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Updated Project Information Document (PID)

Technical Design Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 08-Sep-2026 | Report No: PIDIA01830

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Project Beneficiary(ies)	Region	Operation ID	Operation Name
Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu	EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC	P518516	Statistical Innovation and Capacity Building in the Pacific Islands 2
Financing Instrument		Estimated Approval Date	Practice Area (Lead)
Investment Project Financing (IPF)		22-Dec-2026	Poverty and Equity
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency		
Pacific Community, The Republic of Kiribati, Tuvalu, The Kingdom of Tonga	Pacific Community - Statistics for Development Division, Tonga Statistics Department, Kiribati National Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development		

Is this an Urgent Need / Capacity Constraint situation?

No

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To improve quality, cost-effectiveness, and regional comparability of official statistics in the Pacific Island Countries.

Sector & Institutional context / Problem Statement

Pacific Island Countries face persistent structural challenges in producing timely, high-quality official statistics. National statistical offices operate with very limited staff, small scale, and high unit costs of data collection due to geographic dispersion across remote islands. As a result, core data—such as household surveys—are infrequent, fragmented, and heavily dependent on external financing, while administrative data remain underutilized. Institutionally, capacity constraints at the country level limit the ability to sustain statistical production and adhere to international standards. At the same time, the Pacific Community (SPC) plays a central regional role in providing technical expertise, coordination, and shared platforms. These factors point to the need for a more integrated, regionally coordinated approach to strengthen statistical systems and improve efficiency, quality, and sustainability across countries.

Summary Description

The proposed operation will have three components. Component one will aim to improve country-level official statistics in terms of availability, frequency, and quality by supporting both efficient survey implementation and administrative



data integration across the Pacific. Component two will build technical capacity and consensus in definitions and production methods for statistics in the region. Component three will provide support for regional project management.

Components

- Component 1: Improving country-level official statistics
- Component 2: Strengthening regional technical capacity and public goods
- Component 3: Project management

Environmental And Social Risk Classification

Low

Decision

BASIC INFORMATION

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Proposed Development Objective(s)			
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Components

Component 1: Improving country-level official statistics

Component 2: Strengthening regional technical capacity and public goods

Component 3: Project management

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PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

Maximizing Finance for Development

Is this an MFD-Enabling Project (MFD-EP)? No

Is this project Private Capital Enabling (PCE)? No

SUMMARY

Total Operation Cost	22.00
Total Financing	22.00
of which IBRD/IDA	22.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	22.00
IDA Grant	22.00

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Legal Operational Policies

Triggered?

Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50

No

Projects in Disputed Area OP 7.60

No

Decision

B. Proposed Development Objective(s)



Development Objective(s)

To strengthen statistical capacity in participating countries in the Pacific to cost-effectively produce timely, high-quality, and regionally comparable official statistics.

Key Results

1. **The PDO will be measured through indicators that capture capacity, cost-effectiveness, administrative data integration, and sustained availability of core statistics.** The proposed PDO indicators listed below capture the three PDO outcomes: quality, cost-effectiveness, and regional comparability of official statistics in the Pacific region.

- a. Share of core statistics in the regional dissemination platform that are present, current, and meet minimum quality standards for Pacific IDA countries
- b. Number of core statistics, in the 3participating countries, where the cost of producing and publishing the statistics has decreased at least 10 percent in constant local currency

Number of unique statistical measures with regionally agreed definition and metadata, formally endorsed by the Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB) and published on a regional platform for at least 3 countries

C. Project Description

2. **The project will have three components.** Component 1, Improving country-level official statistics; Component 2, Strengthening regional technical capacity and public goods; and Component 3, Project management. Components 1 and 2 are designed as a single country-regional delivery cycle. Component 1 finances country-led statistical production with innovative approaches and dissemination activities. Component 2 finances the shared regional capabilities that enable those activities, including common standards, technical expertise, quality assurance, training, regional platforms, and reusable tools and methods. Experience generated through country implementation will in turn be documented, evaluated, and converted into regional public goods by SPC, allowing successful approaches to be adopted by other countries. This feedback loop is expected to reduce duplication, spread fixed costs, strengthen regional comparability, and accelerate statistical innovation across the Pacific.

