



Regional Thematic Conference for Pacific Island Countries on Managing a Statistical Organization in Times of Change

Nadi, Fiji, 24-26 June 2024

Session 1: Governance, Partnership, User Engagement & Quality Management

Agenda

1. Governance
2. Partnership
3. User Engagement
4. Quality Management
5. Conclusion

1. Governance

- The Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS), guided by the Statistics Act 1978, is the lead Statistics Agency
- Under Statistics 1978 & Census Act 1978, FBoS is principal agency in the collection, compilation, analysis & publication of Fiji statistical information
- Other data producers/suppliers (from draft revised Stats Act) are Reserve Bank of Fiji, Ministry of Finance, Fiji Visitors Bureau, Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, Employment, Productivity & Industrial Relations etc. which are primary sources of economic and social statistics in their areas

Strengthening the Fiji National Statistics System requires:

- revision of the Statistics Act 1978
- finalizing the draft 2022 Fiji National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS), which must align with Fiji's National Development Plan (NDP)
- NDP to align with UN SDGs through reconvening the twelve Thematic Working Groups

Revision of Statistics Act 1978 is to:

- strengthen data governance
- ensure the independence of the Bureau
- improve the accuracy & reliability of statistics

- The previous 5-year and 20-year National Development Plan initiated in 2017, have been deemed outdated and unattainable due to various factors including changing geostrategic priorities, climate change, and other challenges
- The new 3-year and 20-year NDP will incorporate a more inclusive and participatory approach, with a focus on sustainability, economic recovery, and alignment with international commitments such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- A nationwide consultation process is underway, with numerous meetings planned across different divisions in Fiji to gather input from a wide range of stakeholders. The development of the new NDP is expected to be completed by May/June 2024

2. Partnership

- FBoS collaborates extensively with both national and international stakeholders. It works closely with government agencies, private sector organizations, and international bodies to collect, process, and disseminate statistical data
- The 2016-2021 Vital Statistics Report Assessment on Inequalities of Birth and Deaths Registration, involved partners like UNESCAP, Vital Strategies (USA), UNSW & the Brisbane Accord Group
- Recent initiatives include partnerships for the Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2023, which involved consultations with government, civil society, and the private sector to align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improve statistical reporting mechanisms

3. User Engagement

- FBoS prioritizes user engagement to ensure that the statistics produced are relevant and accessible to various users, including policymakers, researchers, and the general public
- For the Government Statistician/Chief Executive to circumvent prosecuting parties for not submitting statistical data, FBoS has entered into Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with Government Agencies such as Fiji Revenue & Customs Services (2018), Reserve Bank of Fiji (2020), Ministry of Agriculture (2022), Ministry of Fisheries (2022)
- Efforts to improve user engagement also include the development of user-friendly online platforms for data access and the implementation of customer service surveys to gather feedback and enhance services
- This approach helps ensure that the statistical data provided meets the needs and expectations of its users

4. Quality Management

- Quality management is a critical focus for FBoS. This includes regular reviews and updates of methodologies to ensure accuracy and reliability.
- The organization is working on a local quality assurance framework to maintain high standards in data collection, processing, and dissemination. SPC is assisting FBoS in compiling a National Data Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF) for Fiji, aligned with the UN National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics
- In addition, the improvements made for the VNR 2023 report, such as enhanced data availability and the measurement of SDG progress, reflect FBoS's commitment to continuous improvement in quality management

5. Conclusion

- Overall, FBoS's efforts in governance, partnership, user engagement, and quality management are aimed at building a robust statistical system that can effectively support national development goals and provide reliable data for all stakeholders.
- Moreover, FBoS is to be the Fiji data hub for all Government agencies.

Thank you.