**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 2023**

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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: $162,418 * UNICEF: $ 87,615 * UNWOMEN: $100,000 * WHO: $22,489 * TOTAL: **$ 372,522** |  | **Programme Duration** | |
|  | Overall Duration *(60 months)* |  |
|  | 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: Renata Tallarico * Title: UNFPA Deputy Rep and OIC * Participating Organization (Lead): **UNFPA** * Email address: tallarico@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

NCDs Non-Communicable Diseases

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 (JP) on Data is a five-year support to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (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, as well as strengthening the data systems which are instrumental to tracking the progress in realizing the results as set in the Vision 2050 for Rwanda, the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda 2030 for evidence-based policy and decision making.

Over the reporting period (January - December 2023), the UN and other partners continued support to the reporting and further data analysis of the 2022 Population and Housing Census through provision of technical and financial support ($185,514) to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR). In addition to the finalization of the main Census report, 18 thematic reports, 30 district profiles and the sampling Framework were produced and disseminated to support evidence-based planning and decision making at all levels. The recent 5th Population and Housing Census captured various development achievements and demographic changes in Rwanda for the past ten years: the overall population increased from 10.51 (in 2012) to 13.26 (in 2022) million with decreasing trends of the young population (below 30 years) from 70.3% (2012) to 65.3% (2022). Standards of living improved, proven by the increase of life expectancy at birth at 69.6 years, and the decrease of the total fertility rate average of 3.6. 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) evaluation and NST2 formulation, Vision 2050, and SDGs.

In line with strengthening the capacity of the national institute of statistics to generate quality disaggregated data, and leveraging the technological tools, the JP technically supported NISR by hiring technical experts to build and maintain a data quality control system in 2023. Starting with EICV7 data collection, the system will be expanded for other data collection exercises in 2024 and beyond.

In addition, agencies under the JP on data continued their technical and financial support to strengthen the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) System. Through a well-coordinated intervention, NISR has developed the capacity of subnational counterparts, and through remote and on-site field monitoring, ensuring that the system remains online and operational. The capacity of the Government and Civil Society Organization was built in data analysis, dissemination and data use covering academia, journalists, district statisticians, and children and youth.

The JP on Data coordination continued to be strengthened by building on evidence generated from the evaluation of National Statistical Development Strategy 3 (NSDS3), in which the JP on Data members were consulted through interviews, and the development of the NSDS4 Steering Committee meetings and other fora such as the Development Partners Coordination group, and the Results Groups under the current Cooperation Framework between the UN and the Government of Rwanda.

# Purpose

The purpose of the Joint Programme on Data is to strengthen the capacity of 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 6.1:

*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 2023/2024), Disseminating the 2019/2020 Demographic and Health Survey findings and the gender statistical reports. Participating agencies are: UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and UN WOMEN.

# Results

During the reporting period, the Joint program on data maintained a strong collaboration with the NISR, enhancing sectoral Management Information Systems and administrative data systems (indicator 6.1.2), including the CRVS system. It also provided technical assistance to both NISR and the Ministry of Health (MoH) to monitor health-related SDGs indicators, specifically for those with available and monitored data (indicator 6.1.3). This support aimed to ensure the full functionality of these systems, enabling them to produce timely and quality data.

The 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC), the first-ever digital census in Rwanda, was successfully concluded, disseminated at all levels and key knowledge management products were produced including the 18 thematic reports, the 30 district profiles and the sampling frameworks: all to support planning and progress tracking at all levels.

In preparation to the upcoming data collection exercises including the EICV7 and 2024-2025 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), the UN provided technical support and improved the quality of the questionnaire, and a data quality control system is being developed, and is expected to speed up the process, but also to improve the quality of data.