**Table 1. Indicative distribution of project financing for each component (thousand USD)**

	Total	Tonga	Kiribati	Tuvalu	SPC
Component 1. Improving country-level official statistics	13,507	3,467	3,577	3,629	2,833
Subcomponent 1-1. Supporting efficient data collection	8,191	2,300	2,719	1,650	1,521
Subcomponent 1-2. Integrating administrative data	3,441	469	667	1,656	648
Subcomponent 1-3. Producing and disseminating statistics	1,875	697	190	322	665
Component 2. Strengthening regional technical capacity	5,215	-	-	-	5,215
Subcomponent 2-1. Regional standards and harmonization	980	-	-	-	980
Subcomponent 2-2. Regional capacity building	1,180	-	-	-	1,180
Subcomponent 2-3. Regional institutional strengthening	3,055	-	-	-	3,055
Component 3. Project management	3,278	533	423	371	1,951
Subcomponent 3-1. Country-level project management	1,327	533	423	371	-
Subcomponent 3-2. Regional-level project management	1,951	-	-	-	1,951
Total	22,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	10,000

Component 1: Improving country-level official statistics (\$13,507,000)

3. **Component 1 will support participating countries to improve the availability, quality, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability of official statistics.** Activities will be country-led and aligned with national statistical priorities while benefiting from SPC technical assistance, shared methodologies, and regional standards. The component focuses on three mutually reinforcing areas: (i) improving the efficiency of surveys, censuses, and price statistics; (ii) increasing the use of administrative data for official statistics; and (iii) strengthening the production, analysis, and dissemination of statistical outputs. Together, these activities seek to address the region's key statistical challenges, including high data collection costs, limited use of administrative data, and constrained technical capacity.

4. **The budget for Component 1 reflects a clear division of responsibilities between participating countries and SPC.** SPC's costs under this component relate primarily to regional implementation support and specialized technical assistance for the participating countries. This includes the provision of technical expertise, training, and innovation support in areas such as poverty, prices, population/vital statistics, administrative data and data modernization, technical survey and census support. Participating countries will finance in-country activities such as enumerators/interviewers; in-country assets; IT hardware, software and development including databases and data pipelines; national statistical system coordination; country-specific consultancies such as legal advice for legislative changes, national strategies for development of statistics, or other needs that go beyond SPC's regional support role.

Subcomponent 1.1: Supporting efficient data collection for surveys, censuses, and price statistics (\$8,191,000)

5. **This subcomponent will support participating countries to produce core social, demographic, and economic and price statistics while identifying opportunities to reduce the long-term cost and complexity of statistical production.** Pacific Island Countries face exceptionally high survey and census costs due to small populations, geographic dispersion, and limited technical capacity. While surveys and censuses will remain essential elements of national statistical systems, improving long-term sustainability will likely require more efficient approaches that maintain statistical quality while reducing operational costs. The subcomponent therefore combines financing for priority statistical operations with support for modernization and innovation in statistical production.

6. **The subcomponent will finance priority statistical operations required to produce the project's core statistics**



and meet national data needs. Eligible activities may include HIES, LFS, MICS, PHC activities, price collections for Consumer Price Index (CPI) and International Comparison Program (ICP/PPP) activities, pilot surveys, and other country-prioritized data collections. Financing may cover survey design, questionnaires, sample design, fieldwork implementation, enumerator recruitment and training, travel and logistics, computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), quality assurance, data processing, dissemination, and related operational costs. The specific mix of activities will vary across participating countries and reflect national priorities and implementation capacity.

7. **A major focus of the subcomponent will be modernization and coordination of household survey programs.** Illustrative examples of potential survey modernization and coordination approaches are provided in Annex 2 (Tables 5). Experience from Pacstat1 demonstrated that efficiencies can be achieved through digital data collection, improved fieldwork management, common methodologies, and stronger regional technical support. However, opportunities for further savings through optimization of individual surveys alone are becoming increasingly limited. For example, possible approaches under consideration include integrated household survey programs that combine elements of HIES, MICS, and LFS; the use of common core questionnaires; coordinated survey calendars; and follow-up interviews using telephone or other remote methods. These approaches could reduce duplication, lower respondent burden, improve timeliness, and spread fieldwork costs across multiple statistical objectives while maintaining the ability to generate key indicators required by governments and development partners.

8. **Potential efficiency gains are expected to arise from several complementary operational changes rather than any single innovation.** These may include reducing unnecessary questionnaire content, optimizing sample designs and geographic stratification, adopting mixed-mode data collection approaches combining face-to-face and telephone interviews, improving coordination across survey programs, and testing resident enumerator models that reduce repeated recruitment, training, and travel costs. The project will support participating countries in assessing these options and their implications for statistical quality before broader adoption.

