



Papua New Guinea: Improving Economic and Social Statistics (formerly Improving National Accounts and Statistics)

Project Name	Improving Economic and Social Statistics (formerly Improving National Accounts and Statistics)		
Project Number	34126-012		
Country / Economy	Papua New Guinea		
Project Status	Closed		
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance		
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 3946-PNG: Improving Economic and Social Statistics (formerly Improving National Accounts and Statistics)		
	Technical Assistance Special Fund		US\$ 800,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth		
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development		
Sector / Subsector	Public sector management / Economic affairs management		
Gender	No gender elements		
Description	<p>The broad objective of the TA will be to strengthen the capacity of the National Statistical Office for collection and compilation of economic and social statistics, including national accounts and consumer price index, on a sustainable basis. The TA will strengthen and upgrade NSO's capacity to prepare all its regular economic statistics, which include national accounts, government finance statistics, consumer price index, international trade (exports and imports), business survey, and building construction index. The TA will also support change in the base year of the national accounts to a more recent year, and upgrade the business register. In addition, the TA will build NSO's capacity to prepare additional statistics, such as quarterly production indicators (possibly quarterly GDP), national accounts aggregates (including gross national income), wholesale price index, export-import price index, labor and employment statistics, as agreed with the NSO. A major component of the TA will be to support and strengthen the capacity for conduct of a household expenditure survey for rebasing the CPI, provision of basic data for direct estimation of private consumption expenditure in the national accounts, and poverty analysis. The TA will support price survey for preparation of the rebased CPI. The TA will also review the existing systems and make suggestions to institutionalize the improvements and ensure sustainability of economic statistics.</p>		
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The poor quality of economic statistics in PNG is a major concern. The national accounts statistics are based on very limited sources of basic data and rely heavily on indirect extrapolation of benchmark estimates. In particular, the estimation of agriculture and informal sector production is extremely weak and relies on outdated and unreliable benchmarks. There has been no formal agricultural census in PNG since its independence in 1975. The quality of trade and government finance statistics is also poor due to poor data quality and weak processing ability. The consumer price index (CPI) in PNG is woefully outdated. It is based on a household income and expenditure survey conducted in 1975_1976. The exchange rate has devalued by more than three-fold since 1996,2 with profound impact on the consumption basket. Thus, the CPI no longer reflects the current basket of goods consumed by households. In general, NSO_s preparation of almost all its regular economic statistics has been delayed: the national accounts statistics beyond 1999 have not been prepared. Even preliminary information on trade statistics for the period beyond 1998 is yet to be compiled, partly due to weak computation and information technology skills in NSO.</p> <p>The broad objective of the TA is to strengthen and upgrade the capacity of PNG_s National Statistics Office (NSO) in preparing regular economic statistics in PNG that are essential to policy-making. Activities within the scope of the TA include preparing national accounts, price indices, quarterly production indicators, and government finance statistics. A major component of the TA is to enhance the NSO_s capacity to carry out a household income and expenditure survey (HIES). Results of the survey will be used to update the Consumer Price Index (CPI), estimate private consumption in the national accounts, and facilitate poverty analysis. The TA will also review existing systems and institutionalize proposed improvements to ensure the sustainability of reporting fundamental economic statistics.</p>		
Impact			
Project Outcome			
Description of Outcome			
Progress Toward Outcome			
Implementation Progress			
Description of Project Outputs			
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)			
Geographical Location			
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects			
Environmental Aspects			
Involuntary Resettlement			
Indigenous Peoples			
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation			
During Project Design			
During Project Implementation			
Business Opportunities			

Consulting Services ADB will provide about 24 person-months of international consulting services, including for national accounts and other economic statistics, sampling and survey, data processing and computer, price statistics, and poverty assessment, from November 2002 to April 2005. A local consultant will be engaged for about 2 person-months to ensure proper accounting of expenditure of funds provided to the Government by ADB.

Responsible ADB Officer	Tanaka, Sakiko
Responsible ADB Department	Pacific Department
Responsible ADB Division	Urban, Social Development & Public Management Division, PARD
Executing Agencies	National Statistics Office Mr. Nick Suvulo nsuvulo@nso.gov.pg P.O. Box 337 Waigani, NCD Papua New Guinea National Statistics Office Mr. Nick Suvulo, National Statistician nsuvulo@nso.gov.pg P.O. Box 33 Port Moresby Papua New Guinea

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	18 Mar 2002
Fact Finding	11 Aug 2002 to 16 Aug 2002
MRM	-
Approval	24 Oct 2002
Last Review Mission	-
PDS Creation Date	04 Dec 2006
Last PDS Update	17 Jul 2009

TA 3946-PNG

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
24 Oct 2002	15 Nov 2002	15 Nov 2002	30 Apr 2005	31 Dec 2009	27 May 2010

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
800,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	800,000.00	17 Jun 2022	631,489.10

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/34126-012/main
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