Samoa Statistics Strategy 2022 - 2026

Australian Bureau of Statistics

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SAMOA STATISTICS STRATEGY 2022 – 2026

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Message from the Minister of Statistics

The Government of Samoa is fully committed to the incorporation of Official Statistics for the progress of its policies and planning for future developments. A well-functioning National Statistical System (NSS) is vital in improving the quality of official statistics in compliance with statistical methodologies and internationally recognized approaches with appropriate production and dissemination procedures.

The impact of the global COVID 19 pandemics with travel and SOE restrictions has imposed significant challenges on the social-economic developments in Samoa, and has raised awareness of the impacts of pandemics on economies, livelihoods, employment, incomes, and consequently on hardship and poverty, as well as the greater need for social protection. Nevertheless, the immense pressure on the statistical processes and procedures, the statistics infrastructure, ICT infrastructure and subsequently the institutional arrangements and organizational structure in which the Bureau and the statistical system are currently operating.

The Samoa Statistics Strategy 2022-2026 is dedicated to expanding, improving and refining official statistics within the country, thereby intensifying the availability of timely and reliable data that would guide future planning and decision-making. It also lays the path for maintaining and upholding the development structure of statistics across the whole system of official statistics in Samoa.

As Minister for Statistics, I consider the Samoa Statistics Strategy (SSS) an important process and national document for good governance. To ensure effective implementation, policy makers, planners, statistics producers, data providers, users and all members of the public are urged to actively support statistical activities to achieve the greatest possible success.

I urge all government bodies, private sector and civil society to contribute and fully cooperate in the implementation and ongoing efforts pertaining to SSS 2022-2026. The Bureau of Statistics in its co-ordination role fully supports and is dedicated to strengthening the National Statistical System in its entirety in making the Samoa Statistics Strategy implementation a success.

I commend the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and all stakeholders that were involved in all phases of this Samoa Statistics Strategy 2022-2026.

Honourable Leota Laki Lamositele Sio
MINISTER OF SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Foreword

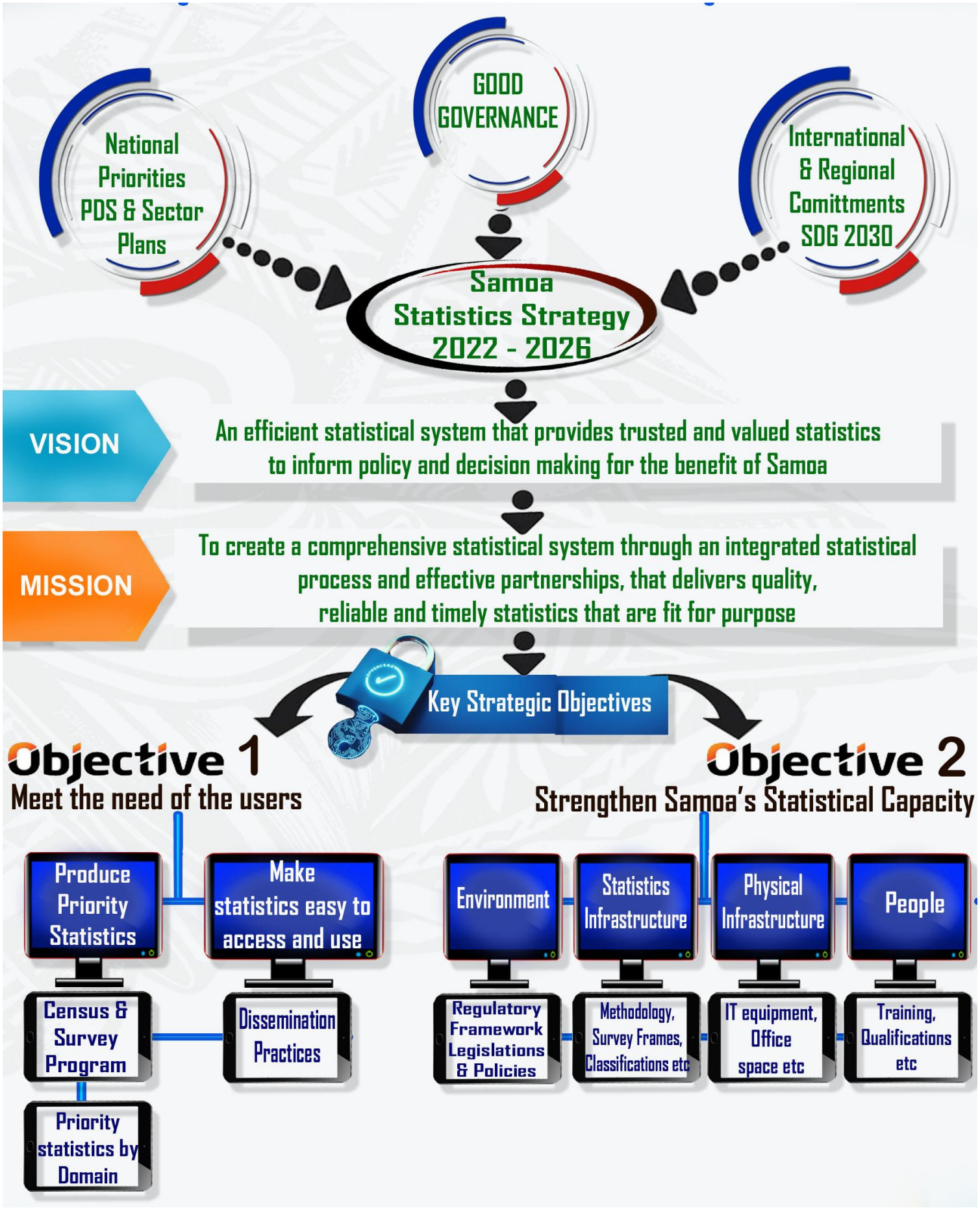
The implementation of the Samoa Strategy for Statistics 2022 – 2026 (SSS) continues on from the previous Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2011 – 2021 (SSDS). With increased focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and growing emphasis on national development both on social-economic and infrastructural level, stipulated in the Pathway for the Development of Samoa (PDS) 2022 - 2026, policy and national decision makers have accentuated the importance of statistics in informing development initiatives and measuring achievements.

The Samoa Bureau of Statistics hereby presents the Samoa Strategy for Statistics 2022 – 2026, a national publication that safeguards production, analysis, and publication of Official Statistics for the betterment of our island nation. This strategy reflects an enormous national undertaking across all sectors to develop a coordinated approach that will enable all statistical producers to better meet the needs of its users through relevant, impartial, and accurate statistics. This document thus provides a framework for statistical activity co-ordination within the Independent State of Samoa.

This strategy will strongly assist in producing data that will support sound and firm policy decisions both at national and international levels. A helpful, professional, innovative, efficient, and capable statistical service will, we believe, serve the public good and help our nation take better decisions. This strategy is designed to make that happen.

I acknowledge all who were involved in all phases of this development without which, this important document would not have been accomplished.

Leota Aliielua Salani
GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN


GOOD GOVERNANCE
National Priorities PDS & Sector Plans
International & Regional Comittments SDG 2030
Samoa Statistics Strategy 2022 - 2026
VISION
An efficient statistical system that provides trusted and valued statistics to inform policy and decision making for the benefit of Samoa
MISSION
To create a comprehensive statistical system through an integrated statistical process and effective partnerships, that delivers quality, reliable and timely statistics that are fit for purpose
Key Strategic Objectives
Objective 1
Meet the need of the users
Produce Priority Statistics
Make statistics easy to access and use
Census & Survey Program
Dissemination Practices
Priority statistics by Domain
Objective 2
Strengthen Samoa's Statistical Capacity
Environment
Statistics Infrastructure
Physical Infrastructure
People
Regulatory Framework Legislations & Policies
Methodology, Survey Frames, Classifications etc
IT equipment, Office space etc
Training, Qualifications etc

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Strategy

The "Samoa Statistics Strategy" defines a strategy for the development of Samoa's National Statistical System over the 4-year period 2022 to 2026. It identifies strategies designed to further improve Samoa's capacity to produce and use official statistics and a roadmap for actions by agencies that are part of Samoa's National Statistical System.

This strategy builds on the successful implementation of the previous ten-year, Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2011-2021[1].

1.2 The importance of Statistics

Statistical information in the form of official statistics as a public good has been, and will always be, the key to any successful development of policy and planning across all aspects of governance. Its significant role in providing evidence-based decision making at every level of development, cannot be understated. Statistical information in the form of official statistics that can be relied on as objective and factual, is a highly valued input to important discussions and decisions.

Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the government, the economy, and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation[2].

Demand for statistical information, despite continuing improvements in coverage and access, will continue to grow. Demand for statistical information exceeds the production of data, with much of the pressures due to, and not limited to, factors which include:

- National Priorities – Pathway for the Development of Samoa (PDS) and Sector Plans
- International & Regional Commitments – SDG 2030 Agenda and others
- Good Governance – Transparency & Accountability
- Climate change and; External shocks, including Coronavirus pandemic

The development of Samoa's capacity to both produce and use official statistics continues to be a priority for the Government of Samoa.

1.3 How this plan was developed

This plan was developed by a team of Samoa Bureau of Statistics staff informed by extensive consultation with key stakeholders (refer Appendix A).