9. **The project will also support modernization of sample design approaches.** Potential activities may include reviewing geographic stratification, sample allocation methods, and approaches to producing national and subnational estimates. In some countries, opportunities may exist to reduce survey costs through more efficient stratification of remote areas, optimized sample sizes, or greater use of statistical modelling techniques such as small area estimation. Any proposed changes will be assessed carefully against their implications for data quality, precision, and policy use before implementation. Project support will include analytical work, testing of alternative designs using existing survey data, and piloting of promising approaches.

10. **To help reduce the high costs and logistical challenges of data collection across dispersed island geographies, the project will test and implement resident enumerator approaches, whereby data collection is undertaken by trained personnel permanently based within communities rather than by field teams deployed from national capitals.** Building on experience from Pacstat1 and ongoing implementation in participating countries, the Project will assess the effectiveness, cost implications, and quality impacts of these approaches. Potential benefits include lower travel and accommodation costs, reduced recruitment and training requirements, improved continuity of fieldwork, and greater resilience during periods of transport disruption. Implementation models may differ across countries according to geography, institutional arrangements, and workload requirements, but all approaches will aim to improve the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of statistical production while maintaining data quality.

11. **Implementation of survey modernization activities will follow a structured process beginning with analysis of existing survey requirements and indicators, stakeholder consultations, questionnaire and sample-design**



development, assessment of cost and quality trade-offs, and pilot testing of selected approaches. The project is expected to support countries and SPC in generating operational evidence before broader adoption of new survey models.

12. **Another priority area is modernization of population statistics and census programs.** Population and housing censuses are among the most expensive statistical operations undertaken by Pacific governments. The Project will support countries in assessing options for producing reliable population statistics more efficiently through improved census methodologies, stronger listing operations, greater use of administrative and geospatial data, and development of intercensal estimation methods where appropriate. Examples of potential innovations and associated trade-offs are summarized in Annex 2 (Table 5). The objective is not to replace censuses, but to identify sustainable approaches that maintain reliable demographic statistics while reducing long-term costs and improving timeliness.

13. **The Project will also support modernization of price statistics.** Reliable CPI and purchasing power parity statistics are essential for economic management, poverty measurement, and international comparisons, but collection costs remain substantial in geographically dispersed countries. The subcomponent will support digitized price collection, modernization of price collection methodologies, CPI rebasing activities, ICP participation, and regional approaches to technical support and quality assurance. These approaches can reduce costs by lowering travel and per diem expenditures, reducing repeated recruitment and training of enumerators, decreasing supervisory missions, shortening fieldwork periods, and increasing automation of data processing. Opportunities to reduce fieldwork costs while maintaining statistical robustness will be explored as part of broader efforts to improve the efficiency of statistical production.

14. **The subcomponent will contribute to strengthening both the efficiency and resilience of statistical operations.** Activities may include deployment of digital systems with offline functionality, cloud-based data management and backup arrangements, more distributed fieldwork models, and approaches that reduce dependence on inter-island travel. NSOs will lead implementation of country-specific activities, while SPC will provide technical assistance, quality assurance, methodological support, training, regional standards, and cross-country learning. Through this combination of country-led implementation and regional technical support, the subcomponent seeks to establish a more sustainable model for producing official statistics in the Pacific.

Subcomponent 1.2: Integrating administrative data into official statistics (\$3,441,000)

15. **This subcomponent will support participating countries in strengthening the use of administrative data for official statistics as part of a longer-term effort to support more sustainable, timely, and cost-effective statistical systems.** While administrative data sources are widely used for operational purposes, they remain underutilized for statistical production in many PICs. The objective of the subcomponent is therefore not to replace surveys and censuses, but to reduce reliance on costly primary data collection where suitable administrative sources can provide more frequent or timely information. By making greater use of routinely collected data from government systems, participating countries can improve the availability of selected statistics, reduce reporting burdens on households and businesses, and strengthen the long-term sustainability of statistical production.

16. **The subcomponent builds on ongoing administrative data readiness assessments jointly undertaken by SPC and the World Bank under Pacstat1.** These assessments examine legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, governance systems, data quality, interoperability, statistical capacity, and opportunities for the use of administrative data in official statistics. Early findings suggest significant opportunities to strengthen administrative data use while highlighting constraints related to data governance, data quality, institutional coordination, capacity limitations, and varying levels of



readiness across countries and sectors. The assessments will provide an evidence base for prioritizing activities and tailoring implementation approaches to individual country circumstances.

