

2018 Pacific Update
Panel 4A: Data for development
Suva, July 5-6, 2018

Statistics for Development in Pacific Island Countries: State-of-the-art, Challenges and Opportunities

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This paper

- Rationale:

- Statistics for development – quality data are essential for all stages of evidence-based decision-making
- In PICs small scale, geographic dispersion and low public sector investment constrain statistical capacity development and undermine the evidence base for policy making

- Objectives:

- Stocktake of population and development data in SIDS
- Identify priority actions that could be pursued to enhance the development of SIDS demographic data systems

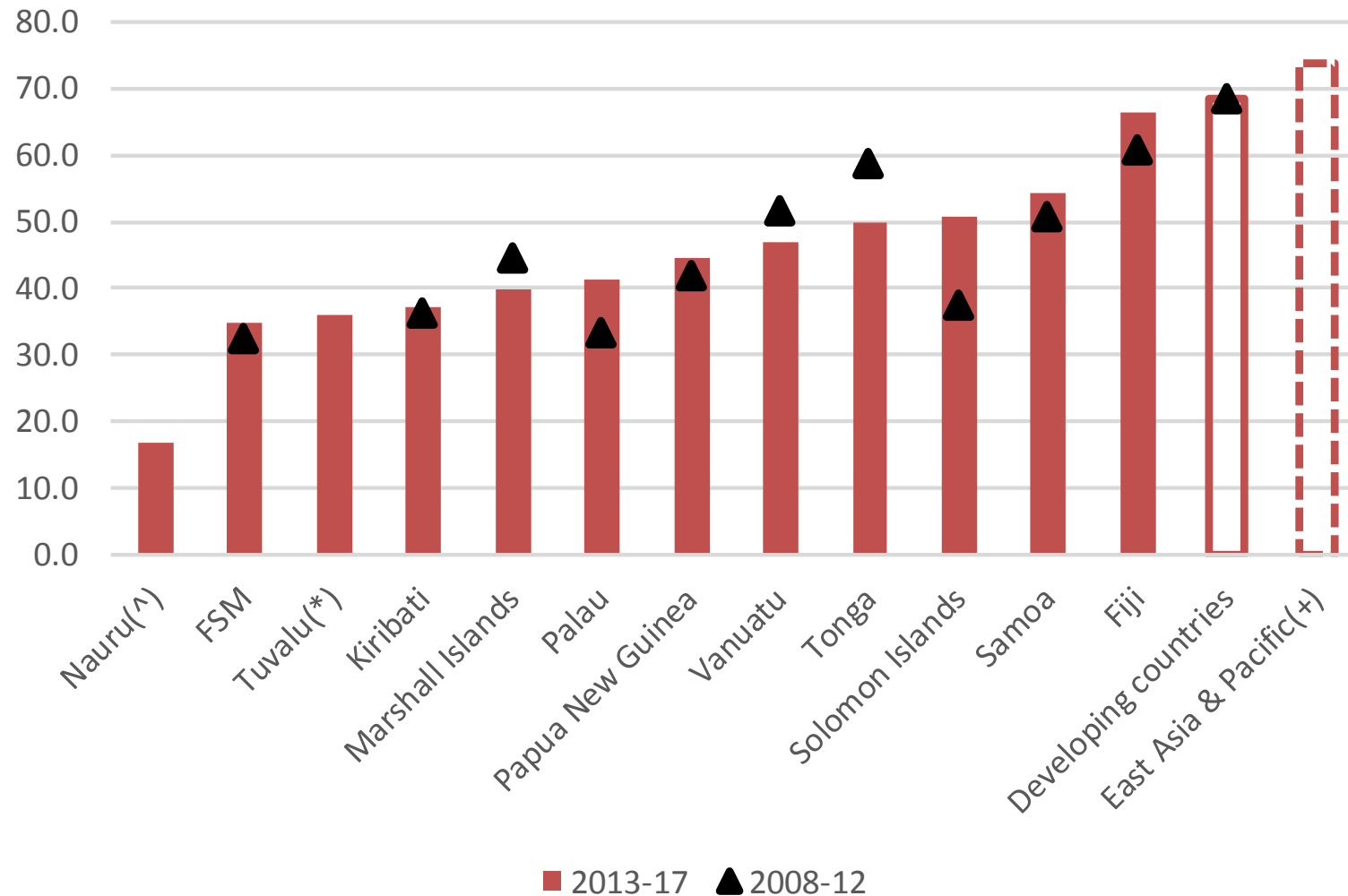
- Approach:

- Analysis of statistical capacity indicators
- Review of data collections and dissemination strategies
- First hand information gathered through conversations with members of the statistical community and participation in regional coordination platforms

The World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicator

- Composite indicator assessing the capacity of a country's statistical system
- Based on a diagnostic framework assessing 3 areas: methodology; data sources; and periodicity and timeliness.
- Countries are scored against 25 criteria - e.g. whether they have recent censuses, health surveys, poverty data, CPIs, Govt expenditure data etc.
- The overall Statistical Capacity score is calculated as simple average of all three area scores on a scale of 0-100.

