# Mainstreaming statistics in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) - Checklist

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In the various steps of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) formulation process, the UN entity can seek to mainstream statistics in the process in the following ways.

## Step 1. Developing the Roadmap and Common Country Analysis

☐ Each Resident Agency identifies a specific officer to focus on data and statistics with the aim of supporting the UNSDCF process (to be supported by regional/HQ staff as required) ;

☐ Offer analytical support to the UN Country Teams (UNCT) through inter-agency technical teams and networks, highlighting statistical resources available and the relevant unmet data needs;

☐ Assess data requirements of the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) and identify a core set of indicators to guide policy support actions by UNCT members;

☐ Conduct an in-country workshop with Resident and non-Resident Agencies to review any prior statistical capacity assessments, as well as define respective roles and responsibilities;

☐ Conduct preliminary stakeholder feedback sessions to understand key problems in the country from a data perspective – to be used as input in CCA formulation;

☐ Link data from different domains and identify the main explanatory drivers and factors as well as key institutional, governance, finance and capacity bottlenecks;

☐ Contribute to facilitating consensus on the approach and tools for integrated analysis by the UN Country Team in the CCA methodology to allow more systematic and targeted evidence-based policy analysis;

☐ Collect the data, pulling from all relevant sources, and develop a narrative to ensure the analytical use of relevant statistics and official SDG indicators in the CCA;

☐ Recommend a section in the CCA on the main data and statistical capacity gaps in the country, highlighting how these constitute an impediment to the country's development process with reference to the principle "what gets measured gets done";

☐ Ensure that the peer support group includes regional and HQ statisticians to perform quality assurance on the data used and conclusions on country's data and statistical capacity gaps.

## Step 2. Cooperation Framework Design

☐ Emphasize the needs and challenges of monitoring and reporting on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level as a key catalyst for change at a systemic level;

☐ Maintain a database at country level to house all data underpinning the CCA, with a view to update it annually;

☐ Aim to integrate in the UNSDCF work plan an assessment of country data and statistical capacity gaps, which should be unified, done in one go, with a common tool, accommodating the needs of all custodian agencies. The assessment should determine data and statistics needs for informing the UNSDCF.

☐ Proactively reach out to Resident Coordinators to showcase the statistical resources available at the UN entity and the relevant unmet data needs;

☐ At the Theory of Change preparation stage, highlight the potential contribution of a strong national statistical system to SDG achievement in the country; in other words, data and statistics should not merely be positioned as an enabler, but as a development outcome in its own right;

☐ Ensure that SDG indicators are integrated in the UNSDCF monitoring framework at all relevant result levels, particularly the outcome level, and as such, ensure that support for the production/reporting of these indicators is integrated in the UNSDCF;

☐ Arrange, if needed, a dedicated training session on data and statistics addressing UNCT Data Officers, Economists and other staff (complementary to the regional training session organized by DCO and UN Chief Statisticians);

☐ Ensure that a statistical capacity development programme, to fill the key gaps identified, is included in the UNSDCF;

☐ Ensure that agency regional/sub-regional statisticians are involved in the validation of statistics-related activities.

## Step 3. UNCT Configuration

☐ Identify the expertise and services needed by the UNCT and whether the Agency needs to scale up or scale back their country-level capacity;

☐ Identify local service providers who could deliver the services needed by the UNCT, and determine what implementation modalities should be leveraged;

☐ Point to relevant Agency experience and how it can contribute to strengthening national statistical capacity and the priorities identified;

☐ Share, as a background document to the proceedings, a draft statement of its capacities and plans to deliver on its UNSDCF commitments.

## Step 4. Funding the Cooperation Framework

To determine the costs of delivering the Cooperation Framework, irrespective of entities' existing budgets, the Agencies should:

☐ Objectively assess the cost of all the statistics-related activities that have been assigned to its purview, through Steps 1-3;

☐ Project realistic resource mobilization targets to address the funding gap, based on inter-agency analysis and consultations with donors and other stakeholders;

☐ Ensure that each funding allocation for an identified policy priority includes a dedicated budget line for data and statistics, to strengthen the link between broader resource mobilization efforts with fundraising for statistics;

☐ Undertake solo and/or joint resource mobilization initiatives, coordinating as needed with relevant HQ units and other relevant partners depending on the specific indicator ;

☐ Provide updated financial data as required through UN Info, including available resources, actual expenditure, potential new resource commitments and the funding gap related to the activities.

## Step 5. Implementation, Monitoring and Learning

UN Agencies are expected to adopt the Cooperation Framework as the basis for their own country programming document (CPF).

☐ Establish additional structures such as a programme management team/group and a cross-cutting thematic technical advisory group to enhance effective and coherent delivery of the Cooperation Framework, if required;

☐ Recommend the establishment of a thematic technical advisory group specifically focused on data and statistics if data and statistics have been established as a key pillar of the UNSDCF;

☐ UN Resident and non-Resident Agencies should ensure that any monitoring and learning from their specific projects/programmes contributing to Cooperation Framework results should be based on sound, quality data and statistics.