

Joint Programme Document

A. COVER PAGE

1. Fund Name: Joint SDG Fund

2. MPTFO Project Reference Number

3. Joint programme title: Accelerating SDGs through digitized, innovative and accessible statistical system in Comoros

4. Short title: Power of data revolution

5. Country and region: COMOROS

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8. Government Joint Programme focal point: Ahmed Djoumoi, General Director for the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED), adjoumoi@yahoo.fr

9. Short description:

The goal of the programme is to drive better decisions and better lives for the Comorian population by facilitating the production, sharing and use of better data. The long term expected objective of the proposed Joint Programme (JP) is to contribute to more and better data being used to monitor and achieve the SDGs, through the high-performance, digitized and accessible national statistical system that capitalizes on available and improved data from all stakeholders, organized around multi sectoral indicators that are a priority for the government, and that allow for informed and integrated decision making for the acceleration of the SDGs, and the mobilization of resources around these priorities at all levels (public, private, civil society).

This joint proposal will support the Government of Comoros in fully harnessing the power of data revolution to efficiently monitor key indicators of development and enable informed and timely decision-making to reduce the country's vulnerabilities and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs aligned with the Comoros Emerging Plan by 2030.

The expected results of the joint programme are threefold: (i) a developed and improved institutional framework and operational capacity of the national statistical system to capture 70% of the SDGs targets indicators prioritized at the national level for strategic decision-making for economic and social progress by 2023; (ii) improved regular production and accessibility of a set of relevant multi-sectoral indicators and functionalities in a digital repository with an open data portal for monitoring the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs by 2023; (iii) use of quality, disaggregated and updated statistical and geospatial data, with full respect for confidentiality, related to the SDG indicators, and presented in a meaningful and user-friendly format for informed decision making in Comoros.

The proposed project will bridge data and information gaps in priority areas identified by the country by improving human and institutional capabilities for integrating SDG data from across the national statistical system in Comoros. It will support the creation of an open national SDG data platform based on modern digital technologies and interoperability

standards, providing users from different stakeholder groups with access to authoritative, geospatial and statistical data, metadata, as well as visualization and analysis tools to support policy and decision making for sustainable development. In addition, it will strengthen the coordination role of the General Planning Commission on the implementation of the SDGs, and the coordination and leadership role of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) on the statistical work on indicators for global, regional and national monitoring, by supporting the coordination and establishment of data sharing agreements and improved SDG data flows among members of the National Statistical and information System. The project will deliver enhanced country capacity to produce and disseminate accurate and up-to-date geospatial data and information about the SDGs and their indicators, which will enable decision makers to integrate the SDG indicators into policies, projects, and programs, which will accelerate the country’s progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals while pursuing national development objectives. The project will facilitate the development of data sharing and validation agreements between different data producers, and the development of a clear user engagement strategy. In addition to this transformative shift making governance more aligned to the SDGs, private stakeholders in Comoros will benefit from the new system by using the data to enhance their ownership of the 2030 Agenda, increasing public-private partnerships for mobilizing private capital to fill the investment gap in key SDG sectors. The programme is fully aligned with the Comoros Emerging Plan, especially the Interim Development Plan 2020-2024 and national priorities for the institutional and operational statistical framework.

10. Keywords: Statistical system, Open Data, Digital repository, Sustainable Development Goals, Comoros

11. Overview of budget

Joint SDG Fund contribution	USD 950 400.00
Co-funding 1 (UNFPA)	USD 100,000.00
Co-funding 2 (UNDP)	USD 100,000.00
Co-funding 2 (WHO)	USD 100,000.00
Co-funding 2 (UNCTAD)	USD 100,000.00
TOTAL	USD 1,350,400.00

12. Timeframe:

Start date	End date	Duration (in months)
<u>01/12/2021</u>	<u>30/11/2023</u>	<u>24 months</u>

13. Gender Marker:

- Meets minimum standards: 2

14. Target groups (including groups left behind or at risk of being left behind)

List of marginalized and vulnerable groups	Direct influence	Indirect influence
Women	X	
Children	X	
Girls	X	
Youth	X	