Overall Statistical Capacity Score in PICs

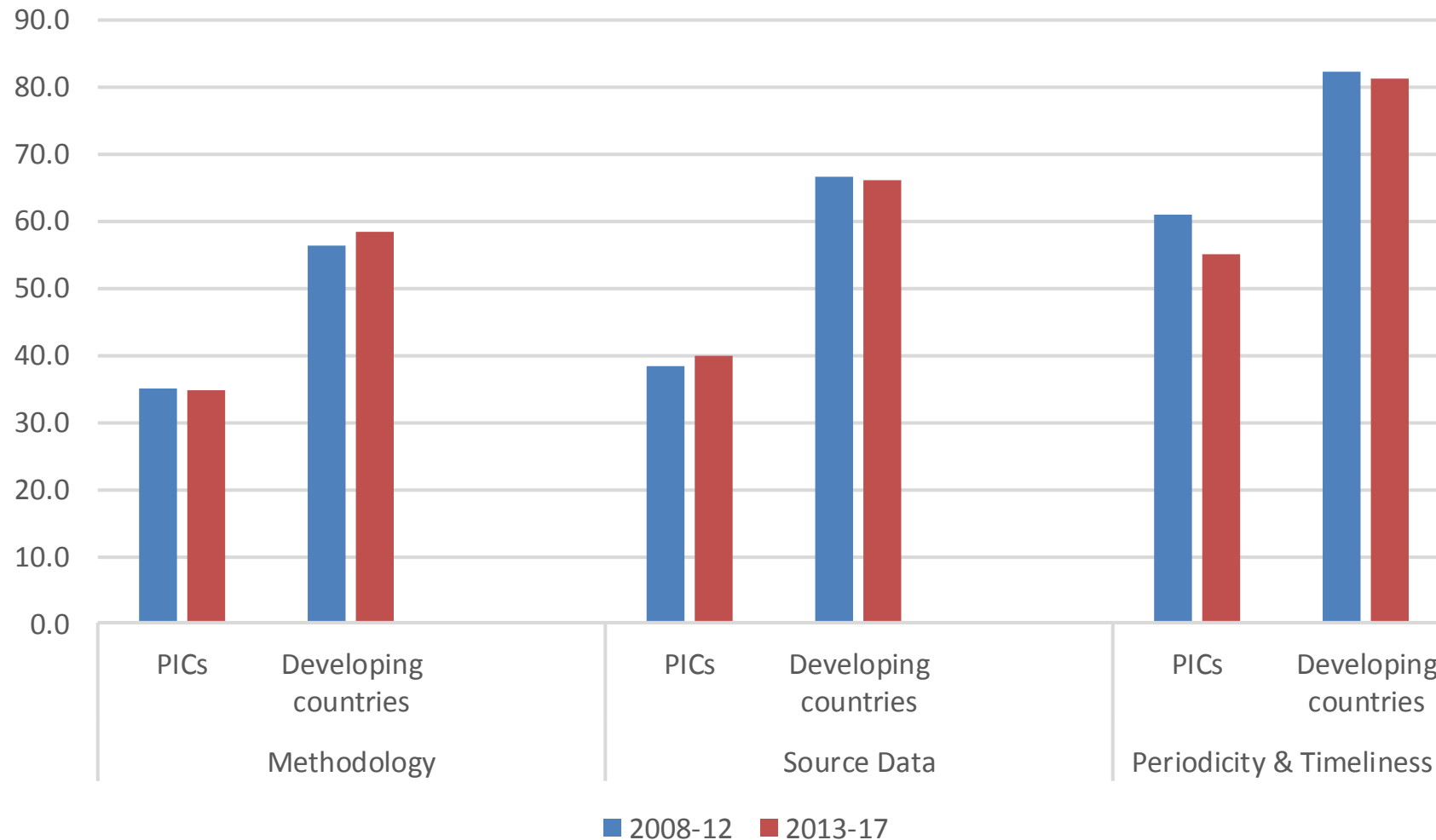


Notes: (^) 2017; (*) 2014-17; (+) Excl. high income countries

Source: World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicators

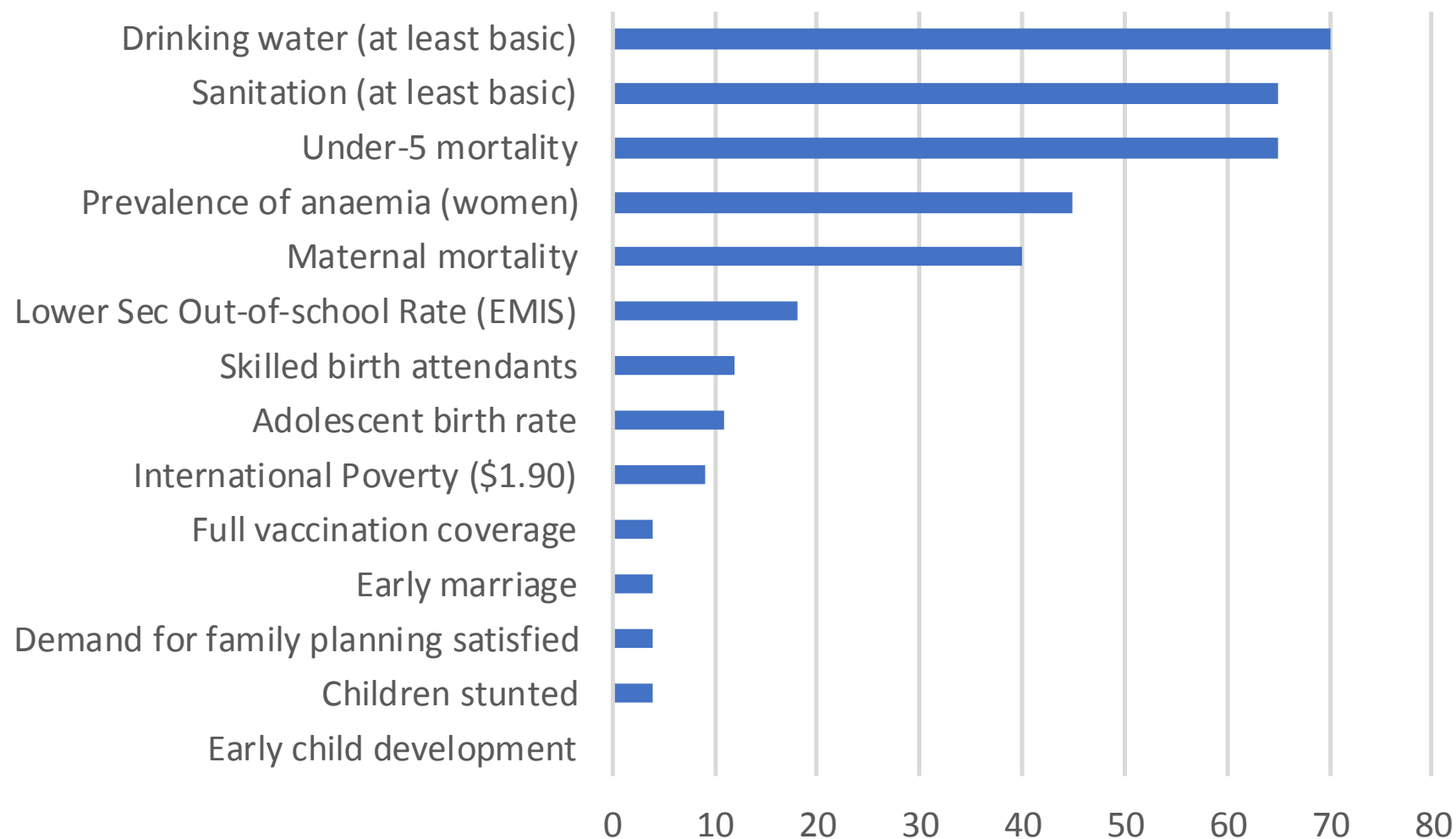
Gaps in all dimensions of statistical capacity

Figure – Dimensional Statistical Capacity Scores in PICs and all developing countries