A Steering Committee comprising a diverse group of leaders provided independent advice and guidance on the development process and the strategy (refer Appendix B for Terms of Reference and Membership of the Steering Committee).

The development of this strategy was also supported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics through funding of some stakeholder engagements and assistance with strategy formulation.

[1] Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2011-2021
[2] Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

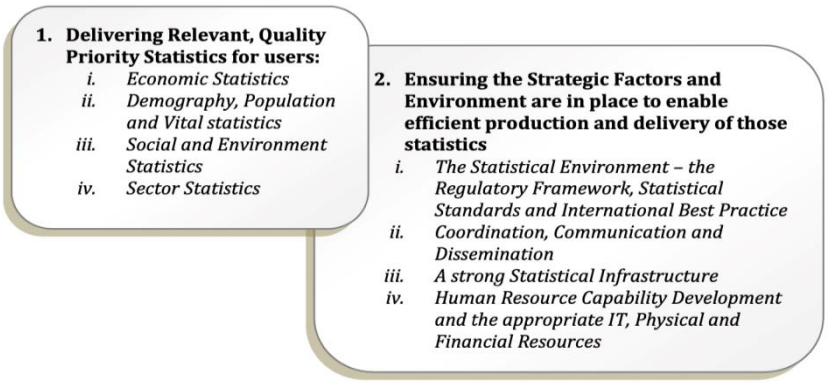
2 Implementation of the 2011 – 2021 Strategy

2.1 The 2011 – 2021 Strategy

The Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2011-2021 (SSDS21) provided a framework for building statistical capacity and strengthening coordination across the agencies responsible for collecting data.

It specifically sought to strengthen the capacity of the central statistics organisation (SBS) in carrying out its mandated function of collecting, compiling, and disseminating official statistics as well as coordinating and integrating all statistical activities within the system. The strategy provided a ten-year vision for statistics in Samoa and, in some detail, the goals and actions for the first five years to set the path to achieving that vision.

SSDS2021 provided a set of strategies and recommended priority actions for two broad objectives:



2.2 Key Achievements

The mid-term review of the SSDS21 found that "*after four years, the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) has accomplished a significant share of its ten-year statistics plan objectives and is well-placed to continue on with the plan. Success in future years will be increasingly dependent on the commitment and goodwill of other departments, and the SBS is well-placed to ensure that the statistical system gains from this, provided the Ministerial level commitment and direction that is so vital to cross- agency initiatives continue*".

In 2022 it is evident that further, significant, progress has been made with many objectives met. As a result, Samoa performs comparatively well on the production and dissemination of social, economic, environment and sector indicators when compared with its Pacific neighbours.

Key achievements in relation to the implementation of SSD21 include:

- Completion of over 80% of "Core Program" data collections as scheduled, with more high frequency indicators compiled and published on a regular basis.
- Improved compliance with international standards – including adoption of current standards (GFSM 2001/2014, SNA 2008, BPM6).
- Updated legislation, in the form of the Statistics Act 2015, approved by parliament.

- Establishing the Statistics Bureau of Samoa as the principal authority in Samoa for the collection, analysis, and publication of official statistics, and the co-ordination of statistical operations in Samoa.
- Compliance with Enhanced General Data Dissemination Standards (E-GDDS) achieved in 2017 (DQAF).
- Improved access to Statistical publications through websites and social platforms.
- Election of Samoa as a member of the UN Statistics Commission in 2020.
- Strengthened partnerships with stakeholders and the various agencies that make up the Samoa National Statistical System.
- Strengthened capacity within the Samoa Statistics Bureau with a doubling of human resources, improved access to IT applications and software with the establishment of an IT Division, and improved access to training.

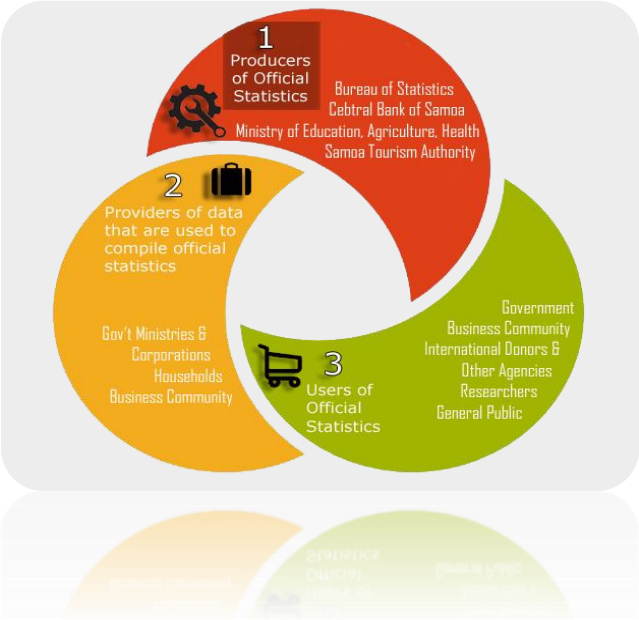
Refer Appendices C & D for more details on achievements in relation to SSDS21 Strategies.

3 The Current State of Samoa's Statistical System

3.1 Overview of the Samoa National Statistical System

National Statistical Systems are, at their core, ensembles of statistical organisations and units within a country that collect, process, and disseminate "official statistics"[3]. A broader definition would also encompass the various users of official statistics and all providers of data used to compile them.

SAMOA STATISTICAL SYSTEM



The Samoa National Statistical System could be characterised as largely centralised with the Samoa Bureau of Statistics operating under the Statistics Act 2015 as "the principal authority in Samoa for the collection, analysis, and publication of official statistics, and the co-ordination of statistical operations in Samoa".

While the Samoa Bureau of Statistics produces most official statistics, it is not the sole producer. Other important producers of official statistics include the Central Bank of Samoa, Ministry of Education and a few other Government agencies.

Providers of data are vitally important to the statistical system. In addition to data generated by Government agencies, the Samoan Statistical System relies heavily on data provided by the business community and the individuals and households who participate in censuses and surveys. Without their cooperation and data there would be very few official statistics.

The Samoa Statistical System has a solid international reputation and a track record in the production of a broad range of statistics that conform to international standards. However, developing and maintaining effective National Statistical Systems is particularly challenging for countries the size of Samoa. Large investments are required to establish and maintain the extensive infrastructure required, especially with the ambition to be at the forefront of digital transformation in the region. Skilled people are also required – people with skills in a range of professional disciplines which are highly sought after.

This Strategy aims to ensure that Samoa's reputation both at the regional and international level is both maintained and strengthened.

[3] Official statistics are statistics published by government agencies or other public bodies such as international organizations. They provide quantitative or qualitative information on all major areas of citizens' lives, such as economic and social development, living conditions, health, education, and the environment. See also Microsoft Word - N1343456.doc (un.org) for the ten Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

3.2 SWOT Assessment of Samoa National Statistical System

The following assessment of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats has informed the development of this Samoa Statistics Strategy.

STRENGTHS

- Appreciation of Official Statistics and growing demand for data and indicators, nationally, regionally and globally.
- A National Planning Framework which promotes coordination & cooperation across agencies.
- The National Plan - Pathway for the Development of Samoa provides a strong, comprehensive articulation of the Government priorities which gives clear focus on statistical development.
- Cooperation of the general public and businesses in provision of data for the compilation of Official Statistics.
- The Statistics Act 2015, which firmly establishes the Samoa Bureau of Statistics as the principal authority in Samoa for the collection, analysis, and publication of official statistics, and the co-ordination of statistical operations in Samoa.
- Healthy partnerships, underpinned in many cases by formal MOUs, between the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and most of the agencies that provide data and produce official statistics.
- Global & Regional recognition of Samoan Statistical System capacity which serves to attract financial support, technical assistance, and opportunities to participate in Working Groups and Technical Steering Committees.
- Strengthened capacity in the SBS:
  - Improved IT infrastructure and an increase in capacity to use applications and technology.
  - Increased human resources.
  - Effective collaboration and teamwork.

WEAKNESSES

- An important feature of the Statistics Act 2015, the Statistics Advisory Board, has not yet been implemented. A functional Board would promote coordination and cooperation across the whole statistical system. The Statistics Act could be enhanced to promote management and use of administrative data for statistical purposes and provide a clear mandate for the establishment and use of statistical registers.
- While there are many arrangements in place for the use of administrative data for statistical purposes there is scope to improve access, standardisation, and integration. Effective exploitation of existing administrative data is key to the production of new statistics at low cost with minimal provider burden.
- Capacity and data infrastructure in the areas of data processing, integration, analysis, and data security needs to be strengthened in response to growing use of administrative data, new statistical methodologies and increasing appetite to use data to inform policy and evaluation.

- Production of official statistics is a multi-disciplined endeavour involving teamwork and collaboration across various divisions. Productivity and effectiveness can be enhanced through buildings and technology that support collaboration. The limited office space and distribution of staff across buildings is an impediment to productivity and staff satisfaction.