Persons with disabilities	X	
Older persons		X
Rural workers	X	
Human rights defenders (incl. NGOs, journalists, union leaders, whistleblowers...)		X
Migrants		X
Persons affected by (HIV/AIDS, leprosy...)	X	
Victims of (slavery, torture, trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse...)	X	

15. Human Rights Mechanisms related to the Joint Programme

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (article 25)
- Special Rapporteur on the right to development
- Human Rights Council, 2014, Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognize everywhere as a person before the law', A/HRC/27/22.
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (1990)
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (article 31)
- Human Rights Committee, General Comment 16, UN doc. ICCPR/C/21/Add. 6, para 10
- Report of the Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (2014)
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (A/HRC/29/32)

16. PUNO and Partners:

16.1 PUNO

- *Convening agency:*
 - United Nations for Population Fund (UNFPA):** Koffi Kouame, Resident Representative Madagascar & Country Director for Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles, kouame@unfpa.org, +261 20 23 300 92
- *Other PUNO:*
 - **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):** Raul JAVALOYES, Chief, Technical Cooperation Section, TCS, raul.javaloyes@unctad.org, +41 22 917 55 73
 - **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):** Fenella FROST, Resident Representative, fenella.frost@undp.org, +269 763 1089
 - **WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO):** DIARRA, Abdoulaye Representative for Comoros, diarraa@who.int, + 269 3330056

16.2 Partners

- *National authorities:*
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 - **General Planning Commission:** Abdourazak IBRAHIM, General Director for Strategic Planning and Population, abdourazakibrahim2@gmail.com, +269 3415535/4415536

- **Ministry of Health, Solidarity, Social Protection and Gender Promotion:** Mr Jean YOUSOUF, Permanent Secretary, jeanyoussouf@yahoo.fr ; +269 3563274
- **General Directorate of Customs:** Kamaldini SOUEF, General Director, ksouef@douane.gov.km, +269 773 18 89
- **The National Agency for Digital Development (ANADEN):** Chamsoudini MZAOUIYANI, General Director, c.mzaouiyani@anden.org, +269 375 75 10/ +269347 39 39
- *Private sector:*
 - **UCCIA: Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture**
Chamsoudine Ahmed, President de l'UCCIA, pr.uccia.comores@gmail.com, +269 333 22 14
- *IFIs*
 - **World Bank:** Boubacar Sidiki Walbani, Representative, bwalbani@worldbankgroup.org, +269 773 20 32
- *Other partners:*
 - **International Labour Organization (ILO),** Coffi Agossou, Director/Resident Representative ILO Country Office for Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles, agossou@ilo.org, +261 20 23 300 93
 - **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA),** Maximilien Pardo y Fernandez , Advisor for Small Islands Developing States, maximilien.pardo@un.org, +1 (347)277 0074
 - **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),** Mariame Sylla, Representative UNICEF Comoros, msylla@unicef.org, +269 773 0993
 - **European Union:** Pierre BEZIZ, Head of Office, pierre.beziz@eeas.europa.eu, Tel : +269 341 47 49

SIGNATURE PAGE

Resident Coordinator

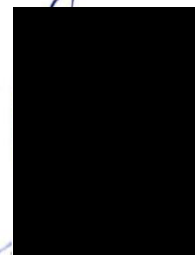
François Bataingaya
Date and Signature : 26/08/2021



National Coordinating Authority

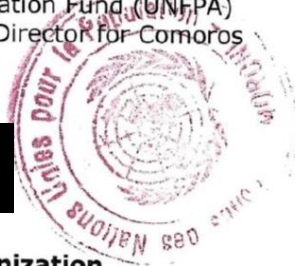
Institut National de la Statistique et
des Etudes Economiques et
Démographiques (INSEED)
Name of representative:

Ahmed Djoumoi
Date : 26/08/2021
Signature and seal



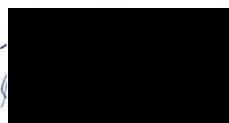
Participating UN Organization (lead/convening)

United Nations for Population Fund (UNFPA)
Koffi KOUAME, Country Director for Comoros
Date: 26/08/2021
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Participating UN Organization

United Nations Conference on Trade and
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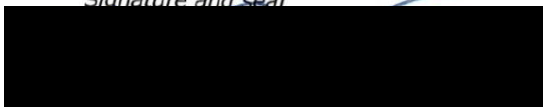
Participating

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
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Participating UN Organization

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
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B. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

1. Call for Proposal: Building Resilience and Ending Vulnerability in Small Island Developing States (3/2021)

2. Relevant Joint SDG Fund Outcomes

- Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale.
- Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement.

3. Overview of the Joint Programme Results

3.1 Outcomes

- **UNSDCF Outcomes**

- **UNSDCF- Outcome 1** : By 2026, state and non-state actors and the Comorian population, especially the most vulnerable, are more resilient to climate change, natural disasters and crises, and ensure sustainable and integrated management of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and associated ecosystem goods and services, in a tional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement.
- **UNSDCF - Outcome 2:** By 2026, the Comorian population, and in particular the most vulnerable, will enjoy shared prosperity, built on a more competitive and inclusive economy, on renewed public-private partnerships, and in a perspective of sustainable growth turned towards the sectors of the future (green, blue and digital economy).
- **UNSDCF Outcome 3:** : By 2026, the Comorian population, particularly the most vulnerable, will benefit from the demographic dividend and make greater use of adequate, inclusive, equitable, gender-sensitive, sustainable, and quality health, nutrition, education, social protection, care for victims of violence.
- **UNSDCF Outcome 4:** By 2026, public institutions are more inclusive, effective, accountable and resilient and strengthen citizen participation in public life, social cohesion, human rights, gender equality and democracy.

- **Joint Programme Outcomes**

- **Outcome 1:** Developed and improved institutional framework and operational capacity of the national statistical system to capture 70% of the SDGs targets indicators prioritized at the national level for strategic decision-making for economic and social progress by 2023.
- **Outcome 2:** Improved regular production and accessibility of a set of relevant multisectoral indicators and functionalities in a digital repository with an open data portal for monitoring the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs by 2023.
- **Outcome 3:** Use of quality, disaggregated and updated statistical and geospatial data, with full respect for confidentiality, related to the SDG

indicators, and presented in a meaningful and user-friendly format for informed decision making in Comoros

3.2 Outputs

- **Joint Programme Outputs**

- **Output 1.1** : The national statistical strategy is updated and reflects the complex architecture of data production and collection, as well as the digital modernization of the statistical system
- **Output 1.2** : The capacity of the national statistical system is strengthened to inform planning, programming and policy development to accelerate progress towards human rights, gender equality and sustainable development.
- **Output 2.1**: A digital repository with an open data portal to monitor the SDGs is established, functional and the capacity to maintain it is available
- **Output 2.2**: Strengthened national capacity to produce key indicators for monitoring the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the Comoros Emerging Plan in the perspective that data on critical vulnerabilities for Comoros are regularly fed in order to establish trends
- **Output 3.1**: Availability of a user-friendly web-based database, accessible to users, including decision makers at all levels (national, decentralized and individual).
- **Output 3.2**: Strengthening the capacity and statistical literacy of key decision makers on the timely use of data collected on the SDGs

4. SDG Targets directly addressed by the Joint Programme

4.1 List of targets

The proposed programme will contribute to the achievement of various SDG, in particular SDG 3 and 17. The programme will contribute and will monitor the following targets:

- **SDG 3-3.8** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- **SDG 17-17.16** Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- **SDG 17-17.18** By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
- **SDG 17-17.19** By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

