Report on visit to Secretariat of Pacific Community, Noumea

Ward Friesen, May 2010
Purpose of visit to SPC

• Collect references not available in University of Auckland library, especially unpublished reports, earlier data reports etc.
• Determine data sources available at SPC, as well as those used by SPC derived from other sources, especially in relation to population and health.
• Discuss tuberculosis and other health-related programme of SPC, and institutional linkages of SPC to other institutions working in the Pacific and globally.
• Establish linkages with those working within SPC in areas of demography, health and statistics.
SPC Headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia
Role and Structure

Tuesday, 23 February 2010 20:26

SPC is an intergovernmental organisation that provides technical and policy advice and assistance to its Pacific Island members. SPC was established as an international organisation in 1947 and has 26 member countries and territories.

Our vision for the region is a secure and prosperous Pacific Community, whose people are educated and healthy and manage their resources in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way.

Our mission is to help Pacific Island people position themselves effectively to respond to the challenges they face and make informed decisions about their future and the future they wish to leave for the generations that follow.

SPC services are provided primarily in the form of technical assistance, training and research. These services are available in both French and English, SPC’s two official languages.

The focus of SPC’s work changes over time in response to evolving regional needs and regional collaborative arrangements with other organisations. In 2010, the organisation has six divisions. In addition, SPC is home to the South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment.

The Economic Development Division pulls together the four key drivers of economic growth – transport, energy, infrastructure and communication. In 2010, the division includes the Regional Maritime Programme, the Energy Programme and the Regional ICT Programme, which is assisting the implementation of the Pacific Regional Digital Strategy. As resources become available, the division will expand to cover infrastructure issues.

The Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division includes the coastal fisheries and oceanic fisheries programmes, together with the project co-ordination unit of the Coral Reef InitiativeS for the Pacific (CRISP).

The Land Resources Division covers sustainable forestry and agriculture, genetic resources, plant health, crop production, animal health and production, and biosecurity and trade.

The Public Health Division assists members in developing healthier Pacific Island communities by providing assistance in public health surveillance, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases and promotion of adolescent reproductive health.

The Social Resources Division has four programmes. Its Human Development Programme works in the areas of culture, gender and youth and women’s issues and operates the Community Education Training Centre. The Statistics and Demography Programme assists national statistics and planning offices to develop their capacity.
What is PPHSN?

The Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) is a voluntary network of countries and organisations dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of 22 Pacific Island countries and territories.

The first priorities of PPHSN are communicable diseases, especially the outbreak-prone ones. At this stage the target diseases include dengue, measles, rubella, influenza, leptospirosis, typhoid fever, cholera, SARS and HIV/STIs.

> Read more about PPHSN...

PPHSN was created in 1996 under the joint auspices of SPC and WHO

Key information

Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1)

H1N1 Surveillance in the Pacific Island Region

Highlights

Inform’Action

Early releases of Inform’ACTION 32 are now available online. Topics covered include:

- Recrudescence of leptospirosis in French Polynesia
- In early 2010, assessment of NS1 antigen detection tests during DEN-4 epidemic in French Polynesia, open borders with no cases of Pandemic H1N1 2009 in Tuvalu, achievements and opportunities of the lab-based influenza surveillance project, moving ahead with influenza surveillance in the Pacific Islands, towards a standardised syndromic and event-based surveillance system for the Pacific Islands and 16th meeting of the PPHSN Coordinating Body.

Pacific Avian and Pandemic Influenza Taskforce (PAPITaF) to review the 2009 H1N1 experience

A three-day meeting of the PAPITaF will take place in Nadi, Fiji Islands, from Tuesday 25 to Thursday 27 May 2010 to examine the region’s responses to H1N1 and identify how pandemic preparedness and response plans can be improved. Read more...

