Data challenges in SIDS, monitoring Education 2030 in Pacific countries, the importance of regional collaboration

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Pacific Islands region

- Three main sub-areas of Micronesia, Melanesia, Polynesia.
- 22 member countries (15) and territories (7)
- 9.1 million people over 34 million square kilometers of ocean

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Introduction

- Major changes from public consultation relating to Education 2030 new indicators

- Data Challenges
  - Current challenges and issues faced by SIDS
  - As a result of Education 2030

- Regional and International collaboration required to address data challenges
- Examples of existing/ongoing collaboration.
Data Challenges

The main issues and challenges for the Pacific islands:

- Improving **data integration** and sharing

- **Data collection** challenges due to remoteness, physical geography.

- Capacity and resource challenges (skills require to operationalize the use of data at the national and subnational levels).

- Low quality of data and incomplete coverage and delay data release & reporting

- Transforming data into information and how to use it in policy and decision making. Poor **data utilization** and lack of analysis

- MoEs lack of confidence in using data deemed not to be 100% accurate

- Lack of feedback to data providers.
Data Challenges

Embedding the new Indicators

- Need to use indicators at **regional, national** and **subnational levels**

- Improving existing systems and introducing new systems where required to **collate & use new indicators**

- Improve existing and introduce new **roles & capacity** needs to be built. Set goals & design interventions to achieve goals

- **Additional budget lines** to resource collecting and using indicators
Existing Regional Collaboration: The Pacific Education Development Framework

A framework for creating partnership in Education in the Pacific

Strategic Goals:
1. To achieve universal and equitable participation and access to Pacific education and training. *(Access & Equity)*

2. To improve quality and outcomes. *(Quality)*

3. To achieve efficient and effective utilisation of resources ensuring balanced and sustained development of Pacific education systems. *(Efficiency & Effectiveness)*
Regional Collaboration

Raise awareness of why we need to collaborate

Understand **why** indicators are required

Understand **how** by working collaboratively,

- aid effectiveness can be improved
- considerable efficiency gains can be made,
- improved data collection mechanisms can be created; and as a result more accurate and timely information will be available

We need to consider how to

- setting up mechanisms to pool expertise, skills and resources across the pacific and how to share ideas. Utilize South – South collaboration.
- Share costs to develop software/systems for SIDS across the Pacific
- Develop flexible monitoring systems that can be adapted for the needs of each country
Regional Collaboration: Strengthening Education Monitoring in the Pacific

Pacific Islands regional organisations and ongoing collaborative efforts in the region

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is the region’s principal political institution.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community is a non-political organisation that delivers technical assistance, policy advice, training and research services for the region.

The University of the South Pacific (USP), a premier provider of tertiary education in the Pacific region and an international centre of excellence for teaching, research and consulting on all aspects of Pacific life;

UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS), regional efforts to improve education monitoring in the Pacific
Regional Collaboration: Establishment of EMIS facility and UIS presence

**Strengthening Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) in the Pacific**

Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS)

The establishment of a regional facility at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to provide support to Pacific Island countries (PICs), in order to increase the effectiveness of their Education Management Information Systems (EMISs) and to enhance monitoring of education, leading to better education policies, decision making and resource allocation.

**UIS regional efforts to improve education monitoring in the Pacific**

Assess and improve quality of education data collected in Pacific Islands

Improved monitoring of progress against regional education agenda (PEDF)

Improve visibility and usage of education data
Regional and International Collaboration: examples

**UIS/SPC**
- ISCED mapping workshop (Noumea, 2013)
- Support countries capacity to respond to international education data collection (UIS).
- Data Quality Assessment (DQAF) Samoa 2015.

**Ten Year Plan Strengthening Statistics**
- 2020 Round Population Census, core questions and standardised HH survey modules for Education
- Facilitate contact with other national govt. (shared experience)
- Increased collaboration (MoE and NSOs)
- National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)

**Regional reporting**
- Pacific Education for All 2015 Review (UNESCO)
- Pacific Education Development Framework (PEDF) indicator workshop (Sept 2015)

**Measuring Quality**
- Pacific Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA)
- Pacific Benchmarking for Education Results (PaBER)
- Pacific School Leadership Project (Uni of South Pacific)
Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA)

• Regional and National baselines in Literacy and Numeracy achievements at the end of 4 years and 6 years of primary education.

• Assessment irrespective of language (PILNA instruments translated into the national ‘preferred language’ in line with the national language policy.

Includes contextual background:

• Socio economic factors: distance from school; home background; language

• Teacher quality: teacher qualifications and experience; performance

• School management and leadership: Head teacher experience; leadership;

PILNA has been designed to be linked to other initiatives in the region such as - Pacific Assessment for Better Education Results (PABER)

Pacific Literacy and School Leadership Project (PLSLP)
Considerations for Collaboration

Understand **how** by working collaboratively,

- Together we can optimize efforts and share experiences
- Improved partnerships can make work more sustainable
- Working together to achieve mutual benefit involves communication, active participation and commitment.

**Shared vision** → **Co-operation** → **Leadership**