OPPORTUNITIES

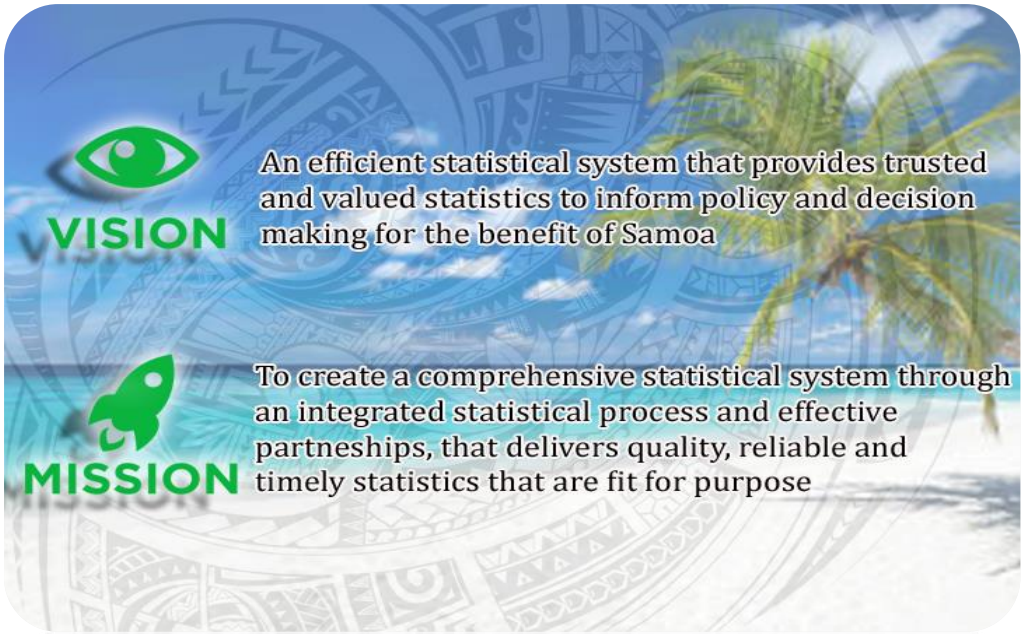
- The provision in the Statistics Act 2015 for a Statistics Advisory Board is an opportunity to strengthen governance of the statistical system.
- The proposed strategy for implementation of a National Digital Identity and related systems affords significant opportunities for the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and the Samoa Statistical System. Widespread use of unique identifiers (Business Identification Number, Personal Identification Number) would enable easy integration of data to produce new statistical outputs without imposing additional burden on citizens. Implementation of the strategy would bring more resources to the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and strengthened capacity to manage and use data registers.
- Advances in technology and the increasing digitization of business and social activities will continue to provide fresh opportunities for statistical systems to acquire and use data in innovative and cost-effective ways.
- Strengthened partnership and working relations with regional and global organisations like UN entities, as well as multilateral organisations like the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, ADB and others.

THREATS

- Implementation of a National Digital Identity is a major opportunity, but it also poses risks that need to be managed. Additional resources will be needed, and international experience shows that implementation and exploitation of statistical registers needs to be handled with care to maintain trust and cooperation of citizens and data custodians. Care needs to be taken to maintain a separation between statistical and regulatory use of data.
- Growing demand for use of data and technology leads to competition for people with statistical and ICT skills. National Statistical System Agencies need to develop strategies for attraction and retention of capable staff in the face of stiff competition.
- Production of high-quality official statistics relies on the cooperation from citizens and businesses. Trust and cooperation can be eroded quickly in the event of cyber security attacks or breaches of confidentiality.
- The production of official statistics is supported by extensive infrastructure in the form of computer systems and software tools. This infrastructure needs to be constantly maintained and periodically upgraded to avoid obsolescence and mitigate risks of security breaches and system failure.
- State of Emergency restrictions due to external shocks like economic, financial and health crisis such as COVID-19 pandemic.

4 The Samoa Statistics Strategy for 2022 - 2026

4.1 The Vision & Mission



4.2 Objective 1: Meet the Needs of the Users

Over a period of 10 years the Bureau, in collaboration with other agencies in the Statistical system, has been working tirelessly to implement the activities stipulated in the Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2011 – 2021. There has been a lot of progress made in many areas, with the need for adjustments in areas where there has been shortfall in activities.

Consequently, the continuous changes that have occurred in Samoa's social and economic structure, with new challenges in all sectors including health, education, environment, tourism, the new priorities of government stipulated in the Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2022 - 2026, the intensive need for disaggregated data posed by the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, and the heightened emphasis on the need for good governance, transparency and accountability, has challenged the availability of relevant, reliable and timely statistics.

The global COVID 19 pandemics with travel and SOE restrictions has had dramatic effects on the social-economic developments in Samoa, and has raised awareness of the impacts of pandemics on economies, livelihoods, employment, incomes, and consequently on hardship and poverty, as well as the greater need for social protection, thus imposed immense pressure on the statistical processes and procedures, the statistics infrastructure, ICT infrastructure and subsequently the institutional arrangements and organizational structure in which the Bureau and the statistical system are currently operating.

Therefore, Statistics have taken on a much higher profile in government and donor relationships, with all budgets experiencing enormous pressure. There is a greater need for efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the delivery of public services and in knowing what is happening at both macro and micro levels in the economy. All government agencies have a responsibility to make as much data available as possible to support the generation of

statistical indicators to assist in building a base for social and economic recovery from the pandemic. The strategy therefore covers a very critical period for Samoa and the region.

The following chart illustrates the key strategic objectives for the development of statistics in Samoa in the next 4 years;

4.2.1 Produce Priority Statistics

The data priorities are driven by:

- the Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2021/22 - 2025/26.
- the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and Indicators
- International Treaties and Conventions
- additional needs of users of statistics within Samoa and externally.

4.2.1.1 Core Program - Census and Surveys

Censuses and surveys are key activities in the development of statistics, as they provide detailed information in every sphere of the society, including key cross-cutting themes, such as gender, disability, and age, that are required for national, regional and global reporting including the SDG 2030 Agenda. They also provide baseline information for the compilation of the most frequent key statistical indicators.

Delivery of the results for these major surveys, and associated analysis, in a timely and accessible way is essential to the credibility of the statistical system.

The planned and proposed cycle of major data collections over the next four years is:

Collection	Planned years	Producer
Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS PLUS)	2022	SBS & UNICEF
Labour Force and School to Work Transition Survey	2022	SBS
Household Income and Expenditure Survey	2023	SBS
National ID Mass Registration	2023	SBS & MoF
Business Activity Survey	2024	SBS
Demographic Health Survey – Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (DHS – MICS)	2024	SBS
Agriculture Survey	2025	SBS & MAF
Disability Survey	2025	SBS & DFAT
Population and Housing Census 2026	2026	SBS

4.2.1.2 Social Statistics

Social statistics provide the information needed to support national priorities, social sector development plans and related socio-economic policy objectives including SDG's, hardship alleviation, social protection, health, education as well as people empowerment.

Social statistics are considered to comprise all areas of statistics relating to people and their living conditions: demography; health; education and training; labour; income, consumption, and wealth; social protection and social cohesion; housing; mobility; time use; culture and leisure; crime and justice.

Priority actions to provide and enhance key social statistics are as follows:

Indicator	Priority Actions	Timing
Hardship and Poverty	○ Conduct Household Income Expenditure Survey 2023	2023
	○ Update HIES poverty analysis and continue to produce regular income and expenditure information	2024
	○ Compile social indexes like Human Development Index	2023
	○ Explore opportunities to update poverty indexes on an annual basis	2025
Health Statistics	○ Conduct Demographic and Health Survey (DHS MICS)	2023
	○ Ministry of Health working in partnership with SBS, to ensure the most useful set of indicators is widely and easily accessible: PEN Fa'a-Samoa project	2024
	○ Mortality from NCDs for the 4 selected NCDs – Cardiovascular, cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes	2023
	○ MOH and SBS to maximise the use of administrative data collected by Health information systems like; M-Supply for the pharmaceutical, Patient Tracking system – TAMANU system and others	2024
	○ Key health efficiency measures including cost per patient etc	2023
	○ Ensure WG questions included in census, MICS	2022
Education	○ MESC working in partnership with SBS, to identify sound and meaningful indicators for the education sector;	2023
	○ Strengthened IT infrastructure to improve communication and dissemination of information in the MESC headquarter as well as all schools in Samoa	2023
	○ Improved coordination especially with data sharing amongst the Education sector agencies	2022
	○ Key education efficiency measures including cost per student etc	2024
	○ Key education indicators of education quality and expenditure	2024
People empowerment indicators	○ Updated information on women in managerial and leadership positions	2024
	○ Ensure statistics on gender, youth, women and children is captured in survey programs	2024
	○ Number of community livelihood initiatives implemented	2023
Law and Justice	○ The Ministries of Justice and Police, working in partnership with SBS and other stakeholders, to ensure the most useful set of indicators is available and widely and easily accessible; - Awareness and implementation of a Law and Justice Sector interactive centralized database. - Availability of crime statistics and sharing of information improved and strengthened. - Reoffending levels reduced.	2024

	- Effective management of prison and corrections services. - Coordination and capacity of the law and justice sector improved to be more responsive to crimes.	
Social Protection	○ Fully update SSPIM (Samoa Social Protection Indicator Matrix) based on the various surveys implemented by the Bureau. ○ ADB SPI as a regional comparative measure of public expenditure on SP measures	2022

4.2.1.3 Population, Demographic and Vital Statistics

Population, Demographic and Vital statistics provide the necessary information on population dynamics and are essential building blocks in policy development and evaluation, informing every aspect of social and economic development.