17. **The Project will follow a phased and readiness-based approach rather than seeking comprehensive integration of administrative data across sectors during the Project period.** Administrative data activities will focus on establishing essential foundations and demonstrating practical applications with clear statistical value. Priority investments will be selected based on country demand, statistical value, institutional commitment, legal readiness including around data sharing and data privacy, data quality, and implementation feasibility. Countries are expected to concentrate initially on a limited number of high-priority administrative data applications, with lessons from early implementation informing future scale-up.

18. **A key focus of the subcomponent will be strengthening the enabling environment for administrative data integration.** Activities may include support for national statistical systems, implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs), strengthening statistical legislation, data governance arrangements, interagency coordination mechanisms, data-sharing protocols, quality-management systems, and capacity development. Particular attention will be given to ensuring that administrative data initiatives are embedded within broader national statistical system reforms and supported by sustainable institutional arrangements.

19. **The Project will support selected high-value administrative data systems with strong potential for statistical use.** Illustrative examples of priority administrative data sources currently being considered in participating countries are presented in Annex 2 (Table 6). Particular attention is expected to focus on a limited number of foundational systems with strong statistical potential, such as CRVS, migration systems, education information systems, health information systems, or other priority administrative data sources identified by participating countries. The specific focus will vary across countries according to readiness and national priorities. Activities may include data quality improvements, development of statistical outputs, piloting of linkage approaches, metadata development, and institutional strengthening required to support long-term integration into official statistics.

20. **The Project recognizes that increased use of administrative data must be accompanied by clear legal authority, privacy protections, statistical confidentiality safeguards, and operational governance arrangements.** A summary of selected legal and regulatory frameworks relevant to administrative data in participating countries is provided in Annex 2 (Table 7). Activities may therefore support implementation of statistical legislation, data governance frameworks, confidentiality protocols, secure data-sharing arrangements, and institutional capacity for responsible data stewardship. These measures will support the use of administrative data for official statistical purposes while protecting privacy, maintaining statistical confidentiality, and respecting national data sovereignty.

21. **The subcomponent will also support improvements in data quality, interoperability, and digital infrastructure required for statistical use of administrative data.** Activities may include development of data quality frameworks, metadata standards, administrative data inventories, interoperability arrangements, record linkage methodologies, and secure data exchange mechanisms. Where justified by implementation needs, support may also be provided for hardware, software, cloud-based systems, databases, and other digital infrastructure required to securely store, manage, integrate, and exchange administrative data for statistical purposes.

22. **Implementation responsibilities will be shared between participating countries and SPC.** NSOs and relevant line ministries will lead identification of priority administrative datasets, implementation of reforms, and operational use of administrative data within their national statistical systems. SPC will support methodological development, regional

