

# Request for Proposal

## Development of the Samoa Statistics Strategy



|                     |                                                                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Location:</b>    | Apia, Samoa with remote support possible                                              |
| <b>Duration:</b>    | Up to 13 November 2026 with option to extend                                          |
| <b>Supervisor:</b>  | Government Statistician, Samoa Bureau of Statistics                                   |
| <b>Eligibility:</b> | Open to Samoan and/or international suppliers who have the authority to work in Samoa |

## About the Program

Tautai – Governance for Economic Growth Program will consolidate and build on Australia’s previous investments supporting the Government of Samoa (GoS) to improve fiscal management and promote equitable economic growth. The program will support Australia’s engagement with the GoS and other development partners in policy-driven budget support arrangements, and to complement and support Australia’s other major bilateral investment through the Tautua Samoa Human Development and Social Inclusion program, working in health, education, and social protection.

The overall objective of Tautai is to promote equitable economic recovery and growth in Samoa with improved fiscal efficiency, reducing the country's vulnerability to debt and external shocks.

The two End of Program Outcomes (EOPOs) are:

1. Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Executive develop and execute annual national budgets with clear policy intent to improve Samoa's fiscal position and deliver on improved social wellbeing.
2. Government of Samoa finance and deliver community level economic development that stimulates inclusive broad-based productivity and growth.

There are four pillars of the program, represented by the four Intermediate Outcomes:

- Fiscal Management - Improved finance sector and whole-of-government coordination and oversight of reforms in revenue collection and public financial management.
- Economic stimulus and investment - Economic stimulus investments delivered by GoS and other partners in line with the Samoa Development Strategy.
- Community and private sector engagement - GoS policy reforms and investment choices informed and supported by industry and the community.
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration - Improved integration and coordination of investments within Government and with external stakeholders.

## Background

The Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) is the national authority responsible for leading and coordinating Samoa's National Statistical System (NSS), including the collection, compilation, analysis, and dissemination of official statistics to support evidence-based policymaking, national planning, service delivery, monitoring, reporting, and public accountability.

The NSS plays a critical role in supporting implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Pathway for the Development of Samoa (PDS), sector planning, and monitoring, community, and district development initiatives, and reporting against regional and international commitments including the Sustainable Development Goals. Statistical information produced by SBS and other data producers is

widely used across government, the private sector, civil society, development partners, and communities to inform policy decisions, resource allocation, programme design, and performance monitoring.

Over the past decade, Samoa has made significant progress in strengthening its statistical system and expanding the availability, quality, and accessibility of official statistics. Through successive strategic investments in statistical production, statistical infrastructure, administrative data systems, information and communication technology, and workforce capability, the strategy has enhanced its ability to provide the data and evidence required to support national development priorities and international reporting obligations.

The national statistics strategy is a key document that guides efforts to strengthen the production, integration, accessibility, and use of official statistics across government and the wider National Statistical System. It provides a framework for strengthening statistical leadership, coordination, trust in official statistics, and the institutional arrangements required to support a modern, responsive, and sustainable statistical system.

Samoa's first National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2011–2021 established a strategic framework for the coordinated development of statistics across government. This was followed by the Samoa Statistics Strategy 2022–2026, which provided strategic direction for strengthening statistical production, data quality, accessibility, dissemination, institutional capacity, and coordination across the NSS.

Despite significant progress, the National Statistical System continues to operate in an increasingly complex environment characterised by growing demand for high-quality, timely and accessible data to support national development and decision-making. There have also been a number of important changes, national legislation and policies, the Pathway for the Development of Samoa (PDS2), sector strategies, and regional and international commitments.

In 2026, the Samoa Statistics Strategy 2022–2026 was reviewed by an adviser supported by Tautai. The review found that the Bureau is performing strongly and has made substantial progress in implementing the Strategy, with most planned surveys completed on schedule, high stakeholder satisfaction with the relevance and quality of outputs, improved accessibility through digital platforms and outreach, and strengthened statistical systems through data integration, Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology, data linkage and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) upgrades. While meeting user needs was achieved, the objective of strengthening statistical capacity was only partially achieved. Recommended priorities included legislative reforms, stronger coordination across the National Statistical System, specialist workforce development, ICT and data systems consolidation, sustainable funding arrangements, and closer alignment of statistics production with emerging government priorities.