Priority actions for the next 4 years are as follows:

Indicator	Priority Actions	Timing
Population estimates	• Finalise population estimates for the 2021 Population Census	2022
Births, Deaths & Marriages	• Develop population register system to support and integrate data and information on people and its surroundings - census and ID systems	2024
	• Improve civil registration systems and processes.	2023
	• Engage District councils as a major player in the Civil registration process	2023
National Identification System	○ Approve legislation for National ID	2022
	○ Establish NID system	2023
	○ National ID mass registration	2023
Migration	• International Labour Migration Statistics	2024

4.2.1.4 Economic Statistics

Economic Statistics provide the necessary information to assist in monitoring and evaluating economic activities ensuring diversification and resilience in all economic sectors of the economy, especially at the grassroot level. The sectors of Agriculture and Fisheries and Tourism are of particular importance to the economy of Samoa and statistics on these are used widely by the private sector business community as well as government.

Priority actions for the next 4 years are as follows:

Indicator	Priority Actions	Timing
Informal sector statistics	○ Ensure incorporation of related questions on the economic developments at the community/village and district level in statistical surveys.	2023
	○ Engage district councils in the collection of data and information at the village level	2023
	○ Provide updated village profiles	2022

Agriculture and Fisheries Sector	○ The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, working in partnership with SBS, to: - Provide agriculture statistics to inform progress of sector plans through mid-term and end of term reviews - Share administrative data at the sub-sectoral level to develop and expand indicators for the Sector. - Implement regular agriculture surveys 5 years after every agriculture census. - Collect regular production and RTL indicators for major crops e.g. Kava, taro, cocoa etc to promote domestic agriculture as alternative livelihood - Improve collection of export data	2022
	○ Engage district councils in the collection of Agriculture and Fisheries data and information at the village level	2023
Tourism	○ STA working in partnership with SBS, to; - Develop a system to produce Tourism value added – Supply and Use Tables - Develop and run a 2 yearly Visitors Expenditure Survey, with the Central Bank, to feed into the Balance of Payments as well as provide basic marketing information. - Carry out a regular accommodation occupancy survey	2023
Private Sector growth	○ SBS and TCM to look at ways to measure the informal sector contribution to the GDP	2022
	○ SBS and TCM to exploit alternative sources of administrative data to ensure consistency and reliability in employment and other business information.	2023
	○ Updated data on RSE scheme -	2023
	○ Conduct Labour Market Survey	2023
	○ International Labour Migration Statistics	2023
Improve and expand macro-economic statistics	○ Expand fiscal accounts to include public trading bodies	2023
	○ MOF, CBS and SBS to work together in refining and improving the Balance of Payments Statistics, especially with the official Grant data and the Foreign Direct Investment data	2023
	○ Develop Supply-use tables to compare and contrast data from various sources and improve the coherence of the economic information system.	2023
	○ Compile monthly Industrial Production Index.	2024
Trade & Prices	• SBS and CBS to continue working with MCR to improve and update trade valuation and classification of trade data ensuring consistency in data and reporting; HS codes, SITC codes and CDV valuation.	2022
	• Rebase CPI using HIES 2018 data.	2023
	• Continue to monitor quality and coverage of price statistics and make necessary changes to ensure accuracy of reporting.	2023
	• Develop Producer Price indices	2024
Monetary	• CBS to continue producing monetary and financial statistics, as well expanding its work to cover indicators for Financial Inclusion and Literacy data.	2022
Employment	• Produce quarterly employment statistics using baseline data from censuses and surveys and extrapolate using admin data – SNPF and other indicators	2024
	• Employment - Strengthened coordination with SNPF and explore options for new data source like Income tax register.	2023

4.2.1.5 Sector and Environment Statistics

Sector and Environment Statistics provide the information needed to monitor and support the achievement of the goals of the relevant sector plans, including Environment as well as SDG indicators.

Priority actions for the next 4 years are as follows:

Indicator	Priority Actions	Timing
Transport Sector	○ Transport sector agencies to partner with SBS in use of administrative data for the production of statistics i.e. Registered cars by type, including heavy machineries; and transport infrastructure	2023
Communication Sector	○ Office of the Regulator and other Communication sector agencies to partner with SBS in the use of administrative data for the production of statistics	2023
	○ SBS to publish indicators on access to ICT tools	2022
Infrastructure	○ SBS and Infrastructure agencies to look at ways to improve collection and verification of data sets like the building permits and development consent and all related information.	2023
	○ SBS to access information on road construction like km/per road and value	
Public Administration Sector	○ Public Administration Sector percentage contribution to GDP	2022
	○ No of employees by Govt Ministries, Public Bodies by type	2024
	○ Align Government Sector scope to COFOG classification (GFS)	2023
Energy Sector	○ Energy Sector Division at the Ministry of Finance to work with the sector agencies to improve timeliness in reporting, ensuring that the policies are using timely and updated information.	2022
	○ SBS to incorporate energy sector data needs at the household level in census and surveys	2022
	○ Indicators of power consumption by customer type, and power generation by fuel type	2023
Environment	○ MNRE working in partnership with SBS, to identify sound and meaningful indicators for the environment, conduct a stocktake and implement collection of any additional information needs ○ Climate Change and DRM mainstreamed into Sector; ○ Improved climate change information and projections ○ Improved Climate Change Information and Projections.	2023

4.2.2 Improve access and use of statistics

Official statistics have no value if they are not used. For statistics to be used they need to be accessible in a usable format. Users also need to be able to find and understand statistics to make appropriate use of them.

The internet has made statistics far more accessible for those with access to computers and networks. However, for those who cannot use computers or data in machine readable formats, there remains a need to provide statistics via other user-friendly channels and in language that can be understood.

Many people consume statistics via mainstream media such as TV and newspapers and, increasingly, social media. Advance notice of publication, well written summaries of results, and informative graphics all assist in accurate media reporting that raises awareness and promotes wide use.

The release of statistics needs to be well managed to ensure equity in access. To service more sophisticated users of statistics there is a trend towards providing access to statistics via computer interfaces that allow automated and rapid transfer of data programmatically into a user's database.

The following priority actions to improve access and use of statistics are proposed:

STRATEGY	Priority Actions	Timing
Improve access and use of statistics	- SBS to publish on website an advance calendar of statistical releases for the next 12 months	2022
	- Promote the use of dashboards for ease of reference of particular users on the website	2022
	- Undertake awareness/outreach programmes to promote statistics through the media and other channels. This will include a campaign to promote understanding and use of statistics.	2023
	- Close interaction between producers and users is encouraged on a frequent basis.	2023
	- SBS In-house analysis capacity link to existing sector coordination functions	2022
	- Collaborate with SPC on dissemination of data via the proposed Pacific Data Hub	2022
	- Review and revise the format and form of SBS releases to improve ease of use and consistency	2025

4.3 Objective 2: Strengthen Samoa's Statistical Capacity

The strategies and actions under this objective are intended to address "strategic factors" that underpin the sustained performance of the statistics system and serve to strengthen Samoa's statistical capacity. The factors addressed by this strategy are as follows:

Strategic Factor	Description
Environment	The regulatory, institutional and governance arrangements that apply to the statistical system.
Statistical Infrastructure	The registers, frameworks, systems, and tools which support the operation of a statistical system. These help to organise the statistical system, improve efficiency, add value, create new outputs, and mitigate risks.
People	The people who apply their skills and knowledge to the functioning of the statistical system and the use of official statistics.
Physical Infrastructure	The buildings and other physical assets, including computer hardware, used by the statistical system.

4.3.1 Environment

The statistics system requires the appropriate "environment" in the form of regulatory, institutional, and governance frameworks. The statistical system must meet international standards and demonstrate best practice to ensure its credibility and provide information to the standard needed by users. It must also be well coordinated to promote efficiency and minimise burden on information providers.

Central to Samoa's statistics system environment is the Statistics Act 2015. This legislation prescribes aspects of the institutional and governance arrangements. Key features include:

- Establishment of the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and definition of its powers and functions as the "the principal authority in Samoa for the collection, analysis, and publication of official statistics".
- The functions, powers, and independence of the Government Statistician.
- The authority of the Minister responsible for the Samoa Bureau of Statistics.
- The establishment and functions of a Statistics Advisory Board.
- Limits to disclosure of information to ensure confidentiality of individual providers.

Overall, the statistics environment in Samoa could be described as supportive of a functional statistical system that is aligned with the UN's Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. However, there is scope for improvement.

The Statistics Advisory Board, an important component of the governance arrangements, has recently been approved. As per the Statistics Act, the function of the board is to advise the Minister and Government Statistician with regard to the following:

a. the improvement, extension, co-ordination and harmonisation or statistical activities;
b. any gaps of deficiencies in providing statistical services
c. the actual and perceived integrity of, and public confidence and trust in, statistics;
d. the priorities and programmes of work to be adopted by the Bureau;
e. the promotion of an environment which is supportive of the collection, production, dissemination and use of statistics;
f. the maintenance of confidentiality and security of individual information;

g. the maintenance of independence, accuracy, relevance, integrity, timeliness, and professional standards of statistical information.