PPHSN Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines – 2010

Prepared by SPC in collaboration with WHO and in consultation with Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) and other PPHSN partners

Published by SPC for PICTs with financial assistance from AusAID and NZAID (through Pacific Regional Influenza

Recent meetings

Directory of PPHSN Resources 2010 Edition

The directory highlights the wide range of resources and technical expertise available within the network.
TB contact tracing guidelines: TB Section website

Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be a public health issue of major significance around the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that globally in 2007 there were 8.27 million new cases of TB, of which 44% (or 4.1 million) were infectious.

TB is spread through the air from infectious patients to people in close proximity (i.e. contacts). After exposure to an infectious case, 1–2% of contacts will develop TB; one third will be infected with TB but won’t have TB disease and two thirds will remain uninfected. Of the one third who are infected, 5–10% will develop TB disease at some stage during their lifetime and some people are more likely to develop TB than others.

http://www.spc.int/tb/

Call for small grant applications to enhance TB related advocacy efforts in the Pacific.

Applications for the TB advocacy, communication and social mobilization small grants scheme are now being accepted.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 30 July 2010.

SPC welcomes applications from non government organizations to enhance TB related advocacy, communication and social mobilization efforts in selected Pacific Island countries and territories. We are pleased to announce that the TB advocacy, communication and social mobilization small grants scheme is being made available with funding support from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

AusAID TB Support in Kiribati

The Government of Australia recently provided SPC with funds for the Tuberculosis Epidemic Control Project in Kiribati. The project will be conducted over three years, and will have three major areas of focus:

1. Effectively addressing the TB epidemic crisis in Kiribati with emphasis on emerging issues of Multi drug resistance and TB/HIV co-infection
2. Maintaining a high treatment success rate above 50% among TB cases through provision of quality TB drugs and treatment management
3. Conducting relevant and appropriate operational research to better understand the disease dynamic within Kiribati and its impact on the community in order to develop more effective future intervention tools.

The project will have a big impact in Kiribati. Progress reports will regularly be posted on this website.
Some notes from Ward’s trip to Noumea

Discussions with TB section, SPC May 19, 2010
Janet O’Connor (head of TB section), Kerri Viney (TB System Specialist)

• Unit has four staff including Axel Wiegandt (TB Medical Officer) and Marie-Ange Roberts (Project Administrator)
• Established in 1998
• See SPC TB homepage

On syndemics:
• Not much work done so far, though evidence that
  – That coinfection (comorbidity?) of HIV and MDI increasing
  – Diabetes prolongs treatment for TB (beyond standard treatment of 6 months); Kiribati study to look at this
  – Relationship of smoking hasn’t been properly considered yet
Kiribati TB Epidemic Control Project

• To be undertaken by SPC and CDC (Centre for Disease Control) ;To begin in August and run for 3 years
• Primary funders AusAid (c. $2million) and Global Fund ($??)
• Objectives 1) address TB crisis especially in relation to multi-drug resistance and TB/HIV coinfection, 2) maintain high treatment success rate at 90%+, 3) further research to understand disease dynamic and impact on community
• Although HIV / TB coinfection seems to be predominant regional concern, they also said the Kiribati project would consider diabetes and smoking…. (though not evident on webpage)
• Janet and Kerri to train I-Kiribati to carry out ongoing study, and Greg Keeble to do database control
• For comorbidity study 5 hotspots (villages) identified; 5 nurses will go house to house to house to survey on crowding, (in-house?) cooking, condition of house, smoking habits etc. >>> data will be correlated with Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)
**Institutional linkages**

- SPC works closely with WHO including implementing WHO's DOT (directly observed treatment) strategy; it seems that much of the Pacific practice derives from WHO protocols.
- Also work with the CDC (Center for Disease Control, Atlanta) liaising with CDC office in Hawai’i (currently no staff?!)  
- Support from Global Fund (to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria) has allowed merging of strategies between organisations.
- Also some work with/coordination with NGOs: Australian Respiratory Council (ARC) e.g. for nurse training, advocacy, and Wan Smolbag Theatre in Vanuatu e.g. awareness raising...
- Critical to operationalising work in each country is coordination etc. with Ministries of Health.
Wan Smolbag Theatre

