**Joint Programme**

**ONE UN SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS OF RWANDA FOR DATA GENERATION AND USE OF EVIDENCE BASED PLANNING**

**MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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| **Programme Title & Project Number** |  | **Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results[[1]](#footnote-1)** | |
| * Programme Title: One UN Support to National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda for Data Generation and use of evidence-based planning * Programme Number: **00120073** * MPTF Office Project Reference Number: **00120073** | *Country/Region*  ***RWANDA*** | |
| *Priority area/ strategic results*  UNSDCF Results Area 3: Transformational Governance | |
| **Participating Organization(s)** |  | **Implementing Partners** | |
| * Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: **UNFPA** * All UN agencies under the Joint Programme on Data: UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, WHO | National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) | |
| **Programme/Project Cost (US$)**  Total approved budget as per project document: **$5,648,550**  MPTF /JP Contribution: **$633,731.59**  Agency Contribution (core):   * UNFPA: $950,576 * UNICEF: $ 221,201 * UNWOMEN: $141,402 * WHO: $333,149 * TOTAL: **$ 1,646,328** |  | **Programme Duration** | |
|  | Overall Duration *(60months)* |  |
|  | Start Date: 11.02.2020 |  |
|  | Current End date: 30.06.2023 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.** |  | **Report Submitted By** | |
| Assessment/Review  Yes No  Mid-Term Evaluation Report  Yes No | * Name: Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah * Title: UNFPA Rwanda Country Representative * Participating Organization (Lead): **UNFPA** * Email address: asante-ntiamoah@unfpa.org | |

# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CRVS Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

DHS Demographic and Health Survey

EICV Enquete integrale sur les conditions de Vie des menages

GMIS Gender Management Information System

JP Joint Program

MPTF Multi Partner Trust Fund

NISR National Institute of Statistics in Rwanda

NST National Strategy for Transformation

PHC Population and Housing Census

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

UNDAF United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNDAP United Nations Development Assistance Plan

UNSDCF United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

WHO World Health Organization

UN WOMEN United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

# NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Joint Programme on Data is a five-year support to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda in line with the UNSDCF. It outlines the continued support of the UN Agencies in capacity building of the national and subnational institutions in conducting high quality data collection, data analysis and dissemination; which are instrumental to tracking the progress in realizing the results as set in the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) and the SDGs agenda 2030 for evidence-based policy and decision making.

Over the reporting period (January-December 2022), the UN and other partners supported the 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC) which was successfully conducted updating the core demographic, social, and economic indicators of the country.The use of digital tools in data enumeration has facilitated the process, increased data reliability, and made the analysis phase including the real-time rapid data analysis easier. The findings will inform the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of national and international development plans and programs that the country has committed on, particularly the National Strategy for Transformation 1 (NST1), Vision 2050, and SDGs. The Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system was strengthened through technical and financial support for the scale-up of verbal autopsy; as a result, 70% of the administrative cells in Rwanda are now collecting cause-of-death information at the community level. Furthermore, the capacity of the Ministry of Health’s staff to monitor progress towards the health-related SDGs indicators and other national health priorities was reinforced through the development of a Health-related SDGs metadata handbook. As a result, 84% of health-related SDGs are now monitored at country level. Gender Thematic Report from the 2020 Establishment/business census and National Gender Statistics Report 2021 were publishedto informprogramming in the upcoming development of national and development partner strategies as well as advocacy towards gender equality and women empowerment.

The JP on Data coordination continued to be strengthened through the National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS) Steering Committee meetings and other fora such as the Development Partners Coordination group. This year, the UK Office of National Statistics contributed to the partnership providing technical and financial support to census activities, which accounted for $82,903.

# Purpose

The purpose of the Joint Programme on Data is to increase the technical and financial capacity of Government institutions and civil society organizations at the national and subnational level to generate, disseminate and use quality disaggregated data aligned to the SDGs to inform policies and programmes in development and humanitarian settings. The Joint programme on data contributes to the achievement of the UNSDCF results 3: Accountable governance and in particular Outcome 6 and Output 1 with 2 indicators 6.1.2 and 6.1.3:

*UNSDCF Outcome 6:*By 2023, people in Rwanda participate more actively in democratic and development process and benefit from transparent and accountable public and private sector institutions that develop evidence-based policies and deliver quality services.