Although the Advisory Board has no authority beyond the provision of advice, an effective Board will enhance the evaluation and monitoring system and promote cross agency engagement in the statistical system, at a time when the linkages between those producing official statistics and those involved in their analysis and interpretation need to become closer. No statistics system can meet all the needs of all users – prioritisation is required - and a diverse and well-informed Advisory Board should play a key role in assessing priorities. The Advisory Board can also be expected to provide support and guidance for the implementation of this Samoa Statistics Strategy.

The Statistics Act 2015 provides authority to undertake censuses and surveys but does not provide clear authority to access administrative data held by government for statistical purposes. Administrative sources are increasingly used whenever possible and cost-effective to avoid duplicating requests for information and reduce reliance on direct surveys or traditional sources.

Strengthening access to data, including enhanced data sharing across the national statistical system, and thereby their ability to more efficiently respond to emerging data and statistical needs; is a key objective of the ESCAP – Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CT GAP) and the "Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical Community"

The linkage of survey data with administrative data can also reduce respondent burden and increase the analytical value of official statistics. Furthermore, it would be very beneficial for the SBS to have some legislated authority to influence, in cooperation with owners of administrative records, the design and quality of administrative data collections to promote their fitness for statistical purposes.

Despite the absence of legal authority to access administrative data, SBS has been able to leverage healthy working relationship with several agencies to secure access to data and, in many cases, has formalised such arrangements through MOUs. For example, the use of tax records and other administrative sources has enabled the scope and frequency of the national accounts of Samoa to be well-developed. Achieving the same integration with administrative data from social sector departments is likely to be a more difficult pathway that will be more easily travelled with clear legal authority for access.

While partnership and cooperation should be a feature of future arrangements, a clear legal mandate would serve to reduce SBS effort and remove uncertainty around access to administrative sources in the future.

A review of the Statistics Act should also consider the need for other changes, including authority to match and link data, security requirements that would promote trust in integrity and confidentiality of statistics, and access arrangement that might apply to microdata.

The following priority actions to improve the "Statistics Environment" are proposed:

STRATEGY	PRIORITY ACTIONS	TIMING
Create the regulatory, institutional and governance framework that supports a high -quality statistical system	- Establish the Statistics Advisory Board to undertake the functions assigned to under the Statistics Act 2015 that will promote the effective monitoring, coordination and leadership of the overall statistical system	2022
	- Define and deliver a program of annual reviews to inform the Statistics Advisory Board. Topic candidates include: admin data quality & access, data integration and linkage, statistical infrastructure, compliance with standards, timeliness, provider burden	2023
	- Review & revise Statistics Act 2015 to ensure that SBS can access administrative data, and can match and integrate data for statistical purpose	2023
Establish leadership of the overall statistical system and promote standards and best practice	- Undertake a self-assessment on the implementation of the OECD Council Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice and share the result with the Statistics Advisory Board	2024
	- Continue international engagement and providing statistical leadership in the Pacific	2022

4.3.2 Statistical Infrastructure

Production of official statistics involves complex processes that constantly evolve in response to changing user needs and opportunities afforded by advances in methods and technology.

Statistical Infrastructure encompasses the tools, frameworks, systems and methods required to ensure the accuracy, reliability, usefulness, relevance, and accessibility of the statistics produced. It includes:

- Frames and registers, (e.g. Business Register, Household frame, BDM Register)
- Frameworks (e.g. System of National Accounts 2008, SEEA framework 2012).
- Standards and classifications (e.g. ISIC Rev 4, ISCO 2008, COICOP, SITC, ISAC).
- Analytical tools and systems that are critical to the collection and dissemination of statistical information (e.g. CSPro, STATA, SPSS, SDMX)

SBS has established a base of statistical infrastructure that provides for efficient production of statistics that conform to international standards. However, there is always scope to improve systems and methods and without continuous investment risks of failure and obsolescence will increase.

Maintaining a comprehensive suite of statistical infrastructure is a costly exercise. The largely centralised arrangement of Samoa's statistical system serves to reduce duplication of expensive infrastructure but there will be opportunities to share infrastructure with benefits in the form of reduced cost, improved quality and reduced risk. Shared systems (such as classification coding systems) can promote compliance with standards and portability of skills but the governance and funding of systems that are shared across agencies can pose some challenges.

The Asia-Pacific statistical community, in its collective vision and framework for action endorsed in 2017, has considered **integrated statistics for integrated analysis** as one of the five action areas for transformation in trying to meet the unprecedented demand for demand for statistics. The Objective 1 of the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy[4] aims to ensure that PICTs have technical capacity and statistical capability to manage and implement core statistical collections, including greater utilization and integration of key administrative databases.

Well established frames like the Household list, business register and a well inform digital GPS address is key to this development. It provides a backbone for data integration using census and survey data integrated with administrative information collected under other Government agencies jurisdiction.

The proposed National Digital Identity System, and a fully digitised system for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), will provide foundations for the development of a population register which could become a primary authoritative source of reliable information on population in Samoa. A population register could then potentially enable Samoa to join the growing ranks of countries that carry out a "combined census" whereby some information is taken from the population registers, while other information is collected through the usual census field operations. A realistic objective would be for Samoa to be in a position to do this in within 10 years– for the 2031 Census. For this to become a reality, work needs to start now with development of infrastructure and capabilities and pilot projects that demonstrate the value to the government and the community.

The following priority actions to improve "Statistical Infrastructure" are proposed:

STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE		
STRATEGY	PRIORITYACTIONS	Timing
Develop "shared statistical infrastructure" – systems and tools used by multiple National Statistical Service agencies to promote quality and efficiency	- Identify opportunities and the business case for sharing of statistical infrastructure across NSS agencies	2023
	- Share knowledge and embrace emerging tools and alternative data sources cash registers, population registers as well as new technologies & statistical processes across the statistical system - PSMB, IAEG	2024
	- Agree with stakeholders on governance arrangements, cost sharing and undertake a pilot project	2024
Identify and address key gaps and exploit opportunities for improvements in systems and methods	- Identify priority areas for upgrade of systems, processes, tools and methods across NSS agencies.	2023
	- Develop and implement an upgrade plan	2022
	- Use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) should be expanded.	2022
	- Storage and access arrangements for administrative and statistical data should also be reviewed.	2023
	- Analytical tools should be improved and used more widely.	2023
SBS to acquire and integrate administrative data to establish new statistical registers and produce new statistical outputs	- Develop a case for use of registers/admin databases for statistical purposes that articulates benefits and costs for improved SBS access & authority to link, match & integrate data	2023
	- Undertake a pilot project of use of admin data to inform development of a plan for future exploitation	2023

[4] Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) https://sdd.spc.int/ten-year-pacific-statistics-strategy-typss

	of admin data. Test methods, quality assure and publish outputs	
	- Develop infrastructure in SBS for managing and using administrative data with facilities for transfer of data, linking, and analysis.	2025
	- Establish a Data Linkage unit in SBS with appropriate infrastructure to support "trusted third party" linkage protocols to ensure that there is a separation of functions between the linking of identifiers and the linking the data of interest.	2025
	- Upgrade the CRVS to support implementation of the National Digital Identity System	2023
SBS to work with Administrative Data custodians to improve the quality & coverage of selected admin datasets so they are fit for statistical purposes	- Strengthen relationships with register/admin data owners and establish plans for data quality improvement and sharing	2023
Build public trust/support for the use of registers/admin data for statistical purposes	- Develop and implement a plan for public communication and consultation on integration and use of administrative data for statistical purposes	2023
Develop secure systems and protocols for data transfer, storage and analysis	- Develop secure IT systems for transfer, storage, integration and analysis or register/admin data	2025

4.3.3 ICT and Physical Infrastructure

Production and dissemination of official statistics is highly digitised. Reliable, robust, and secure Information and Communications Technology infrastructure (software and hardware) is required to underpin the performance of the statistical system. This infrastructure needs to be maintained, replaced, and upgraded to underpin performance of the SBS and mitigate risk of failure.

Market sensitive statistics, identifiable statistical data, and personal data need to be well protected from unauthorised access and misuse.

Appropriate office space and equipment for staff is required if staff are to work securely and effectively, and data providers have confidence in the confidentiality of their data. With significant increases in staff numbers, SBS office space has become very tight.

The following priority actions to improve "ICT and Physical Infrastructure" are proposed:

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE		
STRATEGY	PRIORITY ACTIONS	Timing
Actively manage the life cycle of ICT assets (hardware, operating systems, software tools, devices) to mitigate risk of failure or poor performance due to obsolescence	- Develop and implement a 5-year plan for replacement/upgrade of ICT assets. This should include a review of Data Centre arrangements.	2023
	- A separation of the Data processing and Data Analytics from the usual network ICT service is vital, ensuring that the specialised skill is in place	2024
	- Review Cyber Security posture of SBS and implement appropriate controls	2024
	- Seek alternative and cost-effective option to store microdata in the cloud, possibly through SDD	2023

	microdata library covered by data licence agreements to enable data access to users	
Improve office space and physical security	- Review office needs, align space with staff numbers review CP: OSH assessment	2022
	- Improve facilities for secure storage and destruction: onsite and offsite back up system	2022

4.3.4 People: Human resources

The people who work in the statistical system need to have the required skills, perform their duties in a manner consistent with Public Service values and be effectively organised, managed, and supported to deliver the services.