The revision to the strategy is particularly timely given the rapidly evolving data and digital landscape. The Strategy will be informed by the policy direction emerging from the planned Statistics Act amendments. This includes SBS's evolving role as steward of a modern national data and statistics system, strengthened NSS governance, expanded use of administrative data, responsible data sharing, research access, privacy, security, and statistical independence. Demand is increasing for timely, accessible, integrated, and disaggregated data to support national planning, service delivery, public accountability, district, and community development, and national, regional, and international reporting obligations. This translates to data disaggregation by gender, age, disability, and geographic location.

At the same time Samoa faces long standing financial and technical constraints that underly the importance of prioritising pragmatic strategies. The public sector has grown in number of agencies and personnel and staff turnover remains a key risk. The credibility of the statistics system depends not only on the retention of competency by the Bureau but also strengthening statistics capacity across the whole of the public sector. The high cost of the existing core survey program, increased costs related to managing the new National Digital Identity and competing priorities for public resources are ongoing challenges and require new innovative financing approaches, including exploring cost-recovery models

to ensure fiscal sustainability. The whole of government approach offers pathways to consider opportunities to adjust roles and responsibilities, achieve synergies and sustain access to technical and financial resources across the national statistics system.

New knowledge sharing approaches are an example of emerging opportunities. SBS has been in dialogue with the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) (ABS) on converting the existing informal relationship forged from collaboration at regional levels into a formalised structured learning exchange. Twinning priorities can be informed by the strategy while details of the arrangement and funding support are negotiated with partners including Tautai. The Bureau also has significant partnerships with the SPC, UNESCAP, ADB, IMF-PFTAC and the World Bank.

The Strategy will consider opportunities and challenges associated with administrative data, data sharing, interoperability, digital transformation, data governance, privacy and security, and the development of stronger data foundations to support innovation, advanced analytics, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence. The Strategy needs to consider how to embed gender and disability disaggregated data collection in all surveys as well as the GEDSI implications of digital transformation and emerging technologies, including digital accessibility, unequal access to digital technologies and services, potential bias in data and analytical systems, and risks of exclusion.

Future capability requirements across the National Statistical System, including workforce development in data science, analytics, modern statistical methods, and emerging technologies will be informed by strategy. This will also inform priorities to strengthen statistical infrastructure, partnerships, and governance arrangements to ensure the system remains fit for purpose and responsive to Samoa's development priorities.

## Purpose

Develop a new National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2027–2031 with a pragmatic framework for development, coordination, and modernisation of Samoa's National Statistical System. The assignment will build on the findings of the review of the Samoa Statistics Strategy 2022–2026 and consultations with key stakeholders to develop the strategic framework, prepare a costed implementation plan with a monitoring and evaluation framework, facilitate the validation and finalisation of the strategy.

## Scope of services

The Supplier provide the following services:

### 1. Work Planning and Desk Review

- Update the workplan in discussion with the SBS Management, divisions, technical staff, field staff, and ICT personnel. Agree the scope of desk review including need to review updated documents and new reform initiatives. Identify potential risks to implementation and prepare a risk management approach. Develop the stakeholder communication and engagement approach with consultation methodology and plan.
- Desktop review of the report on the Samoa Statistics Strategy 2022–2026 Review and agreed documents to collate achievements, findings, lessons learned, challenges and areas of convergence/divergence, and linkages. Additional scope includes PDS2, the new Law and Justice sector plan, NDID project updates, Assessment of National Systems, SBS Digital Readiness and Maturity Assessment, ICT reform led by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology including National Cybersecurity Strategy, Digitally Connected and Resilient Samoa Project and the One Government Portal.
- The desk review should assess the implications of the Statistics Act policy instructions for the NSDS, including governance, administrative data, data integration, statistical registers, research access, confidentiality, privacy, cyber security, statistical independence, and readiness for implementation.

- Consider national and operational OSH, GEDSI and Child Protection policy reforms including developments led by the Public Service Commission to identify safeguarding risks including prevention of abuse and harassment. This includes risks associated with stakeholder and community engagement and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures into the consultation methodology, including accessibility, informed participation, confidentiality, safe referral/escalation processes where applicable, and do-no-harm principles.
- Facilitate briefing for the NSDS Steering Committee, Technical Working Group and Secretariat, as agreed with SBS.

