Empowering Pacific National Statistics through SDMX: The Samoa and Fiji Data Portals Initiative

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Denis GROFILS, Statistics Adviser Process Modernisation, Pacific Community, denisg@spc.int

Siala LOVA, ACEO ICT & Data Processing Division, Samoa Bureau of Statistics, siala.lova@sbs.gov.ws

Apisalome TAMANI, Deputy Government Statistician (Technical), Fiji Bureau of Statistics, atamani@statsfiji.gov.fj

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Objective of the project:
Establish a centralised data portal

Multiple bilateral exchanges since mid-2023 have revealed:

- **Commonalities in the objectives and challenges** faced by SBS and FBoS in establishing their national data portals.
- **Potential overlap in the support** that SPC, ADB, and ESCAP could provide to these projects.

A proposal emerged to create a joint project aiming to:

- **Leverage synergies** across Samoa and Fiji.
- **Fully respect the national focus** of each data portal project.
- **Offer a framework for SPC, ADB and ESCAP** to provide coordinated support.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

	2024					2025				
	August	**September**	**October**	**November**	**December**	**January**	**February**	**March**	**April**	**May**
Phase I Requirements gathering and product design	REQs	REQs		REQs						
Phase II Capacity building				Workshop 1A	Workshop 1B	Workshop 2		Workshop 3		
Phase III Data preparation and IT solutions					Country visit		Country visit			
Phase IV Roll-out and launch of national data portals								Launch		Launch

Workshop 1A on SDMX modelling and data preparation
18-22 November 2024 - Apia, Samoa

Workshop 2 on experience sharing SDMX/.Stat Suite tools
27-31 January 2025 - Suva, Fiji

Launch event Samoa Stats Portal
21 March 2025 - Apia, Samoa

Workshop 1B on SDMX modelling and data preparation
2-6 December 2024 - Suva, Fiji

Workshop 3 Sustainability and extension of data portals
17-20 March 2025 - Apia, Samoa

Launch event Fiji Stats Portal
11 June 2025 - Suva, Fiji

SAMOA EXPERIENCE

Government of Samoa
Samoa Bureau of Statistics

Data Cleanup: From Fragmented to Standardized

- Some datasets had different formats and naming styles, with little documentation. To use them with SDMX and .Stat Suite, we had to review, clean, and standardize the data, which took time and teamwork across divisions.

Building Understanding Across Government Agencies

- Launching the national data portal required collaboration with multiple ministries and stakeholders, each with distinct data practices and priorities. A key challenge was fostering a shared understanding of the value of standardized data and the portal's role

Skills Gap: Adapting to New Tools and Standards

- Implementing .Stat Suite and SDMX revealed a major skills gap, as most staff lacked prior experience. Building capacity required technical training, peer learning, and ongoing support.

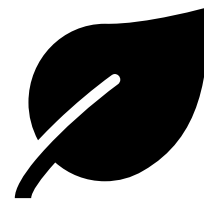**Structuring Metadata for Reusability and Interoperability**

- Creating metadata meant more than just labeling data. It had to be structured for easy processing, sharing, and reuse. We defined clear metadata models, aligned them with SDMX, and made sure they were easy to understand for all users.

Challenge areas directly linked to SSS Goal 4:

"Strengthen institutional and human capacity."

SAMOA EXPERIENCE

Strategic Need for a Centralized Data Portal

- To improve how we share statistics—timely, accessible, and interactive.
- Better support for evidence-based decision-making.
- Meet the rising demand from users: public, private, regional & global partners.

Comprehensive Technical Training Programs

We collaborated with SPC, ADB, and ESCAP to provide technical training on .Stat Suite, SDMX standards, and metadata management. These sessions strengthened staff capacity for sustainable data handling. This partnership ensures effective management of the national data portal.

Strong Executive Support and Enhanced Internal Collaboration

Senior leadership actively endorsed the project, securing resources and fostering a culture of data sharing. Regular communication among divisions ensured alignment on goals, progress tracking, and timely issue resolution.

PORTAL LAUNCHED

Samoa Stats portal was successfully launched and available online, providing streamlined access to key statistical datasets.

This initiative significantly improved staff capacity through targeted training and fostered stronger collaboration across divisions, enabling more efficient data sharing and coordinated efforts within the bureau.
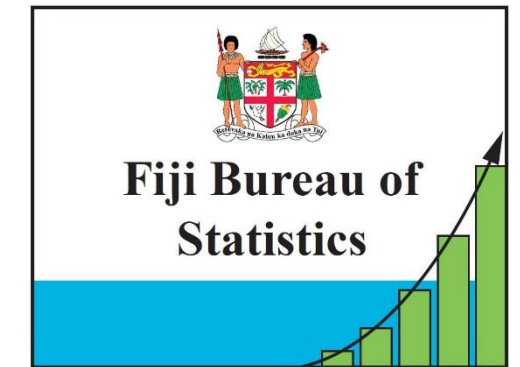
Prioritization of High-Impact Datasets