There is a clear need to strengthen "data skills" in the SBS especially with the introduction of new tools and processes in the collection, processing and analysing data. Specialised skill set is a must ensuring efficiency gains in meeting the needs of the users.

Developing an analytical capability across all Ministries is a whole of government priority.

The following priority actions to improve "Human Resources" are proposed:

HUMAN RESOURCES		
STRATEGY	PRIORITY ACTIONS	Timing
Enhance the capacity of NSS agencies to attract and retain people with data and analytical skills by establishing a "data profession" supported by SBS	- Work with the Samoa Public Service Commission to: o Streamline data graduate recruitment for the NSS o Ensure data expertise in recruitment o Enhance mobility in data roles	2023
	o Continue to create opportunities to bring users and producers of data together to share experiences and learnings.	2022
	- Undertake a needs assessment to determine priorities for training	2022
Increase training opportunities and ensure equal access to training -	- Establish a regular statistical capacity enhancement/refresher programme with regional and multilateral agencies e.g. SPC, UN-ESCAP SIAP, IMF-PFTAC to provide regular courses, and make them available to all appropriate staff	2022
	- Work with NUS, USP, regional organizations like SPC, to provide appropriate training on OS – including pathways for staff to gain formal and accredited qualifications	2023
	- Encourage on the job training and internal refresher workshops within statistical agencies led by the SBS, with set learning plans for staff.	- 2022
	- Work with the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Statistics New Zealand, to provide opportunities for staff secondment / working attachment on particular areas of greater need, especially with research development and information technology.	-

5 Resources

Financial resources for the Statistics Strategy are vital in ensuring the successful implementation of activities stipulated in the SSS 2022 – 2026. Whilst there are costs covered by other institutions in the statistical system, most of the resources are reflected in the table below, especially the cost to produce statistics under various domains with the breakdown by personnel, operating and other associated costs as well as major data collection undertakings planned for the next four years. The estimated cost also includes the cost of inflation and other adjustments as contingency budget.

Moreover, additional resources will be required beyond the expected budget allocations to the SBS, especially with costs related to initiatives under the Objective 2, which costs could not be identified now. Thus, support of donors and additional budget will be needed to fully realise the vision of the strategy.

Summary of Cost of Statistics Developments for the Statistics Strategy for Samoa 2022-2026

		Estimates						
Cost of Outputs	Trend Growth	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total Cost
Personnel Cost	3.0	2,866,987	3,212,942	3,244,110	3,269,373	3,351,107	3,434,885	13,299,475
Operating Expenses	10.2	1,122,329	1,236,127	1,496,130	1,600,859	1,712,919	1,798,565	6,608,474
Other Expenses	4.4	519,499	518,623	525,623	562,417	601,789	631,875	2,321,700
Sub-total	5.1	4,508,815	4,967,692	5,265,863	5,432,649	5,665,812	5,865,325	22,229,649
Census and Survey Operational Cost								
Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2023		0	0	2,365,976	2,161,489	275,272	0	4,802,737
Population Census		441,835	1,000,000	130,840	0	472,763	1,070,000	1,673,603
Agriculture Survey/Census		527,625	0	0	0	564,559	120,750	685,309
Demographic Health Survey and Disability Survey		115,000	0	287,500	307,625	0	0	595,125
National ID Counterpart Costs Mass registration		0	0	500,000	125,000	0	0	625,000
Labour Force Survey		0	0	343,483	0	0	0	343,483
Sub-total	2.7	1,084,460	1,000,000	3,627,799	2,594,114	1,312,594	1,190,750	8,725,257
Total Cost	4.5	5,593,275	5,967,692	8,893,662	8,026,763	6,978,407	7,056,075	30,954,906

6 Monitoring

Progress in implementation of the Samoa Statistics Strategy should be monitored. A report of progress should be compiled annually for consideration by the Statistics Advisory Board.

7 Appendices

7.1 Appendix A - Stakeholders consulted in the development of this plan

Sector	Name	Organization	Designation
Finance	Annie Leitupo	Audit Office	Principal Officer
	Seve Benjamin Pereira	CBS	Assistant Governor
	Lanna Lome Ieremia	CBS	Manager
	Magele Karras Lui	CBS	Manager
	Tua Toomata	CBS	Senior Analyst
	Elizabeth Tinei	CBS	Analyst FSD
	Jeannie. C	MCR	Principal BA
	Lilomaiava Samuel Ieremia	MOF	ACEO
	Moana Leiataua	MPE	ACEO MBMD
	Julie Elisara	MPE	Senior PA
	Michael Wulf	PE	ACEO
	Akenese Fepuleai Lee	Samoa Housing	Manager Corporate
	Ruth Penaia	SCB	Senior Manager
	Epenesa Laban	SIFA	Principal Compliance
	James Ah Wai	UTOS	Manager IT
Agriculture	Fata Philip	FAO	AFAOR
	Taua L Lome	Livestock Associattion	President
	Ramona Sulu	MAF	ACEO
	Chris Sinclair	MAF	ASCD
	Rosa Vaeluaga	MAF	ASCD
	Keyonce Lee Hang	MAF	Principal Officer
	Alice Seuseu	MAF	SPO
	Donna Aiulu	MAF	PRDO
	Rosa Viavia	MAF	Stats Officer
	Sesilia Talatonu	MAF	Admin
	Tai	MAF	ACEO
	Maria Leota	SAME	CEO
	Tupai Albert	SASCO	Store Manager
	Salamasina Onesemo	WIBDI	Finance Manager
Trade, Commerce & Manufacturing	Elizabeth Tinei	CBS	Analyst
	Tiatia Romulus Ropati	KVA Consultant	Project Officer
	Brent Adams	Samoa Breweries	GM
	Julius Tafunai	Samoa Breweries	FIN
	John Hunt	Samoa Paint	Unit Manager
	Sene Neva	SBH	Manager FSSD
	Sanele Tualalelei	SBH	Principal Officer
	Salamasina Onesemo	WIBDI	Finance Manager
Community Sector	Cassandra Teo	ADRA	HR Manager
	Dr Agabe Papalii	ADRA	Programmer
	Aveolela Burgess	CSSP	M&E Coordinator
	Christina T	CSSP	PO
	Josephine Afuamua	MOH	ACEO M&E
	Christina Ulberg	MOH	PO
	Taofi Esera	MPPC	Principal Policy
	Tusiga Lui Tusiga	MPPC	Statistics Officer
	Fune Fuatai	SIOD	CEO
	Isabel Tuatagaloa	SPBD	Head of Operation
	Fuimaono Ofoia	SUNGO	CEO

Communication	Fuga Toleafoa	CSL	ISP
	Ray Mala	CSL	ISP
	Tavita	LTS	GM
	Susana Stowers	MCIT	ACEO
	Suetena Loia	MCIT	ACEO
	Faumuina Margaret	MCIT	ACEO
	Letoa Faasino	MCIT	ACEO
	Apaula Simi	MPMC	ACEO
	Vanessa Pelenato	OOTR	ACEO
	Venus Iosefa	OOTR	ACEO
	Peti Farani	OOTR	Principal Officer
	Sam Saili	SkyEye	CEO
	Jonathan Porter	Vodafone	
	Tupe N Tafale	Vodafone	Head HR
Education	Isamaeli Time	APTC	Partnership Coordintor
	Richie Fido	Archiodese of Samoa	
	Sulamai Malo	MESC	Principal Officer
	Tupailelei Kitiona Tugaga	SQA	Principal Officer
	Tootooolevao Aiono	USP	CD
	Seulgee Samuelu	USP	SAS Coordinator
	Vernon Makenzie	USP	Coordinator
	Ronna Lee	USP	SWO
Energy	Vavaemuitiiti Fepuleai	EPC	Supervisor Planning
	Elisaia Jr Kolia	LTA	Contract Engineer
	Livingstone Lameko	LTA	Engineer
	Toiata Uili	MNRE	Coordinator
	Heremoni K Suapaia	MOF	ACEO EPCMD
	Lilian Penaia	MOF	Principal Energy
	Tausulu Reupena	SBS	Senior Officer
	Faafetai Kolose	SROS	Principal Energy
	Jacquline Mariner	STEC	Senior Rep
Health	Josephine Afuamua	MOH	ACEO M&E
	Kalala Toia	MOH	Senior Officer
	Sisiliatupou Eteuati	MOH	Health Planner
	Akeripa Misa	MWCSD	Policy Analyst
	Gene Faiga	SFHA	Program Officer
Law and Justice	Steffany Meredith	AGO	Principal Legislative
	Jasmine Faleafaga	AGO	Principal Legal
	Ami	GCA	Manager
	Afoa Francis	GCA	Manager
	Amia Mauigoa	LJS	Principal Officer
	Esther Shuster	MJCA	Acting Coordinator
	Siaopo Pese	MPMC	ACEO
	Taofi Esera	MPPC	Principal Policy
	Solomona Aimaasu	MPPC	Senior Sergeant
	Tusiga Lui Tusiga	MPPC	Statistics Officer
	Akeripa Misa	MWCSD	Analyst
	Charles Dean	Ombudsman	Legal Officer
	Tovale Filipo	SLRC	Senior Legal
	Tapuala SV	SLRC	Executive Officer
Public Administration	Annie Leitupo	Audit Office	Principal Auditor
	Saufua Maiava	MOF	Snr Sector Planning
	Agafili Shem Leo	MPMC	CEO
	Sovele A	MPMC	DCEO
	Jennifer Key	MPMC	ACEO
	Akeripa Misa	MWCSD	Analyst
	Osana Liki	PSC	ACEO