## 2. Situational Analysis informed by the desk review.

- Review the relevance, efficiency, and value for money of key statistical collections, surveys, and data dissemination approaches.
- Assess institutional and governance arrangements across the NSS. Identify linkages, areas of alignment, common priorities, and strategic considerations for the new Strategy. Assess NSS maturity, governance, and coordination; priority administrative datasets; data sharing, integration, interoperability, and metadata arrangements; privacy, confidentiality, cyber security, and trust; research access arrangements; statistical registers and linked data; and workforce capability in data governance, analytics, security, and data stewardship
- Assess GEDSI considerations across National Statistical System, including the availability, quality, and use of appropriately disaggregated data; data gaps affecting women, persons with disabilities and other groups experiencing exclusion; accessibility of statistical information; and institutional capacity to collect, analyse, disseminate, and use inclusive data.
- Review opportunities and constraints associated with administrative data, data sharing, and system integration. Assess privacy, confidentiality and ethical risks associated with the collection, linkage, disaggregation, and dissemination of data relating to individuals and potentially vulnerable or marginalised population groups, particularly where small population or sample sizes may increase identification risks.
- Consider the implications for ICT infrastructure, digital systems, data management, and data security arrangements, and identify relevant priorities for incorporation into the new Strategy.
- Map key producers and users of official statistics and assess data needs, stakeholder expectations, and feasibility of future cost-recovery arrangements, including lessons from cost-recovery models used by comparable statistical agencies such as the ABS. Assess human resource capacity, specialist skills, training, and future workforce requirements across the system.
- Identify gaps, duplication, and coordination challenges across the NSS. Identify emerging statistical priorities, opportunities, challenges, and future data needs arising from national, regional, and international development, policy, and reporting obligations
- Establish a baseline and performance framework for the new Samoa Statistics Strategy, including indicators, targets, and monitoring arrangements to measure future implementation and outcomes.

## 3. Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

- Finalise the stakeholder communication and engagement methodology and plan.
- Consult with stakeholders to inform strategic planning. This includes perspectives on priority data needs and gaps, mechanisms, and tools to strengthen the use, integration and sharing of administrative data, capacity development, ICT, financing and coordination needs and opportunities.
- Tentative Scope to be agreed with SBS:
  - Village and District councils, civil society organizations, women's organisations, organisations of persons with disabilities and other organisations representing groups

that may experience barriers to accessing, participating in, or benefiting from the national statistical system.

- Private sector organizations, public trading bodies, and financial institutions and relevant industry representatives.
  - Government ministries, regulatory agencies, public beneficial bodies including academia and research institutions, the District Development Authority
  - International development partners including UN agencies, SPC, PACER+, World Bank, ADB, Tautai, Tautua, DFAT, MFAT, and other partners
  - Any other producers and users of official statistics.
- Document stakeholder feedback and summarise findings on strategic priorities into convergent and divergent recommendations and analysis of implications for the development of the NSDS.

#### 4. Develop a Draft NSDS 2027–2031 including the following elements:

- Vision, Mission, and Core Values of the NSDS that ensure cross-cutting issues including gender equality, disability inclusion and climate and disaster risk resilience and emerging data needs are adequately reflected.
- Strategic pillars that strengthen the National Statistical System and respond to emerging data and digital priorities.
- Strategic objectives/outcomes under each pillar, including administrative data use, data governance, workforce capability, and statistical coordination.
- Priority strategies and actions, including opportunities for data sharing, integration, linkage, and statistical registers.
- Identify strategic actions to strengthen governance, coordination, and accountability arrangements for implementation of the NSDS.
- Developing key performance indicators, targets, and measurable outcomes for implementation and NSS performance, ensuring that relevant indicators and targets incorporate GEDSI considerations and appropriate gender and disability data disaggregation.
- Developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, including risk management, reporting, review, and continuous improvement mechanisms, with appropriate GEDSI-responsive indicators and data disaggregation incorporated where relevant.
- Sustainable funding model. Prepare analysis to develop a which may need to include cost-recovery - from other agencies, research institutions, and donors etc (users of the statistics). This should include an analysis of past system costs to set a baseline, recommended and alternative funding strategies based on estimates of actions over a phased five-year time frame, with consideration of cost-recovery approaches, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics model.
- Present findings of the situational analysis and stakeholder consultations and draft NSDS to the NSDS Technical Working Group, SBS Management and the Ministry of Finance.

#### 5. Validation

- Present the draft strategy approved and facilitate a National Validation Workshop.
- Document stakeholder comments and recommendations and incorporate agreed feedback into a revised and quality assured NSDS.
- Support the Bureau to prepare the final NSDS for endorsement and approval through the appropriate Government processes including clarification of agency-by-agency budget implications from Year 1.

- Update presentation and communication materials to support the launch of the strategy.