VANUATU: Wan Smolbag Theatre is going from strength to strength. From a small group of voluntary actors in 1989, it's now arguably the Pacific's premier drama company. The group generally produces plays about social and environmental issues which are important to Vanuatu. With nearly half the country's population under the age of 29, young people dominate the audience. Most are poor, uneducated and live in the squatter settlements around the capital, Port Vila. Chances of employment are slim in a society where few job opportunities exist, particularly for unskilled workers. Jo Dorras, scriptwriter for Wan Smalbag Theatre
Young people who feel they have unpromising prospects in life are at greater risk of unsafe behaviours that thrive in poverty, such as HIV, substance and physical abuse, and teenage pregnancy.

Data

• Before 1998, nearly all TB-related data collected/collated by WHO...most detailed data originated from individual country statistical agencies and publications (e.g. see Debi’s and Setapu’s data appendices for Cook Islands and Tuvalu)

• TB section depends on data expertise of SPCs Population and Demography Section and other statistics experts within SPC (e.g. Greg Keeble below)

• No secret archive of data not already in print or available through WHO and SPC online services; historical publications in UofA library and SPC library (see list of publications at SPC not found at UofA)
Discussion with Greg Keeble: Monitoring, Evaluation and Surveillance Officer, Healthy Pacific Lifestyle Section, Public Health Division, SPC, May 21, 2010

- Primary statistician in charge of collecting data on non-communicable diseases, but more general statistics as well.
- Contributes Pacific data to WHOs Country Health Information Profiles (CHIPS) see www.wpro.who.int
- Will be working with TB team on Kiribati project
- STEPS (Stepwise Approach to Surveillance of Noncommunicable Diseases) promoted by WHO “to collect quality information for public health planning”; Cooks Islands STEPS soon to be published, Tuvalu survey just conducted. Reports available for Kiribati, Am Samoa, Tokelau, Fiji, Micronesia, Nauru.

Discussions with Gerald Haberkorn, Chief Demographer, SPC

- Broader ranging discussion on issues of population change, data collection etc.
- Possibilities of stronger linkages between SPC and University of Auckland e.g. potential for graduate student secondment, data support etc.
- The wonders of PRISM
TAGAYTAY CITY, Philippines, 26 July 2010—The World Health Organization (WHO) today warned that the Western Pacific Region's gains in tuberculosis control over the last decade would be lost unless multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant TB, as well as TB-HIV co-infection, are urgently addressed. While there has been significant progress towards the regional goal of decreasing by half TB prevalence and mortality rates compared with 2000 levels, WHO said these successes may be reversed unless gaps in financial and technical support are put in place to effectively address these challenges.
Country health information profiles (CHIPS) were first published in 1974 by the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific. The first CHIPS were primarily designed to provide an update on health indicators for briefing others, writing reports, displaying in talks, and verifying statistical data. CHIPS then became a resource tool used by other United Nations agencies, international organizations, government agencies and the general public.

The 2009 edition of CHIPS comprises the country profiles and the health databanks for each country and area of the WHO Western Pacific Region. It contains crude data that are supplied either by the health ministries/departments or compiled from national databases and reference libraries. Estimates and adjusted data from various published sources are also used. Every effort is made to update the figures and analyses in CHIPS annually in response to ever-growing demands for current data and information. Clearance by the respective governments is also sought prior to publication. However, data reliability and data coverage may vary from indicator and from country to country.

[full text of version above]

Western Pacific Region

- American Samoa
- Australia
- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- China
- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Hong Kong (China)
- Japan
- Kiribati
- Korea, Republic of
- Lao People’s Democratic Republic
- Macao (China)

Nauru
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Niue
Northern Mariana Islands, Commonwealth
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Pitcairn Islands
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Tokelau
Tonga
Tuvalu