	Tracey Warren	PSC	Principal PAS
	Elisapeta Valeli	PSC	Principal
	Theresa Fitisone	PSC	Principal Officer
	Naomi Harris	PSC	Principal Officer
	Faafetai Vaevae	PSC	HR & Planning
Transport	Karen Gatt	Air NZ	Manager
	Mathew Wendt	LTA	Manager
	Elisaia Jr Kolia	LTA	Contract Engineer
	Livingstone Lameko	LTA	Engineer
	Tauiliili Maualaivao	MWTI	ACEO
	Aleta Tafua	MWTI	Principal M&E
	Fiu M Tausisi	SAA	PCO
	Siolo S T	SAA	Senior Officer
	Toleafoa Samia	SAA	Stats Commercial
	Amerihana Mulitalo	Samoa Airway	Analyst
	Sooalo K Sooalo	SPA	CEO
	Peter Lokeni	SPA	AGM
	Tafesilafai Filipo	SSS	ACEO
Tourism	Aiulu Tolovaa	CBS	Assistant Manager
	Charlotte Brunt	SHA	Vice President
	Rosalina S	SHA	Manager
	Dulcie W.S	STA	TSC
	Heseti Ulia	STA	
	Warmer T	STA	
	Kitiona	STA	
Water & Sanitation Sector	Clarissa Laulala	IWSA	
	Ruth Ueselani	MNRE	Sector Coordinator
	Mafa Mulitalo	MNRE	Principal Officer
	Perise Kerslake	MNRE	PO
	Tili A	MWTI	ACEO
	Namulauulu Tavita	PAS	President
	Mose Topeto	SBS	PO
	Misiafa Pese	SWA	AM Engineer
Samoa Bureau of Statistics	Aliimuamua Malaefono T Faasalaina	SBS	GS
	Papalii Benjamin Sila	SBS	ACEO
	Fiu Ponifasio Vasa	SBS	ACEO
	Loto Atoa	SBS	Senior Registry Officer
	Kaisarina Moananu	SBS	Principal Statistician
	Anamarie Sanele	SBS	Senior Registry Officer
Task Force	Leota Aliielua Salani	SBS	ACEO - Chairman
	Vaasiliena Ailepata Simanu	SBS	ACEO
	Taala Lilianetelani Leleimalefaga	SBS	ACEO
	Tupai Silapela	SBS	Assistant Registrar
	Alaiula Abute Ioasa	SBS	Principal Statistician
	Honolani Matamu	SBS	Principal Statistician
	Pai Sakuma	SBS	Principal Officer
	Siala Lova	SBS	Principal IT Officer
	Victoria Tuivaiti	SBS	Senior Accounts Officer
	Suameli Chan Boon	SBS	Principal Statistician
	Faigalotu Taamilosaga	SBS	Senior Statistician
	Oloapu Tanielu Isara	SBS	Principal Statistician

7.2 Appendix B - Terms of Reference and Membership of the Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Steering Committee for the Development of the Samoa Statistics Strategy (SSS)

2022-2026

Background

In 2011 the Hon Prime Minister of Samoa released the *Samoa National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2011-2021,* a key document to lay the foundation for the development of statistics across the whole system of statistics in Samoa.

As the life of Samoa's NSDS 2011-2021 draws to a close, it is timely to review and evaluate Samoa's national statistical system, and develop a contemporary strategy. The new NSDS will be framed against the current political, economic and social environment, taking into consideration new statistical practices and approaches, enhanced technologies, and policy and legislative shifts.

The NSDS will be informed by key stakeholders and aligned to relevant national policies. Stakeholder consultations will ensure the strategy reflects the entire national statistical system and help determine priority strategic directions for Samoa's future statistical development.

NSDS 2021-2026 will document existing national technical and institutional capacities regarding data collection; unmet data needs; data availability and access; data analysis and dissemination - with a view to supporting evidence-based policy making and contributing to the achievement of national and international development goals.

Purpose

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to ensure that representative, high level and strategic input/guidance is provided during the development of Samoa's new Five Year National Statistical Development Strategy. This will help ensure the strategy accurately reflects key priorities of Samoa's Statistical System.

Role of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee for the NSDS will:

- provide guidance on the process for development of the Samoa Statistics Strategy 2021 - 2026.
- Provide suggestions for the new NSDS
- Review the draft SSS
- Encourage participation in the SSS development process

Duration

The Steering Committee will operate over the period January 2021 until submission of the SSS to cabinet.

Membership

Membership of the Steering Committee consist of the Chair (The Government Statistician) and senior staff at the DCEO/ACEO level from both Government agencies and private sector organisations so as to ensure diversity of views. Following is the list of the organisations;

1. Samoa Bureau of Statistics (Chair)
2. National University of Samoa
3. Chamber of Commerce
4. Central Bank of Samoa
5. Ministry of Finance
6. Public Service Commission
7. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
8. Ministry of Health
9. Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture
10. Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
11. Ministry for Revenue
12. NOLA – Nuanua o le Alofa (Disability Community)
13. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

7.3 Appendix C – SSDS21 Achievements: Improve Statistical Outputs

The Core Program is comprised of the major collections that make up the core of the statistical system include regular monthly, quarterly and annual data collections and a cycle of major surveys and censuses.

Delivery of the results of these major surveys, and associated analysis, in a timely and accessible way is essential to the credibility of the statistical system. Prior to SSDS21 this was not always achieved and many of the actions proposed in SSDS21 to improve the statistical infrastructure were intended to help improve these major collections and to ensure they are integrated both with administrative data and with each other to maximise efficient use of all information.

A key achievement of SSDS21 has been the delivery of more than 80% of the "Core Program".

Core Program delivery

Planned years	Collection	Delivery
2011, 2016, 2021	Census of Population and Housing (PHC)	Conducted the PHC 2011 and 2016 and the reports are available on the website. The 2021 PHC will be conducted in November 2021.
2012, 2014, 2016, 2019	Tourism Expenditure Survey (TES)	TES was conducted for all these years and conducted with Samoa Tourism Authority in 2014 TES 2019 was conducted by Samoa Tourism Authority
2012	Census of Livestock	Conducted in 2012 in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and the report is available on the website.
2013, 2018	Household Expenditure Survey (HEIS)	Conducted in 2013/2014 and 2018. The tabulation report as well as the Hardship / Poverty report for HIES 2013/2014 is available on the website. The tabulation report for HIES 2018 is available on the website. The Hardship / Poverty report for the HIES 2018 is awaiting Cabinet endorsement.
2013, 2016, 2019	Business Activity Survey (BAS)	Conducted the BAS in 2013 and the results were used for the Gross Domestic Product rebasing in 2013. The BAS has not been conducted for 2016 and 2019 due to change of data sources for national accounts.
2014, 2019	Demographic Health Survey (DHS)	DHS was conducted in 2014 and integrated with the new survey named Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in 2019/2020. The 2014 report is available on the website. The 2019/2020 report is yet to be released.
2014, 2019	Agriculture Survey	Conducted the Agriculture Survey in 2015 and the report is available on the website. The Agriculture Census 2019/2020 was delayed due to the measles outbreak in late 2019. The report will be launched in the second half of 2021.
2015, 2020	Labour, Education and Skills Survey	Conducted the Labour Force Survey in 2012 and 2017, excluding education and skills survey and both reports are available on the website The Labour Force Survey conducted in 2012 excluded Education and Skills survey

In addition to delivery of the Core Program, SSDS21 identified a range of strategies and actions for the improvement of statistical outputs in each subject matter group. A summary of strategies and achievements is provided below.

Economic Statistics	
Subject	Achievements
Macro- economic Indicators – National Accounts, Fiscal Accounts, Balance of Payments	Refined and improved framework to ensure compliance with international standards and guidelines. Completed 2 rebasing for the years 2009 and 2013 with improvements in the methodology and data sources. Completed migration to Government Finance Statistics Manual (GFSM) 2001, and subsequently, to GFSM 2014. Adopted the BPM6 for the compilation of the Balance of Payments.
Prices	Improved the quality and coverage of price statistics, including extending coverage to Savaii and rural areas of Upolu in 2015.
Leading Indicators of Economic Performance	Formal employment quarterly report has been published on an ongoing basis since April 2016 with number of businesses by industry published on an annual basis since 2019 as part of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) report.
Merchandise Trade	Implementation of HS 2017 and creation of PC-Trade Green trade database.