***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 PHC successfully concluded and disseminated at all levels:**

In 2023, the NISR concluded the first digital Population and Housing Census. The report provides updated demographic, social, and economic indicators for policy formulation and planning to support the national development agenda. The 5th PHC also showcases strategic outcomes and significant impacts on Rwanda's developmental progress and demographic evolution over the last decade. Key findings include a notable increase in the overall population from 10.51 million in 2012 to 13.26 million in 2022, alongside a shift in the demographic profile with the proportion of the young population (below 30 years) decreasing from 70.3% to 65.3%. These changes underscore Rwanda's developmental strides, particularly in enhancing the quality of life and managing demographic dynamics effectively. Additionally, the improved standards of living are evidenced by a rise in life expectancy at birth to 69.6 years and a reduction in the total fertility rate to an average of 3.6. These metrics not only reflect Rwanda's progress in health and well-being but also highlight the impactful results of its sustained developmental policies and initiatives.

By leveraging south-to-south cooperations among the UN Agencies, NISR received vital support from census experts to develop 18 thematic reports. This encompassed critical areas such as fertility, gender, socio economic status of children, social economic status of youth, population projections and social economic status of people with disabilities among others. In addition, the experts worked with NISR teams to produce 30 district profiles out of 30 districts in the country and established a robust sampling framework. Such disaggregated profile data helps each district to address district-specific development issues and in planning and programming further. This collaborative effort has gone beyond producing the above-mentioned deliverables, but also built the capacity of the local technical teams to ensure sustainability and ownership.

In anticipation of the Census dissemination, NISR collaborated with the UN to actively involve and enhance the media’s capabilities. This initiative yielded concrete results, with 25 journalists trained from public and private media houses, actively supporting the dissemination plan across all levels. The dissemination process unfolded in two different phases; a national engagement through the 2023 national dialogue, and second, a provincial level dissemination that brought together technical teams and leaders from all the 30 districts of Rwanda.

Eighteen (18) thematic reports from the RPHC-5, including one specific gender thematic report were produced by NISR during a two-week workshop to analyze and proofread the reports. A total of 81 participants including the thematic data analysts from NISR, experts from universities, Ministries and affiliated parastatals, and UN partners contributed to the production of all the thematic reports. Data from these reports informed the development of the United Nations Common Country Analysis 2023 and will inform the second National Strategy for the Transformation 2024-2029 as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2029. The data also informed the monitoring of the SDGs progress particularly the 2023 Rwanda Voluntary National Review report that was presented in July 2023 in New York during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The data from the Census-based thematic reports is useful for programming too; for instance, the Gender thematic report helped the UN Women Rwanda Country Portfolio Evaluation of the Strategic Note 2019-2024 and subsequently will inform the development of the next Strategic Note 2024-2024. The Main Indicator Report from the 5th PHC 2022 contains sex-disaggregated and gender relevant data. A specific Gender Thematic Report was produced with all other 17 thematic reports containing sex-disaggregated and gender relevant data.

* **Dissemination of the 2019-2020 Demographic and Health Survey** (**DHS) findings and 2022 STEPS Survey:**

The 5th Rwanda DHS implemented from 2019 to 2020 provided data to monitor the health situation of the Rwandan population. Specifically, the DHS collected information on a broad range of demographic, health, and social issues such as household characteristics, maternal and child health, fertility levels, breastfeeding practices, early childhood mortality, maternal mortality, and nutritional status of women and young children among others. In collaboration with the UN through the Joint Programme on data, in 2023, NISR has developed and implemented a strong dissemination plan to create awareness on 2019-2020 DHS findings by district and thematic areas and agree on actionable strategies for improvement. The workshops at the provincial level brought together the decision makers, planners and other stakeholders involved in planning and progress reporting.

Key recommendations from the workshops in 4 provinces and Kigali city are summarized below:

* District statisticians should delve into the available data sets to do further analysis on key indicators for data driven programs aligned to national targets;
* Districts to speed up the recruitment process, to fill the HRH gap;
* Strengthen community health workers and integrate their package;
* Advocacy to integrate Family Planning and other preventive services into the package delivered at the health post;
* The Southern province committed to establish a command post with a data dashboard, which will be monitored on a monthly basis to track progress;
* Mobilize more partners to support data for decision making; and
* Use the DHS data as the basis for the Districts Development Strategies.

In addition, the UN supported the design and implementation of the 2022 STEPS survey, which collects nationally representative information on key risk factors for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Rwanda. The survey was disseminated during a high-level forum in June 2023 to support evidence-based decision-making and planning.

