

Samoa Workshop

Applying a Generic Tool for Policy – Data Integration across all Sectors

5 - 8 June 2018, Apia, Samoa

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Introduction/Background

Asia-Pacific

The Regional Steering Group (RSG) on population and social statistics, in its first meeting held in Bangkok during 28 August to 1 September 2017, finalized a work plan to achieve the three goals of the regional strategy to improve population and social statistics in Asia and the Pacific¹. The first of these goals is:

Goal 1: *Enabling policy environment to maintain demand for population and social statistics. Supportive and well-coordinated policy environment is in place to ensure effective demand for the production and dissemination of the core set of population and social statistics to support SDG implementation.*

In order to carry out activities under this goal of the work plan (Annex I), the RSG recognized the importance of providing member states in the region with a generic tool that the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) can use to engage policy makers and enhance understanding and support for disaggregated statistics in the context of “Leave No One Behind” and the 2030 Agenda. A policy content assessment tool (Equiframe) has been developed for the health sector, and ESCAP has been overseeing work to test and expand this tool to adopt it to a wider range of sectors to cover all three pillars of sustainable development. This tool aims to improve linkages between data and policy and place the NSOs in a better position to engage their policy counterparts (and vice versa) to assess and prioritize the requirements for disaggregated statistics.

The work has thus far has brought together international experts and national statisticians as well as senior planning experts from selected countries to discuss results of pilot studies and put forward recommendations for developing a generic tool.

¹ [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/E.ESCAP_CST\(5\).3.Implementation_plan.English.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/E.ESCAP_CST(5).3.Implementation_plan.English.pdf)

Pacific

In the Pacific region, the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) was adopted by leaders of Pacific Islands and Territories in 2009 in recognition of the needs for a comprehensive plan to drive improvement and development of statistics in the Pacific region. This strategy is entering its 3rd and final phase, and the revamped goals were presented at the recent Heads of Planners and Statistics (HOPS) meeting², held in Noumea from 14-16 November, 2017. The second of the goals points to the need for the Pacific region to know and understand what are the core statistics required for monitoring national sustainable development priorities.

Proposed TYPSS Phase III, Goal 2

PICTS are producing and disseminating (either in-house or through TA) an agreed core set of high-quality economic, social and environmental statistics in a timely and user-friendly manner and in line with national priorities, and integrating SDG and regional reporting requirements.

Understanding data requirements, including necessary levels of disaggregation, from relevant existing national policies and plans, will form the basis for developing this “agreed core set”.

Global

This work directly contributes to the global programme of action for strengthening national statistical systems to measure, monitor and report on the sustainable development goals (DA10). Specifically, implementation of the policy-data integration tool will strengthen statistical institutional environments to measure, monitor and report on the SDGs and enhance effective policy formulation and monitoring. It will also help fill data gaps (including disaggregated data) by strengthening the enabling policy environment and facilitating effective user-producer dialogue.

II. Recent Developments

In March of 2018, ESCAP conducted a workshop entitled “Developing a Generic Tool for Policy – Data Integration”, which was held in Nadi, Fiji³. The workshop was attended by Samoa, Fiji and Vanuatu with representatives from the National Planning Office, National Statistics Office and Ministry of Education in attendance from each country. The objective of this workshop was to further test the revised generic tool with a focus on the education sector, specifically targeting the following areas:

- a) Language and questions adopted in the tool is more easily understood by national planners and statisticians and generic enough to be applied to other sectors;
- b) Revised guidelines are clearer and easy to follow, with step-by-step processes recommended; and

² <http://hops.spc.int/>

³ <http://www.unescap.org/events/pacific-workshop-developing-generic-tool-policy-data-intergration>

- c) Relevant policy documents for the education sector are easily identifiable and guidelines for identifying policy documents in other sectors are clear.

A series of key recommendations for moving forward with the tool were developed as a result of participant feedback on experiences within the education sector, which are being used in the development of the generic tool.

Samoa had also been involved in earlier pioneering workshops in developing this tool back in November in Bangkok, and based on associated national developments and stakeholder interest, was identified as the most likely candidate in the Asia-Pacific region to trial the application of the tool over all relevant sectors identified in their national development strategies.

III. Workshop Approach

Preliminary work undertaken thus far, with the support of the Samoan Ministry of Finance, has identified 14 key sector areas to be analysed for data needs and indicator development. The most recent Samoan sectoral plans in operation covers the following:

Workshop 1 focus

1. Agriculture Sector Plan, 2016 –2020
2. Community Development Plan, 2016-2021
3. National Environment Sector Plan, 2017-2021
4. Health Sector Plan, 2008-2018
5. Law and Justice Sector Plan, 2016/2017 – 2019/2020
6. Trade, Commerce and Manufacturing Sector Plan, 2017/18 – 2020/21
7. Tourism Sector Plan, 2014-2019

Workshop 2 focus

1. Communications Sector Plan, FY2018-2022
2. Education Sector Plan, 2013-2018
3. Energy Sector Plan, 2017-2022
4. Finance Sector Plan, 2013/14-2017/18
5. Public Administration Sector Plan, 2013/14 – 2017/18
6. Transport Sector Plan, 2013-2018
7. Water & Sanitation Sector Plan, 2016-2020

The proposed way forward for progressing this activity in Samoa is to conduct two workshops over the period June-September, 2018, with the first workshop introducing the project objective and strategy to all ministries/departments involved with each of the 14 sectors listed above, but focusing on applying the generic tool to 7 sectors initially. Selection of these 7 sectors has been made by the Samoan Government, and are listed in the first group above.