4.2 Expected SDG impact

The programme will help achieve the SDGs by providing critical information on natural resources, government operations, public services, and demographic situations. These insights will inform national priorities and help determine the most effective paths for action on national issues. A digitized, innovative and accessible statistical system through an open data portal is a key resource for fostering economic growth and job creation. Open data can help launch new businesses,

optimize existing companies' operations, and improve the climate for foreign investment. It can also make the job market more efficient and serve as a resource in training for critical technological job skills, prioritize investments in energy generation, and build resilient infrastructure and promote sustainable industrialization. The programme will improve efficiency and effectiveness of public services, in particular the health care system (SDG 3) targeting vulnerable women and girls and other vulnerable populations. The programme will reveal inequalities and help prioritize efforts to address them, and help increase transparency, accountability and citizen participation. Open Data plays a critical role in improving governance by exposing and preventing mismanagement and corruption. It also helps ensure environmental sustainability through transparent data that can help reduce pollution, conserve natural resources and build resilience to climate change. In addition, the programme will facilitate better information-sharing within the government and number of organizations (SDG 17). The proposed integrated approach will create synergies between different programmes leading to mutually reinforcing results that will have a stronger impact on the various SDG goals. The proposed programme will contribute to the achievement of various SDGs, in particular SDG 3 and 17.

5. Relevant objective/s from the national SDG framework

Comoros conducted, with the UN support, a domestication exercise of the SDGs targets in 2018, which consists in identifying the priority SDG targets for the country. This exercise resulted in the identification of 68 priority SDG targets (with 128 indicators) for Comoros.

The programme is relevant to the achievement of the Interim Development Plan 2020-2024 and its sectoral objectives, namely:

- Reforming and modernizing administrations for greater visibility, efficiency, quality and better career management through the development and implementation of the master plan for computerization and development of NTIC (e-Administration).
- Promote a health system that meets international standards for a high-performance human capital through the support for the data collection system and the national strategy for e-health.
- Promote the rapid take-off of the economy and improve the circulation of information within the population for a strong social cohesion through enhanced legislative and institutional framework with the protection of personal data, and facilitated access to TIC with the development of TIC infrastructures, development of use of TIC services, and development of TIC contents in the sectors of tourism, culture, trade for the local population.

6. Brief overview of the Theory of Change of the Joint programme

6.1 Summary:

IF the Union of Comoros establishes a centralized data collection, analysis and processing architecture within INSEED and organized around the country's prioritized SDG indicators and targets, **IF** these data are digitized and grouped within a single platform or a powerful network, and if the skills to a) update and strengthen these data, b) network these data, maintain and manage this platform are available, **IF** the available data are disseminated and accessible and allow for informed decision-making by stakeholders for integrated policies to achieve the SDGs and regional integration of the country, **THEN** the Union of the Comoros has an efficient, digitized and accessible national statistical system, capitalizing on available and improved data from all stakeholders, organized around multi-sectoral

indicators that are a priority for the government and allow for informed and integrated decision-making to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and the mobilization of resources around these priorities at all levels (public, private, civil society).

The goal of the programme is to drive better decisions and better lives for all by facilitating the production, sharing and use of better data. **The long term expected objective** of the proposed Joint Programme (JP) is to contribute to more and better data being used to monitor and achieve the SDGs, through the high-performance, digitized and accessible national statistical system that capitalizes on available and improved data from all stakeholders, organized around multi sectoral indicators that are a priority for the government and that allow for informed and integrated decision making for the acceleration of the SDGs and the mobilization of resources around these priorities and at all levels (public, private, civil society). **To achieve this long-term objective, the programme is expected to work through three pillars:** (i) improved institutional framework and coordination of actors; (ii) improved regular data production and accessibility in a digital repository with an open data portal for monitoring the Plan Emergence Comores and the SDGs by 2023; (iii) use of quality, disaggregated and updated statistical and geospatial data, with full respect for confidentiality, related to the SDG indicators, and presented in a meaningful and user-friendly format for informed decision making in Comoros.