Due to resource limits, efforts focused first on key datasets. This approach allowed development of strong metadata standards and portal features. These foundations can now be expanded to other datasets.
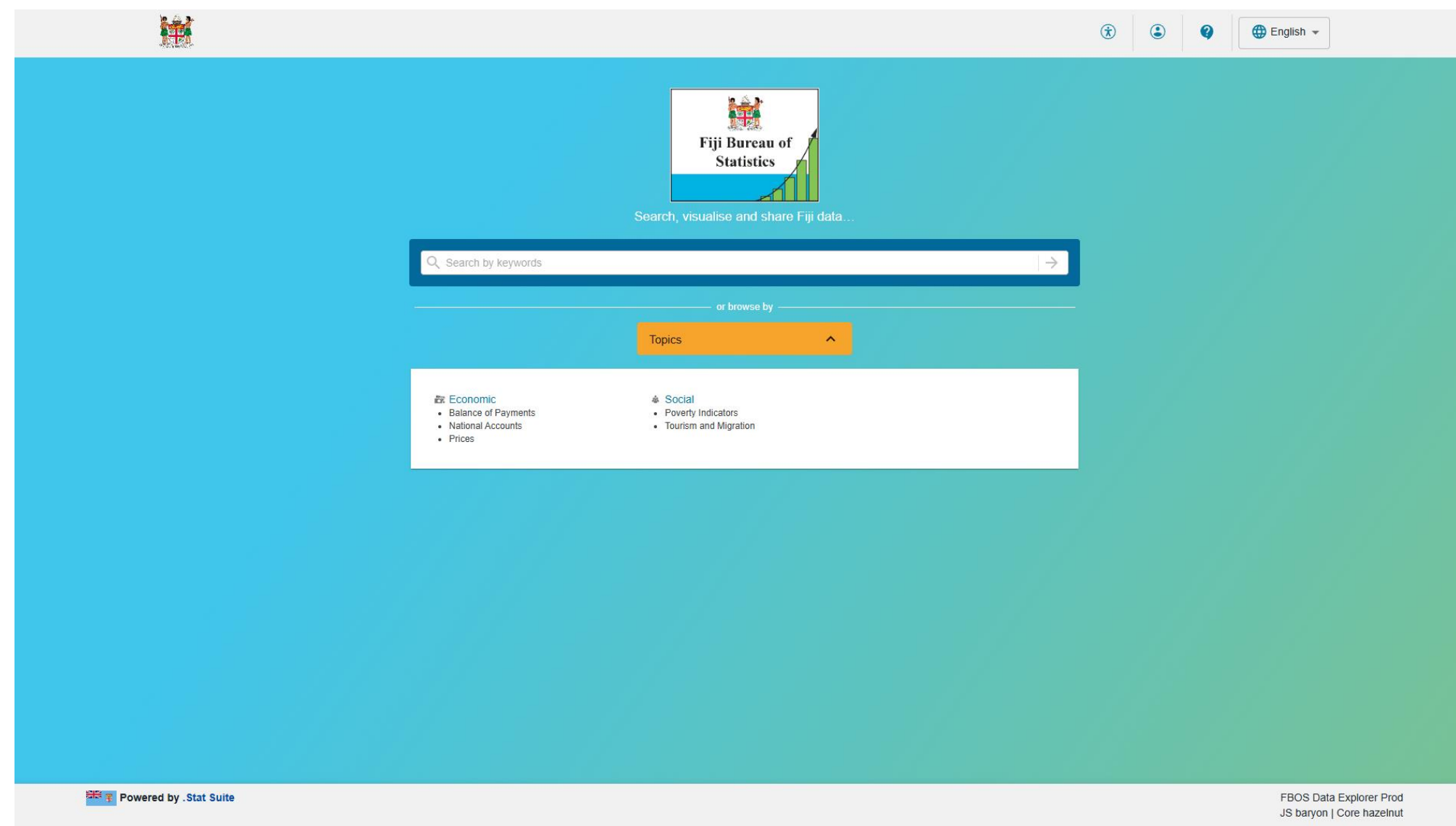
Linked to Samoa Statistics Strategy Goal 2:
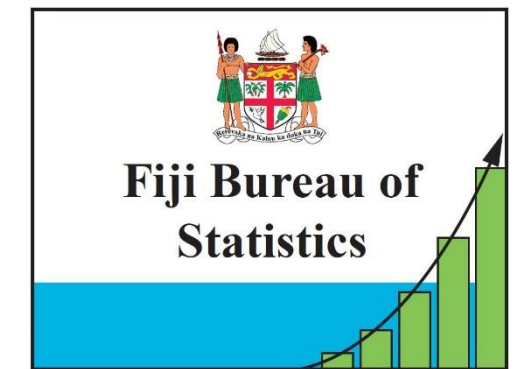**"Improve access and use of official statistics by all users."**

FIJI EXPERIENCE

Fiji SDMX-based Data Portal .Stat Data Explorer

https://data.statsfiji.gov.fj/

- ✓ Fiji now has a fully functioning SDMX-based national data portal.
- ✓ Improved collaboration and communication across statistical units and ministries.
- ✓ Greater data transparency and accessibility to support national development goals.
- ✓ Boosted technical capacity of FBoS staff through targeted training and knowledge exchange.