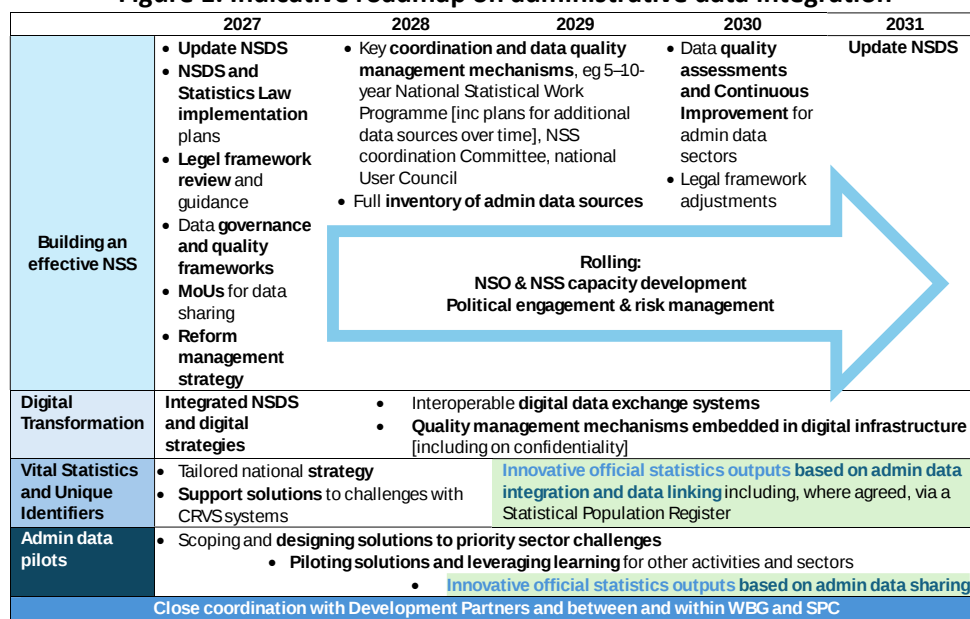


standards, technical assistance, peer learning, guidance materials, and regional public goods. Administrative data activities will be implemented through country-specific governance arrangements that clearly define participating institutions, permitted data flows, legal authorities, responsibilities for data stewardship, confidentiality obligations, and applicable safeguards for the sharing and use of administrative data.

23. The Project will coordinate closely with relevant national digital-government initiatives and investments supported by the World Bank and other development partners. Because statistical use of administrative data depends heavily on broader digital-government infrastructure, the Project will seek to align administrative-data activities with ongoing reforms, including digital identity, government interoperability, and data-exchange initiatives, wherever feasible. In participating countries, this includes coordination with World Bank-supported digital-government operations.¹

24. Implementation will be guided by country-specific roadmaps that reflect differing levels of readiness and capacity. Drawing on readiness assessments, inventories of administrative datasets, and ongoing NSDS processes, these roadmaps will identify priority data sources, sequencing of reforms, and institutional responsibilities. Activities are expected to progress through a phased approach that includes strengthening governance and legal frameworks, improving data quality and interoperability, piloting priority administrative data applications, and gradually institutionalizing successful approaches within official statistics. The pace and sequencing of activities will differ across countries according to national circumstances and existing levels of readiness. Figure 3 presents an indicative roadmap for this transition.

Figure 1. Indicative roadmap on administrative data integration



Subcomponent 1.3: Producing and disseminating official statistics (\$1,875,000)

25. This subcomponent will support the conversion of survey, census, price, and administrative data into statistical outputs in an increasingly modern, efficient and timely manner. Activities may include data processing pipelines, metadata, quality assurance, analysis, release calendars, statistical briefs, dashboards, official portals, microdata documentation, and user-oriented dissemination products. The subcomponent will also support improved communication

¹ WB digital projects invested in government digitalization include the development of national ID in Tonga, Kiribati, and Tuvalu: Tonga Digital Government Support Project (P154943), Kiribati Digital Government Project (P176108), Tuvalu Telecommunications and ICT Development Project (P159395).



of statistics and stronger links between statistical outputs and national planning, budgeting, and monitoring processes.

Component 2: Strengthening regional technical capacity and public goods (\$5,215,000)

26. **This component will be implemented primarily by SPC and will strengthen the regional platform for production and dissemination of Pacific statistics.** It will support SPC in providing high-quality technical assistance, producing regionally relevant standards and methodologies, developing tools and knowledge products, and implementing regional capacity-building. The component is central to the regional model and is intended to strengthen the foundations of a regional approach to statistical production and dissemination.

27. **Subcomponent 2.1: Regional standards, harmonization, and statistical public goods (\$980,000).** This subcomponent will support SPC's work on developing and disseminating PSMB-related methods, standards, classifications, metadata guidance, statistical protocols, and shared tools. It will leverage the Pacific Data Hub including both regional indicators dissemination and the microdata library; and support data licensing, metadata production, and building regional confidence in data governance, privacy and sovereignty issues to improve access to regional statistical assets. The subcomponent may also support implementation of existing regional statistical guidance and tools developed through SPC and partner initiatives. Examples may include resources that promote internationally comparable disability statistics, safe governance of microdata use, statistical disclosure control, harmonized survey instruments, standardized indicators, and analytical products that strengthen the production and use of social statistics across PICs.

28. **Subcomponent 2.2: Regional capacity building and knowledge sharing (\$1,180,000).** This subcomponent will support needs-based capacity development for NSO and SPC staff in areas such as data collection and process modernization including for surveys, census and CPI, administrative data integration, statistical quality, metadata, dissemination, and user engagement. The focus will be on methods that deliver a level-shift increase in efficiency such as increased code-based approaches, automation, and statistical modelling or design to handle data quality or cost issues. The Project may also support a limited number of innovation pilots involving geospatial data, remote sensing, high-frequency phone surveys, AI-assisted statistical processes, or other emerging approaches where there is demonstrated demand, technical feasibility, and appropriate safeguards related to privacy, confidentiality, and statistical quality. Training will emphasize practical implementation and peer learning across countries.