6.2 List of main ToC assumptions to be monitored:

The Theory of Change is based on six assumptions, aligned with the ToC of the UNSDCF outcome 4, in particular: “the public administration is modernized, efficient, responsible and close to the citizens thanks to the effective application of the texts, the implementation of results-based management, the implementation of a unified policy for the reinforcement of human resources skills and effective career management, the implementation of the digitization of the archives and an accessible information system in the administration, the increase and efficient use of the budget allocated to the public administration”.

The six assumptions to be monitored are:

- Enabling a political environment that supports changemakers’ ability to invest time and resources.
- Well-trained, well-equipped statistical system is established in Comoros, generating more data of higher quality with greater frequency.
- The National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) works with government institutions, private companies, citizen groups, NGOs and academia to generate data through a more collaborative model.
- Open data, data privacy and data interoperability are norms rather than exceptions.
- A centralized data collection, analysis and processing architecture is functional within the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) and organized around the country's prioritized SDG indicators and targets
- Available data disseminated and accessible for informed decision-making by stakeholders for integrated policies to achieve the SDGs and regional integration of the country

7. Trans-boundary and/or regional issues

The JP is a targeted project on three islands forming the Union of the Comoros and therefore with limited transboundary expected impacts.

C. JOINT PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

1. Baseline and Situation Analysis

1.1 Problem statement

The Union of Comoros is an archipelago in the Indian Ocean comprising three main islands; Mwali, Ndzuani and Ngazidja. The population is estimated at 758,316, based on the 2017 census, with a population growth rate of 2 percent per year during 2003-2017. At this rate, the population is projected to increase by 50 per cent, with the labour force doubling over the next 15 years. Some 57.6 percent of the population is less than 25 years old; this presents an opportunity to harness the demographic dividend if strategic investments are made in health, education and employment opportunities for young people. The Comoros Emergent Plan 2030 prioritizes human capital that is future-focused, with an emphasis on young people, a stable political and institutional framework, and digital capabilities, as key accelerators to position the country as an emerging economy by 2030.

Comoros is classified as a 'least developed country', recording an average annual economic growth rate of 2.4 per cent over the last 10 years. According to the Common Country Assessment (CCA 2020), about 44.1 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, with more than half of the poor living in rural areas and 25 percent living in extreme poverty. The island of Mwali has a poverty incidence of 56.7 per cent, followed by Ndzuani with 47.9 percent. In the capital, Moroni, the poverty rate is 36.5 per cent; in the remaining area of Ngazidja, it is 49.9 percent. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated poverty levels across the islands, and the CCA notes that women, young people, people at risk of HIV infection, people living with disabilities and the elderly are particularly affected by multidimensional poverty. With a Gini coefficient of 38.8, the high level of inequalities are reflected in the limited access to high-quality education, employment and basic services; this is adversely affecting women and young people in rural areas due to the high costs of accessing services and the lack of affordable transport. While good progress has been made in access to education at all levels for boys and girls, the training and education system is ill-adapted to the needs of employers; therefore, young people remain highly vulnerable to unemployment.

Comoros is particularly vulnerable to natural hazards and climatic shocks, including tropical storms, cyclones, drought and volcanic eruptions. The 2018 Global Climate Risk Index ranks the country 51st out of 172 countries for natural disaster risk and 59th for lack of adaptive capacity. Additional investments are required to build resilient health and protection systems, encouraging resilient communities and individuals to better prepare, respond and adapt to natural disasters and other systemic shocks.

The Data Ecosystem in Comoros

The Comoros Country Commun Assessment (CCA) has addressed issues related to the weakness of the national statistical system and the achievement of the SDGs.

❖ A National Statistical System with Multiple Weaknesses

The national statistical system of Comoros is composed of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) with its offices on the islands, and a number of sectoral statistical units set up in ministerial departments. Despite the existence of a modern statistical law that meets the basic principles of the United Nations Official

Statistics and defines the roles of the different structures and coordination mechanisms, the system remains weakly integrated. This law designates INSEED as the central body of the National Statistical System and the National Statistical Council (CNS) as the coordinating body. The National Statistical Committee has hardly ever met since the statistical law was passed in 2011.