FIJI EXPERIENCE

Motivation – Why the New Fiji Data Portal is a Game-Changer?
- **Addressing Data Silos** – Breaking Down Barriers
- **Enhancing Policy Planning** – Powering Better Decisions
- **Adhering to International Standards** – Connecting Fiji to the World
- **Promoting Transparency and Openness** – A New Era of Openness
- **Building a Resilient Digital Infrastructure** – A Stronger, More Resilient Foundation

Experience & Lessons Learnt
- **Collaboration Partnership** – A Model of Collaboration
- **Regional Knowledge** – Transfer (or Sharing)
- **Technical Implementation** – A Strong Technical Foundation
- **Initial Focus** – Strategic Rollout
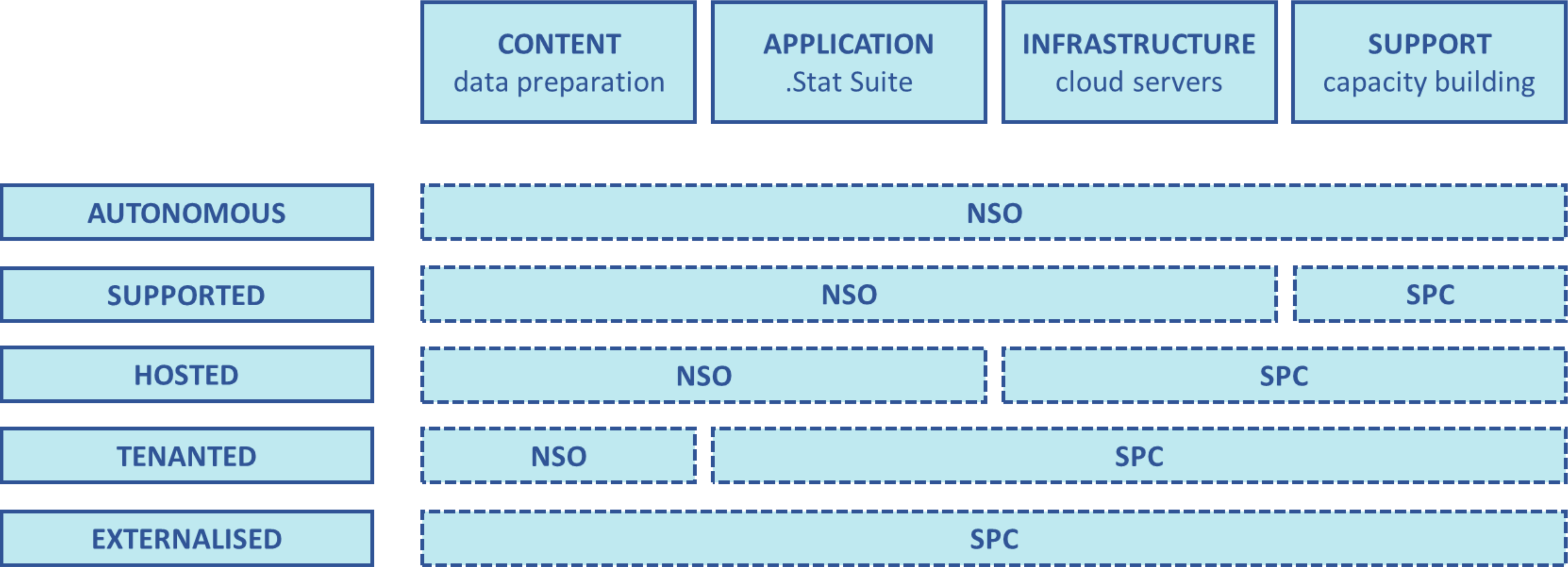- **Ownership and Buy-In** – High-Level Support

Next Steps - What Comes Next
- **Adding More Datasets** – Expanding the Data
- **Continuous Collaboration** – Sustaining the Partnership
- **Promoting Data Use** – Driving Data Use
- **Expanding Scope** – Paving the Way for a Digital Future

POTENTIAL EXTENSION IN THE REGION

.Stat Suite sharing models: A wide range of needs and possibilities

	CONTENT data preparation	APPLICATION .Stat Suite	INFRASTRUCTURE cloud servers	SUPPORT capacity building
AUTONOMOUS	NSO			
SUPPORTED	NSO			SPC
HOSTED	NSO		SPC	
TENANTED	NSO	SPC		
EXTERNALISED	SPC			

Vinaka
Fa'afetai
Merci
Thank you

Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique