MAKING DATA AVAILABLE TO MONITOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

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**CONTEXT**

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AN UNPRECEDENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISASTER FOR PACIFIC PEOPLE**

- **Serious impacts** on all aspects of how Pacific people communicate, work (or not), produce, trade and live given our economic vulnerability

- **Very limited – and timely - data** on the impacts of the pandemic (both at national and regional levels)

- **Data innovation and openness needed to meet increasing data demand** from national policy makers, donors & development partners

- **Effective use of all available statistics, especially administrative data** increasingly vital in this changing context
CHANGE PROCESS
SDD ESTABLISHED A NUMBER OF SHORT-TERM MONITORING INITIATIVES/INNOVATIONS ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID19 AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ON PICTS

• A COVID19 socio-economic indicators page on the SDD website at: https://sdd.spc.int/disasters-data/covid-19

• Collection and publication of near real time monthly and quarterly data on economic impacts of COVID19 from various national administrative sources: https://pacificdata.org/data/dataset/oai-www-spc-int-82fd5a91-04bd-47da-8a23-b6dd60718226

• Economic Impact Blogs on Trade and Tourism https://sdd.spc.int/news/2020/10/21/impact-covid-19-imts-pacific

• https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2020/12/visitor-arrival-numbers-slump-in-the-pacific-island-countries-and-territories

• Launched the High Frequency Phone Monitoring (HFPM) surveys of households across the region (joint partnership with World Bank) and Statistics NZ https://sdd.spc.int/innovation-sdd/high-frequency-phone-monitoring-surveys-hfpm-households-monitor-impact-covid-19

• Change process to short-term monitoring impacts from annual data to monthly/quarterly data - a challenge to get relevant data

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**Visitor Arrivals**

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<th>Countries</th>
<th>% change over previous quarter</th>
<th>% change over same quarter last year</th>
<th>Annual % change</th>
<th>Absolute Values</th>
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Decline in trade, tourism, impacted on foreign earnings, government budgets, businesses and households through loss of employment, income, and in turn increase poverty, unemployment, inequality and lower standard of living.

THE CHANGE PROCESS GENERATED POSITIVE RESULTS

- The availability of such information provided NATIONAL POLICY MAKERS, donors and development partners easy access to timely information for policy formulation and decision making

- Bringing individual countries data into a regional aggregate database for comparative analysis

- Strengthen NSOs administrative data collections as not all countries have available data

- Encourage countries in more regular data compilations-Administrative data can be used as leading indicators. e.g., employment data from National Provident Fund, GDP sector contributions

- Near real time data enable Government Finance, Policy Makers and development partners to make appropriate/relevant policies/budgets/funding/partnerships
LESSON LEARNED
THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS TAUGHT US USEFUL LESSONS

- Increasing data demand in such an unparallel health and economic crisis

- Data are crucial for policy planning that can impact human lives positively in such catastrophe. Need to assist member countries on short-term indicators.

- Need near real-time statistics on different sectors such as education, health, domestic violence

- SDGs indicators important such as food for all, no poverty

- National Statistics Acts – need to protect confidentiality but should make available data at aggregate and/or anonymised level to enable policymakers, donors and researchers access to support policy development

- Agencies in countries produce the data but not are sharing/publishing the information due to various reasons (historic/out-of-date legislation, cultural context, capacity constraints, limited knowledge on importance of data etc)

- Support NSOs to establish stronger links in collection and sharing of administrative data from agencies such as the Central/Reserves, Ministry of Finance, Ministries of Economics, or Revenues, National Provident Fund, Sector Ministries

- Build in-country capacity to collect, compile, analyse and respond to data on external/shocks & disasters
THANK YOU
MERCI