UNSDCF Output 6.1. Government institutions and civil society organizations at the national and sub national level have increased technical and financial capacity to generate, disseminate and use quality disaggregated data aligned to the SDGs to inform policies and programmes in development and humanitarian settings.

By ‘Delivering as One’, UN agencies in Rwanda seek to strengthen national and sub-national capacities to provide high-quality policy advice and technical assistance and support the collection and analysis of disaggregated data. Considering the data requirement in SDGs, the key focus of the Joint program on data is to support key national data collection exercises including the 2022 Population and Housing Census, the Integrated Household and Living Conditions (EICV 2019/2020), Demographic and Health Survey 2019/2020 and the gender statistical reports. Participating agencies are: UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and UN WOMEN.

# Results

During the reporting period, the Joint program on data collaborated with the National Institute of Statistics to reinforce sectoral Management Information Systems and administrative data systems (indicator 6.1.2) such as the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system also providing Technical Assistance to NISR and the Ministry of Health (MoH) to monitor health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators for which data is available and monitored (indicator 6.1.3) to ensure those systems are fully functional and producing timely and quality data. The 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC), the first-ever digital census in Rwanda, was successfully conducted to update the core demographic, social, and economic indicators of the country.

Despite the challenging and complex environment created by COVID-19 pandemic planned activities and allocated resources were implemented, despite some delays as highlighted below:

***Outcome 6****:* By 2023, people in Rwanda participate more actively in democratic and development process and benefit from transparent and accountable public and private sector institutions that develop evidence- based policies and deliver quality services.

**Output 6.1:** Government institutions and civil society organizations at the national and sub national level have increased technical and financial capacity to generate, disseminate and use quality disaggregated data aligned to the SDGs to inform policies and programmes in development and humanitarian settings.

**Indicator 6.1.1: Number of main national data collection exercises supported.**

* **The 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC) successfully conducted.**

Building on the smooth preparatory phase in 2021, **the 5th Population and Housing Census** was successfully conducted using modern technologies according to UN guidelines for the 2020 rounds of PHC: Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) and mobile technologies for data collection, teleconference for training of enumerators and staff as well as the geospatial dashboards for active monitoring of census data collection. These technologies helped immensely in keeping Census planned activities on track despite COVID-19 epidemic movement restrictions, obtaining real time information during data collection which resulted in a population coverage beyond 98% between 16-30 August 2022. The JP on Data supported in recruiting 9 international experts with support from the UNFPA’s East and Southern Africa Regional Office, including data processing consultants to ensure data quality as well as demographers for thematic data analysis and the production of 18 monographs. The main indicators report was completed by the end of December 2022 and officially released on 27th February 2023 during the National dialogue. The full set of thematic reports are expected to be finalized and released by the end of June 2023.

This was the first-ever digital census in Rwanda using the digital tools for enumeration that mitigated the constraints caused by impact of the COVID-19 as well as enabled real-time rapid data analysis using census dashboards. This helped to document the preliminary report within 6 months, which process took 2 years in the previous PHC that used paperwork during enumeration. The Census questionnaire was inclusive, leaving no one behind by introducing questions regarding people with disabilities for the first time. International technical experts worked hand in hand with national experts ensuring knowledge transfer and strengthened the capacity of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) teams in areas including data processing and thematic analysis. The findings of the 5th PHC will inform the development and update of evidence-based national policies, particularly the evaluation of the National Strategy for Transformation 1 (NST1), Vision 2050, SDGs, as well as the development of the National Strategy for Transformation 2 and the UNSDCF 2024-2029.

* **Gender statistical reports available and strengthened use of gender statistics.**

Ensuring the translation of “no one left behind” and gender equality agenda under the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into effective action requires disaggregated data to address all the vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls. Within this framework, the UN under the JP on Data supported the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) to produce **a gender thematic report from the 2020 Establishment/business census** (published in February 2022) with updated data covering the topics of women ownership of businesses, their sizes (micro, small, medium and large), their employed capital, their annual turnover. The findings from the business census are informing programming in particular interventions to recover from Covid-19 impact on businesses and in particular women owned businesses as well as inform policy making, and advocacy. Furthermore, in August 2022, **a National Gender statistics Report 2021** was produced with updated gender data in 12 different development areas which will facilitate programming in the upcoming development of national and development partner strategies as well as advocacy towards gender equality and women empowerment.

98 local government staff including directors of planning, statisticians and gender focal points strengthened their capacity in gender statistics use through the training organized by the NISR with the support of the JP on Data. The use of gender statistics in planning and budgeting is crucial to ensuring that policies and programs are designed with a gender-responsive approach and that the needs and priorities of all members of society are considered. By improving the capacity of these staff members, there will be a positive impact on the planning and gender budget statements production at the local government level, particularly at the district level. This will lead to more informed decision-making and the development of more effective policies and programs. As a result, gender statistics production is mainstreamed in the national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS 2019-2024), a significant step towards promoting gender equality and ensuring that gender-disaggregated data is collected and analyzed in all areas of national development.

* **2022 STEPS Survey designed and conducted.**

In 2022, the JP on Data supported the design and implementation of the 2022 STEPS survey, which collects nationally representative data on key risk factors for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Rwanda. The STEPS survey is a key tool for monitoring non-communicable disease (NCD) risk factors. Developed by the WHO under the Joint Programme on Data, this population-based survey was conducted from November 2021 to January 2022 among 5,776 adults aged 18-69, with the overall response rate at 96.3%. Key results will be disseminated in 2023 and will inform planning and allocation of resources to combat the NCDs.

**Indicator 6.1.2: Sectoral MISs and administrative data systems fully functional**

* **CRVS system enhanced.**

The JP on Data continued supporting the strengthening and implementation of the key sectoral Management Information Systems and administrative data systems, such as the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system. NISR produced the Rwanda Vital Statistics Report 2021 delivering on the commitment to strengthen the administrative data collection system including the CRVS as enshrined in the 3rd National Strategy for the Development of Statistics. The UN supported the continued provision of internet airtime and communication among key stakeholders to ensure the digital, online system with smooth connection; capacity of stakeholders at the decentralized level was strengthened through training and mentorship including in health facilities on the use of the system and ICT tools. The scale-up of the verbal autopsy continued as an effort to strengthen the CRVS system; 70% of the administrative cells in Rwanda are now collecting cause-of-death information at the community level which indicates a huge improvement, compared to the previous year when the verbal autopsy only covered less than 10% of the cells.

**Indicator 6.1.3: % of SDG indicators for which data is available and monitored.**

* **Monitoring of Health and WASH SDGs Indicators strengthened.**

The Joint Programme on Data continuously provided technical assistance to further advance SDGs Monitoring in 2022. The JP on Data fostered collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Statistics (NISR) to strengthen the monitoring of Health SDGs indicators at country level; thanks to the support, 84% of health-related SDGs indicators were monitored at the country level in August 2022. The Ministry of Health in Rwanda was also supported for strengthening capacity on SDGs monitoring via the development of a Health-related SDGs metadata handbook.

With the support of the JP on Data, NISR produced the first WASH index in Rwanda in 2022; and produced and disseminated the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA), a report that looks into multidimensional child poverty issues based on the data from [Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey 5 (EICV 5)](https://www.statistics.gov.rw/datasource/integrated-household-living-conditions-survey-5-eicv-5). The reports will inform better policy making and programming for continued realization of basic human rights with sound evidence. Capacity enhancement of data users on data use and analysis continued for university lecturers, researchers, journalists, and increased statistical literacy among youth.

**Indicator 6.1.4:** **Number of national development strategies and frameworks that have integrated the Demographic Dividend (DD) study recommendations. (completed, see 2020 narrative report)**

1. **Challenges**

The monitoring of health SDGs indicators requires close collaboration as well as considerable resource mobilization. More efforts and resources are needed to strengthen coordination, monitoring and evaluation systems for SDGs and in addressing the prevailing data gaps across sectors.

Use of the available data and statistics including gender statistics in planning at district level is still limited and requires continued capacity building efforts.

1. **Best Practices**

Africa is building strong capabilities in digital census implementation, data analysis and dissemination. Almost all international experts/demographers and data processing experts came from the South, strengthening South-South collaboration with great results so far because of the consultants' understanding of context.

The use of technologies and digital tools in the enumeration phase paired to actively manage census activities facilitated the expedited processes for data collection, increased data reliability, and made the data analysis phase smooth with real-time results. The bulk of the work was performed by NISR teams, timely recruitment of international consultants helped to enhance national capacity through knowledge transfer and assurance of state-of-the-art census data quality, analysis and reporting.

After the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, implementing partners have initiated virtual monitoring of the system by conducting regular calls with the users. This has reduced the need for field visits, enabling the team to focus more on other assignments while also saving time and financial resources.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

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|  | **Achieved Indicator Targets** | **Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)** | **Source of Verification** |
| *Outcome 6:* By 2023, people in Rwanda participate more actively in democratic and development process and benefit from transparent and accountable public and private sector institutions that develop evidence-based policies and deliver quality services.  *Output 6.1.* Government institutions and civil society organizations at the national and sub national level have increased technical and financial capacity to generate, disseminate and use quality disaggregated data aligned to the SDGs to inform policies and programmes in development and humanitarian settings  **Indicator 6.1.1:**  Number of main national data collection exercise supported  **Baseline**: 4th PHC 2012, 2014/2015 RDHS, 2013/2014 EICV, gender statistics reports  **Planned Target:** 5 (2022 Census Project Document; EICV; 2019/2020 RDHS, Gender statistical reports). | The 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC) was successfully conducted;  Gender Thematic Report from the 2020 Establishment/business census; and National Gender Statistics Report 2021 are available.  The 2022 STEPS Survey was designed and conducted. The results will be published in 2023 to guide decision-making in the fight against NCDs. |  | NISR Website  <https://www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/main_indicators_2022>  <https://statistics.gov.rw/statistical-publications/subject/gender>  [Surveillance of noncommunicable diseases I Rwanda (who.int)](https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/surveillance/data/rwanda) |
| **Indicator 6.1.2**:  Sectoral MISs and administrative data systems fully functional.  **Baseline**: No (CRVS, GMIS, HMIS and ID registration for refugees in place but not fully functional).  **Planned target:** Yes (CRVS, GMIS, HMIS fully functional and producing timely, quality data, Refugees ID Registration fully functional). | The CRVS is fully functional; thanks to the verbal autopsy scaled up at the community level, 70% of the administrative cells in Rwanda are now collecting cause-of-death information at the community level. |  | 2021 NISR Vital Statistics  [Rwanda Vital Statistics Report - 2021 | National Institute of Statistics Rwanda](https://www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/1825) |
| **Indicator 6.1.3:** % of SDG indicators for which data is available and monitored.  **Baseline**: 23%  **Planned target:** 70% | 84% of indicators to monitor the health-related SDGs indicators were available in August 2022. |  | [FY 2022/2023 FORWARD-LOOKING JOINT HEALTH SECTOR REVIEW REPORT](https://www.moh.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=52286&token=5042d2ce04e9a0336fa71ad70ae5a419d422b915)  [Multidimensional Child Poverty in Rwanda (MODA) Report | National Institute of Statistics Rwanda](https://statistics.gov.rw/publication/multidimensional-child-poverty-rwanda-moda-report) |
| **Indicator 6.1.4:** Number of national development strategies and frameworks that have integrated the Demographic Dividend (DD) study recommendations.  **Baseline:** 0 (2017).  **Planned targets:** 4 sector frameworks (HSSP, ESSP, NST1, PS DYE). | Completed in 2020 |  |  |
| **Indicator 6.1.5:** Number of citizen report cards produced and disseminated.  **Baseline**: 4.  **Planned targets:** 10. |  |  |  |

1. Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document; [↑](#footnote-ref-1)