* **The 10-year review of the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) - Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD) successfully undertaken:**

Additionally, the year of 2023 marked the 10th year since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD), a framework that localizes the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action – adopted by African Ministers at the Africa Regional Conference on Population and Development held in Addis Ababa in 2013 and endorsed by African Heads of State at the African Union Executive Council in 2014. With the technical and financial support provided to the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), and in collaboration with the line ministries including the Ministry of Health (MoH), the 10-year review of the implementation of the AADPD in Rwanda was successfully undertaken and served as an effective national monitoring mechanism. In addition, a continental meeting for the African Population Experts and Committee and Ministers in charge of Population was held in Zambia, and the Government of Rwanda was represented by the Director General Yousuf Murangwa of NISR through the above-mentioned UN’s support.

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

In 2023, the UN through the JP on Data supported capacity building of the CRVS stakeholders via the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all the nine events reported by the CRVS system. The efforts further strengthened the CRVS system that became operational at all hospitals, health centers, clinics, and polyclinics; both public and private, administrative cells and sectors and Rwandan embassies abroad in 2022. The system includes verbal autopsy to gain a better understanding of the patterns of causes of death when people die outside health facility where there is no physician to certify death; and integration of Medical Certification of Causes of Death (MCCoD) into health care settings to determine underlying causes of death that occur in Health facilities.

Furthermore, in May 2023, the Education Statistical Yearbook was released, which provided disaggregated education statistics and status of learning outcomes on children of all ages. The UN in collaboration with NISR built the capacity of 48 academia, researchers, 57 district statisticians in data analysis, 37 journalists in evidence-based storytelling, and enhanced statistical literacy among children and youth.

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

Over eighty percent (82%; 38/45) of the health-related SDGs indicators are currently reported, from a baseline of 70% in 2020. The scale-cup of verbal autopsy (VA) allowed the estimation of causes of death outside hospitals and to report 3/44 (7%) additional Health-related SDGs indicators.

**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**

* During the reporting period, the main challenge was the timely availability of required resources as the involved agencies are experiencing a reduction in the core resources. In addition, the use of generated data at decentralized levels requires additional resources, including technical expertise.
* Despite comprehensive efforts to develop thematic reports across key sectors, the challenge of accurately estimating maternal mortality stood out due to the limited quality of the collected data. Initial analyses suggested a significant underestimation of maternal mortality rates over the preceding 12 months. Consequently, this led to the omission of maternal mortality from the final report. This exclusion represents a critical missed opportunity to thoroughly examine maternal health issues and their implications on broader population dynamics. It underscores the need for enhanced data collection and quality assurance methods to better inform strategic interventions and policy decisions aimed at improving maternal health outcomes.



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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 is successfully implemented and findings disseminated  The 2019-2020 DHS is successfully concluded and findings disseminated  EICV 7 preparatory phases supported  Dissemination of the results of the STEPS survey |  | <https://www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/demographic-and-health-survey-20192020-key-indicators>  <https://www.statistics.gov.rw/datasource/fifth-population-and-housing-census-2022>  <https://www.statistics.gov.rw/datasource/integrated-household-living-conditions-survey-5-eicv-5>  RBC website: [rbc.gov.rw/fileadmin/user\_upload/report23/STEPS Booklet.pdf](https://www.rbc.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/report23/STEPS%20Booklet.pdf) |
| **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). | CRVS fully functional; even strengthened further with the data quality control system support. |  | [Rwanda Vital Statistics Report - 2022 | National Institute of Statistics Rwanda](https://statistics.gov.rw/Rwanda_Vital_Statistics_Report_2022) |
| **Indicator 6.1.3:** % of SDG indicators for which data is available and monitored.  **Baseline**: 23%  **Planned target:** 70% | The target of 70% was reached in 2020 and 84% of health-related SDGs were monitored in June 2023. |  | [Microsoft Word - 21232006\_FLJSR\_2023-24 Report\_Ddraft[1].docx (moh.gov.rw)](https://www.moh.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=70771&token=f73c868b77d22d7833d7762c29cde46f7ec0b4b3) |
| **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)