29. **Subcomponent 2.3: Regional institutional strengthening and implementation support (\$3,055,000).** This subcomponent will strengthen SPC's capacity to provide technical and operational support to participating countries in areas such as surveys and censuses, poverty, pricing including ICP, population and vital statistics. It may finance technical advisers, roving or resident support, project-related operational support, and institutional functions needed to deliver regional services, subject to final financing and eligibility arrangements. Beyond supporting project implementation, this subcomponent aims to strengthen SPC's long-term capacity to serve as a regional technical platform for Pacific statistics. By expanding technical capabilities, operational systems, and regional service delivery arrangements, the Project seeks to strengthen institutional capacities and regional support arrangements that participating countries can continue to draw upon beyond the Project period.

Component 3: Project management (\$3,278,000)

30. **This component will support project coordination and management at the regional and country levels.** At the regional level, SPC is expected to establish a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in Suva, Fiji, with core functions for project management, financial management, procurement, M&E, E&S, and administration. At the country level, participating NSOs are expected to maintain lean country implementation arrangements, with clear focal points and fiduciary support arrangements appropriate to each country context.



D. Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

31. The project presents low environmental and social risks due to its technical assistance nature. Activities focus on strengthening statistical systems through surveys, administrative data integration, and capacity building, without financing civil works or infrastructure. Environmental risks are negligible, limited to minor e-waste from ICT procurement and routine office operations. Social risks are also low and relate primarily to labor management, worker safety during fieldwork, stakeholder engagement, and data privacy. Enumerators and consultants will be engaged on a temporary basis, requiring appropriate labor conditions, OHS measures, and grievance mechanisms. Survey activities will require careful handling of confidential data to mitigate privacy risks. Institutional capacity constraints exist within participating NSOs, but are mitigated by centralized implementation through SPC, which has demonstrated capacity under PACSTAT I. SPC will provide technical support, oversight, and standardized procedures across countries. Relevant ESF standards include ESS1, ESS2, ESS3 (minor), ESS4 (minor), and ESS10. Instruments to be prepared include an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Labor Management Procedures, and grievance redress mechanisms. Overall, risks are low, manageable, and outweighed by significant positive benefits related to improved data systems, enhanced governance, and better-informed policy making across the region.

Grievance Redress Services:

32. **Grievance Redress.** Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a project supported by the World Bank may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance mechanisms or the Bank's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the Bank's independent Accountability Mechanism (AM). The AM houses the Inspection Panel, which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of Bank non-compliance with its policies and procedures, and the Dispute Resolution Service, which provides communities and borrowers with the opportunity to address complaints through dispute resolution. Complaints may be submitted to the AM at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the attention of Bank Management and after Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the Bank's Grievance Redress Service (GRS), visit <http://www.worldbank.org/GRS>. For information on how to submit complaints to the Bank's Accountability Mechanism, visit <https://accountability.worldbank.org>.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

33. **The Project will be implemented through a regional-country delivery model designed to combine national ownership with shared regional services.** Participating countries will retain responsibility for producing and disseminating official statistics through their NSOs, while SPC will provide regional technical services, implementation support, capacity building, and regional public goods. This arrangement reflects the Project's objective of creating a sustainable regional statistical system that strengthens country capacity while leveraging economies of scale and specialized expertise that cannot be efficiently maintained by individual countries.

34. **Strategic oversight of the Project will be provided through a Steering Committee comprising SPC, participating NSOs, and Ministries of Finance.** The Steering Committee will provide overall strategic direction, review implementation progress, facilitate coordination among participating countries and partners, and help ensure that Project activities



remain aligned with national priorities and regional objectives. Existing regional statistical governance mechanisms, including the PSSC and the PSMB, will continue to provide guidance on regional statistical priorities, standards, and methodologies.

35. SPC will serve as the regional implementing entity and will host a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in Suva, Fiji. The regional PIU will be responsible for day-to-day project management, procurement, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, environmental and social requirements, communications, and coordination of regional activities. The PIU is expected to be led by a Project Manager and supported by fiduciary and operational staff, including financial management, procurement, and other technical and administrative personnel as required.