## Selection Criteria

Potential Suppliers must address the following criteria in their application. Proposals will be assessed on best overall value for money basis, with technical quality a primary consideration.

- **Multidisciplinary Team:** Demonstrate access to a multidisciplinary team with the qualifications, skills and experience required to successfully deliver the assignment. Preference will be given to proposals that combine roles where individuals demonstrate expertise across multiple disciplines, while ensuring sufficient coverage of all required competencies. GEDSI, accessibility and inclusive data expertise must be clearly identified within the proposed team given its cross-cutting application across all aspects of the assignment. Excellent written and verbal communication skills in both English and Samoan are required across the proposed team. The proposed team should collectively demonstrate:
  - **Team Leader / Statistics Strategy, Institutional Development and NSS Specialist**  
Leads the assignment, manages delivery and quality assurance, and brings expertise in the development, review and implementation of national strategies, institutional reform, organisational development, and results-based planning. Provides technical leadership on official statistics, statistical legislation, National Statistical Systems, data governance, coordination mechanisms, statistical standards, and opportunities to strengthen Samoa's statistical ecosystem.
  - **Digital Transformation, Data Systems, and Innovation Specialist**  
Demonstrates expertise in data governance, administrative data systems, digital transformation, statistical production systems, ICT infrastructure, interoperability, data integration, and emerging statistical priorities. Provides recommendations to strengthen data management, systems integration, and innovation across the statistical system.
  - **Workforce Development, Organisational Capability, Financing and Sustainability Specialist**  
Demonstrates experience in organisational capacity assessment, workforce planning, capability development, performance frameworks, monitoring and evaluation, and institutional strengthening. Assesses financing arrangements, resource allocation, implementation requirements, and options for sustainable funding of statistical activities and the Strategy.
  - **GEDSI, Accessibility and Inclusive Data Specialist**  
Provides specialist advice and quality assurance to ensure gender equality, disability inclusion, social inclusion, accessibility, safeguarding, human rights, and climate resilience considerations are integrated throughout the strategy development process, stakeholder engagement, analysis, recommendations, and implementation framework. Supports consideration of disaggregated data needs and inclusive data practices.
  - **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Samoa Context Specialist**  
Demonstrates strong understanding of Samoa's governance, development and institutional context, and experience working in Samoa, the Pacific region, and/or Small Island Developing States. Leads consultations, workshops, and validation processes, and supports engagement with government agencies, development partners, civil society, academia, private sector stakeholders, data producers, and data users. Demonstrates strong communication, facilitation, and relationship-building skills, including the ability to communicate complex statistical and policy issues to both technical and non-technical audiences. Provides expertise in research, analysis, report writing, knowledge transfer, and capacity strengthening, and ensures stakeholder

engagement approaches are inclusive, culturally appropriate, and responsive to diverse stakeholder perspectives.

- **Quality of the Technical Proposal:** The technical proposal should demonstrate a clear understanding of the assignment objectives, scope, and context, and present a practical, robust, and participatory methodology for delivering the required outputs. Suppliers should demonstrate how GEDSI, disability inclusion, accessibility, workforce wellbeing, climate resilience, and safeguarding considerations will be integrated throughout the methodology, including culturally appropriate and inclusive stakeholder engagement approaches that address barriers to participation, stakeholder engagement processes, analysis, and recommendations. Suppliers should demonstrate strong qualitative and quantitative analysis capabilities, the ability to generate evidence-based findings, and experience producing practical, implementable, and action-oriented strategic recommendations. The proposal should demonstrate how ethical and do-no-harm principles will be applied throughout the assignment, including consideration of confidentiality, informed consent, accessibility, equitable participation, safe engagement practices, and protection from reprisal. Suppliers must demonstrate the capability to comply with DFAT's Child Protection, PSEAH, Fraud Control and Value for Money principles.
- **Price:** DT Global will award a contract to the Supplier who offers the best overall value for money, considering both the proposal's technical merit and its pricing competitiveness.

## Reporting & Performance

The Supplier will report to the Government Statistician working closely with the Bureau's management team, the NSDS Steering Committee and Technical Working Groups.