Population, Demographic and Vital Statistics	
Subject	Achievements
Births, Deaths & Marriages	Progress has been made in the sharing of information (for example, weekly collection of forms for birth and registration forms.
Migration	Work with Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (MPMC) Immigration Division, Samoa Tourism Authority (STA), and all other stakeholders to Upgrade the arrival and departure cards Strengthen and improve efficiency of migration data processing, ensuring electronic access to systems as needed Coordination and cooperation across Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (MPMC), Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) and Samoa Bureau of Statistics strengthened. Access to data from the Border Management System has helped to speed up compilation and dissemination of results since 2010.
Population Statistics	Population census has been conducted on a 5 yearly basis is ongoing estimates published on a regular basis.

Social and Environment Statistics	
Subject	Achievements
Health	The Ministry of Health and National Health Services, working in partnership with Statistics Bureau of Samoa, to Ensure the most useful set of indicators is widely and easily accessible A lot of work has been done especially with the ongoing survey collection like the Demographic and Health Survey and other initiatives, but remains a challenge is the availability of administrative data from the Health Information system
Education	A Statistical Digest by the Ministry Education, Sports & Culture is published on an annual basis, which contain information on the enrolment and other related education information. Other information also being collected using the Population Census and the DHS-MICS 2019/2020. New SDG indicators collected from DHS-MICS 19/20

	A statistical bulletin by the Samoa Qualifications Authority is also published on an annual basis containing information on formal PESET (Post School Education and Training) such as PSET providers, enrolments, graduates and other relate PESET information
Labour Force	Next LFS in 2022 will be consistent with household data including a localise definition of unemployment and expansion / disaggregation of the informal sector. Compiled additional labour statistics to capture certain SDG indicators namely 5.4.1, 8.3.1, 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 Align with ISCO, ISCED and ISIC framework
Justice	The Ministries of Justice and Police, working in partnership with SBS and other stakeholders, to Ensure the most useful set of indicators is widely and easily accessible. Work in progress and have been discussed during the consultations for the collation and compilation of justice statistics in relation to SDG indicators such as indicators 16.3.1 and 16.3.2. Also, the possibility of conducting a first ever CVS (Crime Victimization Survey) in Samoa and the Pacific in the near future, led by UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime) DHS/MICS 2020.Data on harassment, domestic violence,
Environment	Work in partnership with MNRE, working in partnership with SBS, to identify sound and meaningful indicators for the environment, conduct a stocktake and implement collection of any additional information needs Enhanced engagement with MNRE (environment sector on data) Have rainfall data water intensity and water efficiency use, volume of wastewater treatment plant and electricity production by source. Also have first water accounts for Samoa and compiling first ever energy accounts for Samoa. Water accounts since 2016/2017 Energy accounts 2016 Waste account: in progress WASH survey 2014 Urban sanitation survey 2016 Pilot TSA 2019 Ocean accounts: in progress
Income	Four HIES have been completed about every 5 years since 2002 with HIES 2018 being the latest survey completed. These surveys continue to be a source of information on household income and expenditure and inform many indicators in various sector plans and SDG targets.

Sector Statistics	
Subject	Achievements
Agriculture/ Fishing	The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, working in partnership with SBS, to: Develop and expand use of both Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics to meet needs of sector plan. Regular agriculture surveys to be conducted 5 years after every agriculture census. Relationship with the MAF has been strengthened in statistics development as well as surveys. Data on Fisheries have also been shared and been part of the GDP input data for the fishing industry. Agriculture survey 2015 Census 2019/2020 Food Security Analysis 2018: Indicators from SDG 2.11,2.1.2 SBS is a member of Ag Sector Steering Committee
Tourism	STA working in partnership with SBS, to develop and use additional tourism information from upgraded arrival and departure cards A lot has been done in this development, with the need of having a Tourism GDP a huge demand this time. Occupancy Survey conducted by STA on monthly basis Update arrival and departure cards

7.4 Appendix D – SSDS21 Achievements: Strategic Factors and Environment

Statistics Environment	
Strategy	Achievements
Create regulatory and institutional framework that supports a high-quality statistical system	Updated legislation in the form of the Statistics Act 2015
Establish leadership of the overall statistical system and demonstrate and share statistical standards and best practices	SBS: - became a member of the National SDG Taskforce since 2016 and it is leading the coordination of official statistics from SBS and also linkages with national and sector statistics to monitor the SDG. - became a key member in the Sector Coordinators Forum since 2013 in which advice on statistical standards and best practices are shared to the Sector Coordinators. - established the national CRVS steering committee in 2019 - provides Secretariat for the National ID Steering Committee - Coordinate the establishment of the Pacific Group on Disability Statistics for the NSOs and OPDs in the Pacific region Samoa is currently a member of: - the UN Statistics Division Inter-Agency and Expert Group for SDG indicators - the Steering Group on Economic Statistics (ESCAP) - the Steering Group on Population & Social Statistics (ESCAP) - PSSC Pacific Statistical Committee - Regional Advisory Group on Drugs and Crime statistics

Coordination, Communication and Dissemination	
Strategy	Achievements
Develop the concept and set up a statistical clearing house to support the Statistics Advisory Board and drive the dissemination, coordination, and improvement in the standards of statistics across the statistical system.	The Communication Strategy has been established in 2018 for internal and external use by the staff We have yet to establish a clearing house because the Advisory Board has not been established to date Website for dissemination and access
Develop a communication approach to increase the availability and usefulness of statistics	We have established a Dissemination Strategy in 2014 to guide the protocols of dissemination of data to the users We have developed a thematic-maps for socio-economic ATLAS for the Population and Housing Census 2011 and 2016 and for Labour Force Survey 2017 to visualize statistical findings disaggregated by District boundaries using GIS. Staff skills were developed by in-house training. We've conducted the Infographic workshop with SPC In 2018 and the staff now have skills to help in report writing and data analysis

	A lot of work has been done on this area. Annual workshops are being conducted to disseminate economic statistics especially GDP and GFS. This also allows the stakeholders to comments on other areas as well submit their particular needs. Develop factsheets & snapshot report DHS MICs from DHS MICs 2019-20 Develop Disability Monograph, Gender and Youth Monograph from the Population and Housing Census 2016 report Website has been refined and improved over the period Samoan translations for monthly and quarterly reports such as CPI, GDP, GFS, Migration, Trade, Gender Monograph, Youth monograph, Disability Monograph. These have been made available on the websites with more work on it being work in progress
Develop and implement promotional and advocacy plans, working with the most informed users of statistics	This has been ongoing during the preparatory work for surveys and other activities The media has been active in commenting on the monthly and quarterly reports once they are released (Samoa Observer, TV2, Radio NZ, TV Upumana) PSC Circular & Day, Social Media, Lali, SMS (MADs) etc SBS has been using report writing workshops to engage all sectors and stakeholders especially with major surveys. Presentations have been conducted with particular sectors upon requests,
Review and redevelop dissemination processes to improve quality and timeliness	
Develop and implement a coordination plan	MOUs have been signed with other Ministries like MCR which covers everything from data sharing and the type of data shared as well as the personnel involved for security. In addition, informal discussions are also ongoing to review and refine the data that is being shared. A lot of this needs to be done.

Statistics Infrastructure	
Strategy	Achievements
Use technology to increase efficiency	Use of CAPI for data collection for multiple surveys and censuses.
Organise data so that it is easy to access and use effectively	Redatam Online Portal & Metadata online Portal Harmonisation as well as integration of statistical classification in some systems has been a success especially with the data from the MCR, MOF & the SNPF.
Ensure sound and effective methodologies	This is done at particular areas especially with survey operations, but needs to be improved. Integrated Business Information System (IBID) in place but needs to be refined and improved

Human Resource Management	
Strategy	Achievements
Restructure the bureau to fit the needs of the statistical system and the strategy, ensuring efficient and effective production of statistics now and into the future (including review of remuneration scales).	SBS since has expanded its structure.
Training needs analysis for SBS and review of skills base	We have a training database in place and access training needs of staff based on training needs in the Performance Appraisals
Develop and implement a capability development plan for SBS and the wider statistical service, to include recruitment processes, induction, training programmes and further education	We follow the Public Service recruitment HR policies
Provide coaching and implement human resources management policies, performance management system and manual for SBS	Follow PSC guidelines
Increase the capability of the Corporate Services Division to support the HR development programme and deliver strategic and Corporate Planning	HR staff participated in relevant trainings

Information Technology	
Strategy	Achievements
Review current systems, network, software, databases, backup processes and hardware to ensure the systems will support the needs of the statistical system	A lot of improvement in this area compared to 10 years ago such as: • SBS website was previously hosted by SPC and now under SBS via CSL • Upgrade network security (Fortinet) • Off-site backup now in place • Upgrade ISP bandwidth • Upgrade email to cloud hosting secure by google.
Develop a five-year strategy and procurement plan for Statistics IT	An IT strategy developed and being followed.

Physical Infrastructure	
Strategy	Achievements
Develop and implement a property strategy	
Develop a procurement plan for keeping all elements of assets and equipment up to date, including maintenance and planned replacement.	This is part of IT policy, but there was no procurement plan developed since. Procurement Plan 2012
Develop and implement records management, archiving and destruction policies for records, including statistical questionnaires	Records followed NARA(MESC) National Archives and Records Association guidelines and standards in place.