36. Through its Statistics for Development Division (SDD), SPC will implement Component 2 and provide implementation support across the Project. SPC will support countries through technical assistance, quality assurance, training, methodological support, development of statistical standards and tools, administrative data integration, and dissemination platforms. SPC will also be responsible for developing and maintaining regional public goods that can be used across participating countries, thereby reducing duplication and improving efficiency.

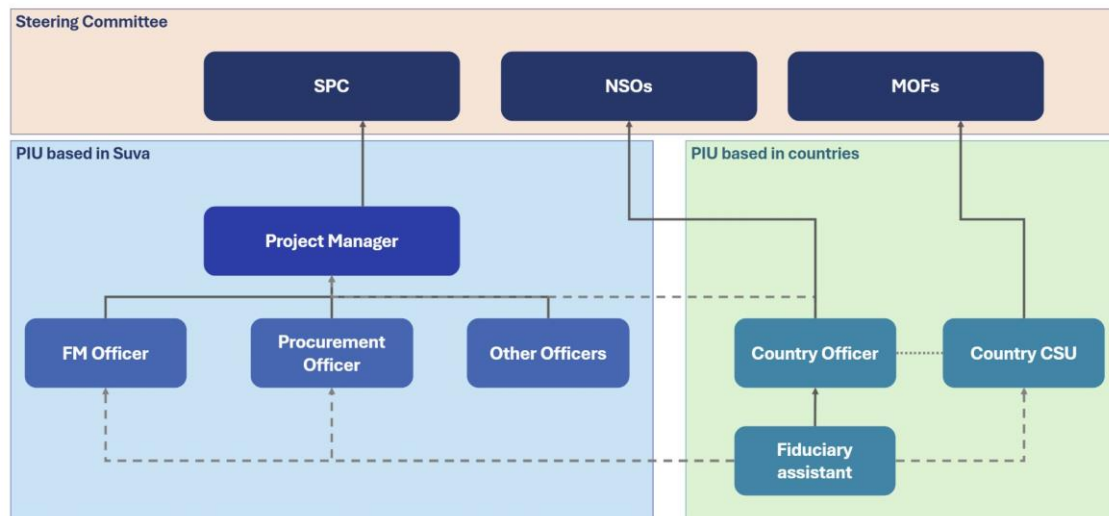
37. Participating countries will implement country-level activities through their NSOs, supported by country-based implementation arrangements. Each country is expected to designate a country project officer or focal point responsible for coordinating Project activities, preparing annual work plans and budgets, monitoring implementation progress, and liaising with SPC and the World Bank. Depending on country circumstances, fiduciary support may be provided through dedicated project staff, central services units, or other government arrangements.

38. The Project is designed to minimize the establishment of parallel implementation structures. Country implementation arrangements will be integrated into existing government systems to the extent possible, while drawing on regional support from SPC for specialized technical and operational functions. This approach is intended to strengthen national capacity while reducing administrative burdens and implementation costs.

39. A key feature of the Project is the use of SPC as a shared production platform for statistical development. Rather than relying primarily on short-term technical assistance missions or country-level advisers, the Project will support recurring regional services that can be used by multiple countries. This includes specialist expertise in areas such as survey design, sampling, questionnaire development, data processing, quality assurance, training, administrative data integration, and dissemination systems. By pooling technical expertise at the regional level, participating countries can access capabilities that would be difficult or costly to sustain individually, while promoting greater consistency, knowledge sharing, and economies of scale across the Pacific.



Figure 2. Project implementation unit structure



40. **Close coordination between SPC and participating countries will be particularly important for the development and testing of innovations supported under the Project.** These may include integrated HIES-MICS-LFS survey operations, resident enumerator approaches, digital data collection technologies, administrative data integration, and alternative approaches to population statistics. Lessons learned from implementation will be shared across participating countries to support regional learning and facilitate wider adoption of successful practices.

41. **The World Bank will provide implementation support throughout the Project period.** This will include support on statistical modernization, institutional strengthening, project management, fiduciary oversight, environmental and social requirements, and results monitoring. Particular attention will be given to assessing the effectiveness of the regional delivery model in improving the sustainability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of statistical production in small island states.

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Legal Operational Policies

Triggered?

Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50

No

Projects in Disputed Area OP 7.60

No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Shohei Nakamura
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Approved By

Country/Division Director:		
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