Source: World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicators

Number of data points for selected development indicators, PICs, 2010-2015



Source: Data compiled from international and regional databases

Population Censuses as source of development data

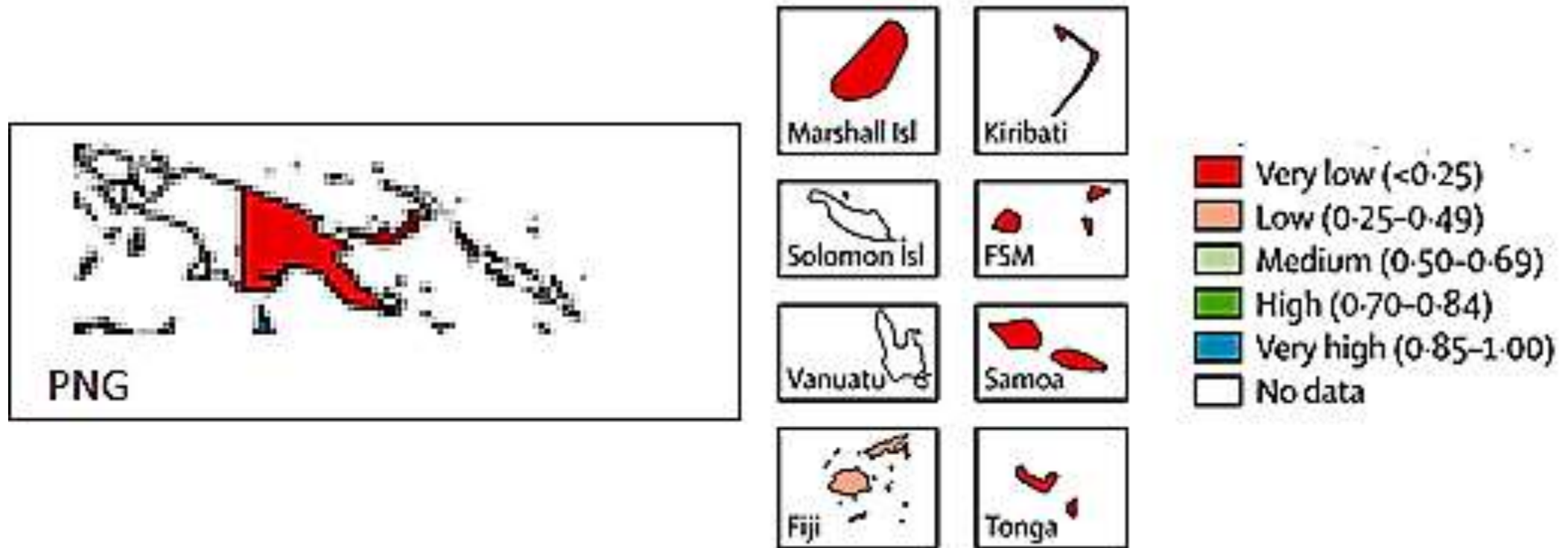
- Good track-record of census-taking in the Pacific
- Harmonized census methodologies at regional level
- Quality control procedures not systematically in place, but improving
- Important source of data on education, employment, housing, urbanization, disability
- Primary data source for fertility, mortality and net migration
- Denominator for population-based development indicators
- Local-level data dissemination and mapping through SPC web-based platform (PopGis)
- However lack of depth – only few indicators can be estimated

Demographic and Health surveys

- First DHS in several Pacific countries in the last decade. Two rounds in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa
- Integrated health surveys in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands (DHS with MICS modules)
- Primary source for child and maternal health, nutrition, child development, gender and other core development indicators
- DHS not part of global survey program, hence limited dissemination. Little or no secondary data analysis
- UNICEF-supported MICS planned over the next two years. Contribution to up to 33 SDG indicators.

Poor development of CRVS in the Pacific

Figure – Vital Statistics Performance Index (2010-12 or latest available years).



Source: Adapted from Mikkelsen et al., *The Lancet* 2015 386, 1395-1406 DOI: (10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60171-4)

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Administrative data

- Strengthening of CRVS systems and improvement in coverage. Priority area of regional statistical development (BAG Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan). Directly related to monitoring SDG 3 & 16.
- CRVS now used to generate birth and death data in some PICs
- Quality of cause of death data is still a challenge
- Reported coverage of birth data may be overestimated
- Little or no use of administrative records (arrival and departure files) to generate migration statistics
- Limited dissemination of health statistics generated by surveillance systems

Socio-economic inequalities in birth registrations

Figure – Completeness of birth registrations (%) by residence and wealth quintile.



Source: Demographic & Health Surveys

International (model-based) estimates

- e.g. WHO model-based mortality estimates, Inter-Agency Group on Child Malnutrition, JMP program for WASH
- Advantages: methodological rigour, comparability
- Downsides:
 - Countries with less than 100K population are often excluded
 - Discrepancies with data collected at national level
 - Little or no disaggregated data

Key challenges for data systems

- Reliance on surveys – erratic, costly, externally funded, sample-based, dependent on respondent trust, underutilized
- Potential for secondary data analysis remains largely unfulfilled
- Limited capacity for data dissemination
- Low internal demand constraining data supply
- Underdeveloped administrative data sharing practices between agencies and the national statistical offices; and dissemination to the users
- High burden for SDG reporting

Opportunities and best practices

- Effective investments in technological innovation – in data collection (e.g. use of tablets and GPS in census taking) and data dissemination (e.g. web-based data tabulation platforms)
- Feasibility of population registers (e.g. Samoa and Cook Islands address registers)
- High quality migration statistics from administrative records
- Expanding micro-data dissemination (SPC microdata archive, MICS)
- Moving beyond traditional data sources – e.g. use of mobile network data to track population displacement

VINAKA!

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