

*Gender Statistics in the Pacific: Establishing a Roadmap for better production and use of  
Gender Statistics to monitor the SDGs in the Pacific,  
February 12-15, 2019, Nadi, Fiji*

# **Regional work and country support to link national policy priorities to data:**

## **The EPIC Tool**

Chris Ryan  
Statistician  
ESCAP – Pacific Office

# Overview of Presentation

1. What is EPIC – what is it trying to achieve?
2. Why have we developed a tool to go down this path?
3. Lessons learnt in developing/testing EPIC
4. Testing of the EPIC tool on Gender Statistics?

# What is EPIC?

- EPIC stands for Every Policy Is Conected
- Tool objective – to assist countries better identify indicators which best track progress against key issues as addressed in national planning documents

## What we don't focus on

Make changes to the key issues in the policy/planning document



## What we do focus on

Given the key issues raised in the policy/planning document, review indicators which can best help track progress against them



# What is EPIC?

- EPIC is carried out in two stages:

## Stage 1

- Closely scrutinize national and sector plans to identify all key issues which require action
- Review what indicators have been suggested to track progress against these issues
  - Could be an indicator in the M&E framework of the plan itself
  - Could be an indicator in another national M&E framework

## Stage 2

- Consult global and regional initiatives with indicator frameworks such as the SDGs
  - Does an indicator exist in these frameworks which could suitably assist with tracking progress against the key issues discussed in the plan

# What is EPIC?

Along the process we are assessing how well the indicators monitor progress of the issues identified, and flagging deficiencies for further review by sector specialists/policy document owners

- No indicator available
- Indicator suggested, but not considered the most appropriate
- Indicator needs further clarification on disaggregation requirements

END product – if applied across all sectors

- Want to see a one-stop shop for NSOs to focus us when conducting surveys and guiding line ministries in how their administrative data can assist with the production of official statistics

# 1: Why are we going down this path?

## TYPSS Phase III – Objective 2

*“PICTs are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors, economics, population, CRVS, education and health, as required by their national plans and agreed upon regional and international reporting frameworks, with timely analysis and dissemination of results to national users”*

### Key challenge

- Lack of clarity around the ‘agreed core set of statistics’ for the Pacific and linkages to the NMDIs and SDGs. Many data gaps remain in NMDIs. Few PICTs have clearly defined national core sets

Objective 1: PICTs have technical capacity to manage stats work

Objective 3: PICTs have a statistics strategic plan in place

# 2: Why are we going down this path?

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

*Policy and Institutional Coherence*

17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

17.15.1 Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation



# 3: Why are we going down this path?

- A big part of the 2030 Agenda is to leave no-one behind
  - Disaggregation
- Whilst many good quality relevant indicators are included in policy/planning documents, the required level of disaggregation is often overlooked



# Lessons learned thus far in developing EPIC

Some of the key findings from this exercise are as follows:

- Policies and Plans appear to have very clear narratives:
  - Identify key issues well
  - Constructive suggestions for addressing them

# Lessons learn thus far in developing EPIC

- Not all key issues are addressed in the M&E Frameworks of plans, and thus don't have indicators to track their progress
- Many of the indicators are too output focused, instead of having a more outcome focus (something the SDGs are strong at)
  - What is meant there:
    - Rather than having indicators like “upgrade a road” or “extend the road”
    - Focus more on the why “Traffic move more smoothly” or “Less traffic accidents or fatalities”

# Lessons learn thus far in developing EPIC

- Sector plans not aligning very well with national plans
  - Acknowledge that the time lines of plans don't always align, but would expect a little more overlap
- Not too much alignment with SDGs from an indicator perspective
  - Not surprising given there's thousands of indicators to choose from
  - But if you want your national indicator framework to also help report against regional/global frameworks, it's worth encouraging the adoption of things like SDG indicators where relevant
- Disaggregation requirements are often overlooked, especially the indicators
  - Big push by the 2030 Agenda to leave no-one behind

# Why do we need a National Sustainable Development Indicator Set?

A) It clearly specifies all key indicator requirements for your country (National and each Sector)

- From a survey perspective, it can:
  - Guide us on what surveys need to be conducted in your country
  - What information should be collected in these surveys
  - How frequently these surveys should be run
- From an administrative data perspective, it can:
  - Guide us on what information can be collected in these systems to support indicator needs

# Why do we need a National Sustainable Development Indicator Set?

B) It can guide us on the development needs of statistics in your country

**N**ational **S**trategy for the **D**evelopment of **S**tatistics (NSDS)

– SDG 17.18.3

C) Assist your country to guide development partners on areas of support required for statistics

– What is missing?

– What is outdated?

