released shortly.
- Tonga – HIES report to be released on the 20th Oct.
- Tuvalu – Final report to be released in the last quarter of 2017.

Upcoming events



Non Communicable Disease's data training combined with infographic training – Tahiti, French Polynesia



5th Regional Conference of Heads of Statistics and Planning (HOPS) 2017 – Noumea, New Caledonia

Around the region

Oct 20

World Statistics Day

NOV 12

TUVALU'S CENSUS NIGHT

NOV 13-14

ASEAN-UN Summit – Manila, Philippines

NOV 25

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



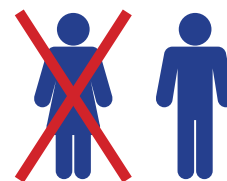
DEC 6-7

13th Management Seminar for the Heads of NSOs in Asia and the Pacific – Tokyo, Japan

Data of the month

No female members in Parliament in PNG

PNG is now one of only five countries in the world that have **no female members of Parliament** and is below the global average of 23% female representation



Contact:

Gaëlle Le Gall - Queguineur

Information Assistant

gaellelg@spc.int

Useful links:

<https://sdd.spc.int/en/>

<http://sdd.spc.int/en/sdd-programmes/pacific-emis>

<http://sdd.spc.int/en/resources/document-library>