The second workshop will take place around 2-3 months after the completion of the first workshop, and will focus on the remaining 7 sectors.

Workshop 1 (5-8 June)

This workshop will be run over 4 days, conducted in three parts:

Part 1: Plenary session for all sectors (1 day)

Conduct an introduction session for all relevant ministries/departments within the Samoan Government involved in the production of the Strategy for the Development of Samoa, 2016/17-2019/20, and the 14 sector plans outlined above. Sessions conducted are expected to include:

- a) An update on Samoa's efforts to implement the Samoa Development Strategy, localise SDGs, and monitor/ report progress against plans and policy priorities
- b) The benefits of developing a National Sustainable Development Indicator Set (one-stop shop) which monitors both policy progress outlined in national plans, and regional/global reporting requirements
- c) The importance of linking policy and plans to budget processes and how
- d) An introduction to the objectives and potential benefits of the generic tool being promoted during the workshop

Part 2: Advanced application of the generic tool across 7 key sectors (2.5 days)

Having pre-selected seven sectors of focus, participants will apply the generic tool to the relevant development plans of these sectors, to better understand the key policy issues being addressed, and the corresponding data requirements (including disaggregation) required to monitor the progress of these policies/plans.

This part of the workshop will be very practical in nature, with participants working under the guidance of the workshop facilitators. Not only will participants be focussing on identifying key data requirements from their relevant national plans, but will also have the opportunity to align appropriate indicators for monitoring these plans with regional and global frameworks such as the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs.

Part 3: Plenary session on moving forward and planning for workshop 2 (0.5 day)

The final plenary session will conclude the workshop with a briefing for all 14 sectors on the progress made thus far (with the 7), and developing a plan for future work, including their roles and expected outcomes, in readiness for workshop 2.

Workshop 2

Dates, strategies and objectives will be determined based on outcomes from workshop 1, but it is envisaged to be conducted in either August or September, 2018.

IV. Workshop Objectives & Outputs

The objectives and outputs of the workshop are as follows:

Objectives

- 1) Introduce the generic tool and phased-based approach to developing a National Sustainable Development Indicator Set, to all relevant ministries of the Samoan Government involved in the production of national/sector planning documents
- 2) Apply the generic tool in detail to seven pre-selected sector plans, to test its applicability, and commence work on identifying all key data requirements from these five sectors, as indicated in their existing planning documents
- 3) Deliberate on the most appropriate way forward for Samoa to fully adopt the generic tool, clearly outlining all data requirements Samoa wish to meet for national monitoring and regional/global reporting

Outputs

- 1) Participants leave the workshop with a clear list of data requirements, including disaggregation requirements, as outlined in all relevant policy documents relating to the seven chosen sectors.
- 2) Clear alignment is established for the seven chosen sectors, between indicator requirements for monitoring national/sector plans and the relevant indicators for reporting progress on regional/global initiatives.
- 3) Clear strategy for preparing workshop 2, scheduled to be conducted 2-3 months after this workshop.

V. Target Participants

The workshop will target the following participants from the Samoan Government

Part 1: Plenary session for all sectors

Economic Planning and Policy Division, Ministry of Finance: Senior officials involved in the production of recent national planning documents, ideally the latest Strategy for the Development of Samoa, including the Samoa Monitoring Evaluation Reporting Framework (SMERF)

Samoa Bureau of Statistics: Senior officials who have had some exposure to planning procedures and policy formulation

Other Ministries: Two government officials involved in the production of each sector plan, plus one representative from the Implementing Agency (IA)

Part 2 & 3: Application of the tool across 7 key sectors, and plan moving forward

As with Part 1, representatives from “Economic Planning and Policy Division, Ministry of Finance” and “Samoa Bureau of Statistics” will be invited, but with only one representative from those sectors which will be the focus of workshop 2, who will be observers.

VI. Resource Persons

Resource persons for the workshop will potentially include the following:

- 1) ESCAP staff from both the Bangkok head office and the Pacific sub-regional office
- 2) Expert consultants responsible for developing the EquiFrame tool for the Health Sector

VII. Timing and Venue

Timing: The proposed timing for the workshop is 5-8 June 2018

Venue: The workshop is planned to be held in Apia, Samoa, with the venue to be decided based on the guidance of the Samoan Government