D) Assist in meeting all your countries Global and Regional Reporting Requirements (including SDGs)

- How? Align all indicators to these frameworks

# What an NSDIS might look like

## Nationally Generated Indicators

- Indicators from NDP
- Indicators from Sector Plans
- Indicators from Sector Policies/Sector Strategies/Agency Corporate Plans

## Global & Regional Indicators

- SDGs
- Other Global/Regional initiatives
- Pacific generated indicator frameworks

End Product  
100's and 100's  
Indicators



# Creating a Two-tier indicator system

## Tier 1 (the main NSDIS)

- Key indicators which tell the best story of development in your country
  - Indicators which are required for global/regional reporting
  - All other key sector indicators

## Tier 2

- All other indicators identified in the NDP and Sector work

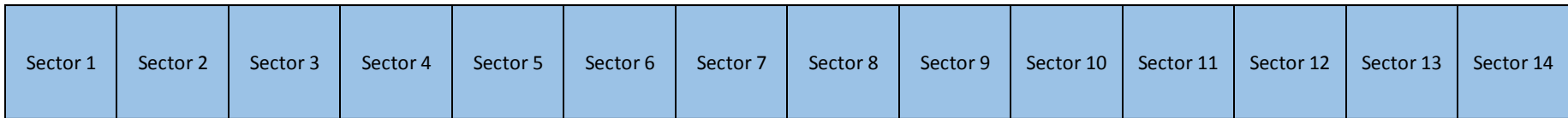


# What an NSDIS might look like

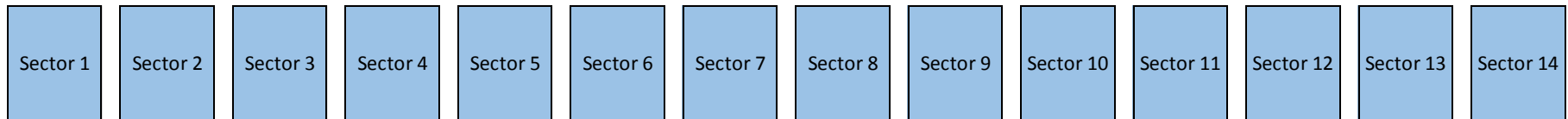
Global/Regional Reporting Indicators

Other key Sector Indicators (focus on outcomes)

## Tier 1: Indicators to be included in the NSDIS



## Tier 2: Additional indicators for each sector



All other relevant sector indicators

# Progress of EPIC in Gender Stats

## Background

- ESCAP has established a Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics – RSG-PSS (first met in 2017) which has 3 goals:
  - Creating an enabling policy environment to maintain demand for population and social statistics
  - Enhancing data production
  - Enhancing data analysis and use
- Contributing to this work, ESCAP has in place a Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative (GDPI), designed to support evidence-based policies and programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment
- The GDPI is currently in its first phase (April 2018 – March 2019), which is aimed at strengthening data and statistics on women's economic empowerment (WEE) with a focus on 1 and 3

# Workshops conducted

## 1) Gender Policy-Data Integration Initiative: Inception Workshop (21-23 April 2018, Bangkok)

- Only 4 countries in Asia involved (Armenia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand)
- Participants included:
  - National Statistics Office
  - National Women's machinery
  - Department of Planning (or relevant line ministry in the context of women's economic empowerment)

# Workshops conducted

2) National Workshop on Gender Policy-Data Integration in the context of Women's Economic Empowerment in the Philippines (1-3 August 2018, Manila)

- Only Philippines attended
- Participants included:
  - Philippines Statistics Authority
  - Philippines Commission on Women
  - National Economic Development Authority
  - Other relevant national government agencies (NGAs)

# Workshops conducted

Two draft tools were trialed during the workshop as part of the GDPI:

- EPIC
- Draft template and guidelines for progress assessment and gender analysis to enhance gender-sensitive data dissemination, analysis and use in the context of WEE

# Process and key findings from the workshops

## *Workshop 1: Inception Workshop (4 countries)*

### Step 1

- Selection of the relevant policy document
- Each country applied EPIC on a section of a chosen national policy document linked to the topic of WEE

### Step 2

- Identify what's in and out of the policy document w.r.t WEE
  - IN: What issues are addressed, and sub-groups of interest discussed
  - OUT: What aspects of WEE were overlooked, including sub-groups of interest

### Step 3

- Identification of “information needs” from the national context
- Mapping of information needed with existing national indicators
  - Examined both the policy document being reviewed, and any other known national indicators



# Process and key findings from the workshops

## Workshop 1: Inception Workshop (4 countries)

### Step 4

- Identification of “information needs” from the regional/global context
- Mapping of information needed against regional/global indicator frameworks
  - Mapped against “SDGs” and Core Set of Gender Indicators for Asia and the Pacific”
  - For the Pacific, can also map against *Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED)* – indicators 4-8 (WEE)

Resulting product was a preliminary “national indicator set for WEE”

- One country developed a draft national indicator set for WEE
- The other three countries refined their existing national set of WEE indicators



# Process and key findings from the workshops

## *Workshop 2: National Workshop (only Philippines)*

Approach: Review of the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) – key policy document addressing gender equality and women’s empowerment issues in the Philippines (now needs updating – 10 years old).

Output: Development of a comprehensive national indicator set for monitoring WEE issues

Results from the workshop:

- Enhanced understanding of priority issues and target groups, data and information needs, including disaggregation requirements through detailed review of the MCW
- Preliminary set of national sustainable development indicators

# Process and key findings from the workshops

## Workshop 2: National Workshop (only Philippines)

Lessons learnt from the workshop:

- Numerous cases where needed to be more specific about target groups for each policy action mentioned in the MCW, rather than just mentioning women and/or girls. Some examples given included:
  - Women farmers
  - Rural women workers
  - Returning migrant workers
  - Workers in the formal/informal economy
  - Senior citizens
  - Solo parents
  - Urban poor
- Cases for additional policy actions identified for future consideration
- Cases where policy actions/issues were not adequately or appropriately monitored by national indicators



# ANY QUESTIONS?