WPPO Country Focus Portal

- Statistical tables
  - 2009
  - 2008
  - 2007
  - 2006
  - 2005

- Statistical charts
  - 2009
  - 2008
  - 2007
  - 2006
  - 2005

To view selected health data in charts, maps and tables by country and year, access our Health Indicators database.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>DATA</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Area (1000 km²)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Estimated population ('000s)</td>
<td>9.73</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Annual population growth rate (%)</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Percentage of population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 0–4 years</td>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 5–14 years</td>
<td>21.30</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 65 years and above</td>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Urban population (%)</td>
<td>49.00</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Crude birth rate (per 1000 population)</td>
<td>21.80</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Crude death rate (per 1000 population)</td>
<td>9.60</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Rate of natural increase of population (% per annum)</td>
<td>1.23&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Life expectancy (years)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- at birth</td>
<td>63.60</td>
<td>1997-2002</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Healthy Life Expectancy (HALE) at age 60</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Total fertility rate (women aged 15–49 years)</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Socioeconomic indicators</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Per capita GDP at current market prices (US$)</td>
<td>1139.32</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Rate of growth of per capita GDP (%)</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Human development index</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to PRISM

PRISM is an information portal for the Pacific Islands region, collating publications, reports and statistics from 22 countries and territories, and presenting a comprehensive range of indicators through regional data tables.

Building on the success of the previous 8 years, we are embarking on a website development plan focussing on data quality, data accessibility and data visualization.

Please browse the latest releases from the National Statistics Offices below or bring up the regional tables through the categories in the above menu.

Please contact us on prism@spc.int

Latest releases from National Statistics Offices

- **Marshall Islands**: A revised version of the 1998-2008 RMI MDG Report is now available via PRISM.

- **Vanuatu**: There are a number of new reports and publications (CPI, Trade, Forward Work Programme) available on the 'new look' Vanuatu NSO website.

- **FSM**: The Economic Review for Fiscal Year 2008 (published August 2009) is now available for download.

- **New Caledonia**: The New Caledonia HIES 2008 report has been divided into 5 small publications (4 pages each). The first one is translated into English and is available on NCNSO (BESR) website, and here on PRISM.

- **Nauru**: The CPI for the closing month of the calendar year 2009 is reported at 101.37 which shows that the index has slightly decreased by 1.15 percent from the previous month of November 2009.

- **Cook Islands**: The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for December quarter 2009 was 118.7, up by 4.3% over December quarter 2008 PLUS the 2009 MDG Report is now available for download.

- **Marshall Islands**: The Mejuro CPI dropped .3% from the 2nd to 3rd Quarter. So far in 2009 consumer prices have been very stable compared to 2008.

- **Samoa**: All Groups Consumer Price Index (CPI) down by 1.6% during the month of August compared to the previous month.

- **Fiji**: The All Item Consumer Price Index (CPI) for month September, 2009 increased 0.6 % over previous month

- **Wallis and Futuna**: Building Price Index (BPI) registered a monthly increase of 0.1% during the month of June 2009
From SPC “Development Indicators” database: assessing progress towards achieving MDG Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji Islands</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federated States of Micrones</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>270 - 330</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokelau</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Click to edit Master text styles
- Second level
- Third level
- Fourth level
- Fifth level
From SPC “Development Indicators” database: assessing progress towards achieving MDG Goals

### MDG Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>(2001)</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>(1997)</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji islands</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>49.0</td>
<td>(2001)</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>(1997)</td>
<td>85.5</td>
<td>71.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federated States of Micronesia</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>(2001)</td>
<td>95.0</td>
<td>(1999)</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>98.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>(2001)</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>(1998)</td>
<td>90.7</td>
<td>93.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>(2001)</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>(1998)</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td>88.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td></td>
<td>117.0</td>
<td>(1998)</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>(1997)</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>(2001)</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>(1997)</td>
<td>62.8</td>
<td>53.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>(2001)</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>(1998)</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>93.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>(2001)</td>
<td>82.9</td>
<td>(1997)</td>
<td>92.4</td>
<td>85.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokelau</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>74.0</td>
<td>98.0</td>
<td>(2001)</td>
<td>81.8</td>
<td>(1997)</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>73.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>(2001)</td>
<td>89.4</td>
<td>(1997)</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>77.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>