Regular progress updates will be provided to SBS to monitor progress against the agreed workplan and ensure that the assignment remains on track for finalisation and launch in April 2027.

| Deliverables                             | Means of Verification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Timeline                                     |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Workplan and Inception Report         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Timesheet and invoice.</li> <li>▪ Detailed workplan approved by SBS.</li> <li>▪ National Inception Workshop completed and approved Report.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                   | Proposed by the Supplier and agreed in plan. |
| 2. Consultations and desk review         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Timesheet and invoice.</li> <li>▪ Situational Analysis Report.</li> <li>▪ Internal and external stakeholder consultations completed with findings and recommendations documented.</li> </ul>                                                                                            |                                              |
| 3. Draft National Strategy               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Timesheet and invoice.</li> <li>▪ Strategic Framework developed.</li> <li>▪ Draft NSDS 2027–2031 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.</li> <li>▪ Financing Strategy.</li> <li>▪ Draft reviewed by SBS and Technical Working Group.</li> </ul>                                           |                                              |
| 4. Final National Strategy and Reporting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Timesheet and invoice.</li> <li>▪ National Validation Workshop completed with report and stakeholder feedback documented.</li> <li>▪ Approved Final NSDS 2027–2031.</li> <li>▪ Publication-ready files, handover, and knowledge transfer completed.</li> <li>▪ Final report.</li> </ul> |                                              |

## Basis of Selection and Payments

Suppliers are requested to submit both a Technical and a Financial proposal to this RFP via email to [recruitment@tautaipartnerhip.org](mailto:recruitment@tautaipartnerhip.org) no later than **11.59pm (GMT +13) Apia Samoa on 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2026**.

The Technical proposal must include a statement addressing the selection criteria and outlining proposed methodology for delivery of the services and should also include:

- details of the Supplier's profile
- CVs of specified (key) personnel
- an indicative workplan with an estimate of total time input (days)
- evidence of registration (e.g. a copy of a valid Business License / registration certificate)
- a completed Due Diligence Assessment Part A (refer to 'Notes' below)
- daily rates including all costs & charges exclusive of VAGST (see also 'Notes' below)

The Financial proposal should present a total cost for the services exclusive of Samoan VAGST incorporating all fees and charge (see also 'Notes' below) based on the indicative workplan & level of effort outlined in the Supplier's Technical proposal. The Financial proposal should list all key personnel and provide a breakdown of their estimated input days and daily rate(s).

## Notes

The preferred Supplier will be required to meet minimum safeguard standards relating to Fraud, Prevention of Sexual exploitation abuse and harassment, Child protection, and modern slavery. Where no adequate policies exist, DT Global policies will apply to the services being delivered and all specified personnel will be required to comply with these policies and undertake relevant training.

To support DT Global's commitment to meeting these standards and to support our own due diligence obligations, potential Suppliers will be required to demonstrate their suitability and capacity to ethically perform the services. Potential Suppliers will be required to include a completed Due Diligence Assessment for submission with their proposals.

The preferred Supplier will be required to have reasonable Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance cover in place before commencement, in addition to Worker's Compensation insurance as appropriate. DT Global will seek certificates of currency prior to the commencement of services or the mobilisation of personnel.

Financial proposals must be inclusive of the above insurance requirements, whether captured within the daily rate(s) or listed as a separate cost item.

Costs (if any) associated with approved international travel arrangements, including economy-class flights, reasonable accommodation, transport and incidental costs (such as communications), will be reimbursed at cost (on supply of invoices/receipts), and will be arranged by the Supplier unless otherwise agreed or directed by DT Global.



## Other Information

DT Global Asia Pacific Pty Ltd is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified Suppliers will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, gender identity, or national origin.

Our organisation is committed to child protection and safeguarding the welfare of children in the delivery of our international development programs. Recruitment and selection procedures reflect this commitment. We are committed to safety and the prevention of sexual abuse and harassment, child protection, and bribery prevention.

We want to engage with the right people to deliver our client programs. As part of our approach, Suppliers will be subjected to formal background screening, criminal record checks, employment verification, and periodic compliance checks. All our staff and subcontractors receive safety, compliance and safeguards training and are responsible for contributing to a safer working culture.

## About DT Global

At DT Global Asia Pacific, we aim to positively impact people's lives through delivery excellence. As a leading implementing partner across Asia and the Pacific, we co-create locally led solutions in partnership with governments, communities, and stakeholders. We bring together talented teams and deep regional expertise to deliver initiatives that promote inclusive economic growth, essential services, and resilient, secure communities. With over 1,500 staff, experts in 22+ countries and more than 60 years of development experience, we tackle complex community, national and transnational challenges — from governance and justice systems to climate resilience, infrastructure, and social equity — with innovative thinking and a commitment to long-term impact.

For more information, please see [www.dt-global.com](http://www.dt-global.com)