Apart from INSEED, which inherited some of the staff who worked at the former Directorate of Statistics of the General Planning Commission (CGP), the departments in charge of statistics have few or no professional statisticians and very limited material and financial resources. As a result, statistical production has major shortcomings in terms of quantity, quality, coverage, analysis and dissemination. The World Bank's statistical capacity indicator, which assesses the effectiveness of a country's statistical system, gave the Union of the Comoros a mixed score of 47.8 out of a maximum of 100 in 2019. Of the three components of the indicator (methodology/data sources/periodicity & timeliness), it is the "methodology" dimension, with a score of 20 out of 100, that drags the indicator down.

Assessments of statistical capacity in three dimensions (statistical practice, data collection, and availability of indicators) for monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs revealed major challenges that the country must overcome in order to effectively monitor the 2030 Agenda. Indeed, the country has prioritized 68 SDG targets that it intends to monitor using 168 indicators. Of these 168 indicators, 57 are already produced in the country, 60 can be produced (can be calculated from existing data sources) and 51 cannot be produced in the current state of the information system (data is not available to calculate them). Especially for SDGs 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16, a large number of indicators cannot be produced by the current national statistical system. Thus, 30% of the indicators, essentially concentrated in SDG11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG12 (responsible consumption and production) and especially SDG16 (peace, justice and effective institutions), can only be produced through a significant investment in data collection and processing. It should be noted, moreover, that these indicators must be disaggregated by age, gender, disability status, and other relevant functional categories, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind, since targets can normally only be considered "achieved" if they are achieved for all relevant social and income groups.

The reduced statistical capacity of the Union of the Comoros is mainly due to the structural weakness of the funding and other support that the statistical field has received so far. The MAPS mission of July 2017 already noted in its report that the National Statistical System had quantitatively and qualitatively too limited human and logistical resources to ensure quality and sustainable statistical production. Since 2007, with the support of its development partners, notably the UNDP and the World Bank, the Union of the Comoros has had a national strategy for the development of statistics, which was revised in 2010 and 2014 to be aligned with the national development strategies, the Country Poverty Reduction Strategy and then the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development. These different phases of the national strategy for the development of statistics have been the subject of evaluations that have systematically revealed very limited implementation of the activities planned in their action plans, due to a lack of resources. Indeed, despite the ambitions stated in the texts to promote statistical activity, successive Comorian governments have never mobilized the resources required in this regard. The Comorian statistical system remains trapped in a vicious circle of statistical underdevelopment, where the lack of recognition of the importance of data by decision-makers at all levels of society has led to a sustained under-funding of statistics.

To date, support from development partners has generally been limited to funding large one-off data collection exercises such as population censuses and large household surveys, as well as the development of some databases. These operations contributed to

strengthening the capacity of INSEED and the national statistical system in general. This support should be scaled up and strengthened to support the Comorian statistical system to take advantage of the ongoing data revolution. INSEED should be equipped with the strong capacity so that, as coordinator of the National Statistical System and repository of large amounts of data, it can create value by overseeing the production of reliable statistics and helping to interpret them. The national statistical system also needs to have the capacity to operate effectively within a new, broader data ecosystem that integrates a variety of data producing and data using communities from different backgrounds, including the private sector.

❖ ***A National Framework for the Monitoring of Policies to be adapted to the challenges of Sustainable Development***

As part of the process of domesticating and integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into national planning, the Union of Comoros has undertaken a reform of its national development monitoring and evaluation framework. Indeed, as the SDGs are being implemented simultaneously and in an integrated manner with the national development strategies, the government has decided to restructure the monitoring-evaluation system accordingly. Thus, the new institutional mechanism for development monitoring-evaluation is built around the 5 P's of the SDGs.

Overall, the national framework for development monitoring-evaluation is articulated around the General Planning Commission (CGP). This institution, attached to the Presidency of the Republic and placed under the supervision of the Secretary General of the Government, is responsible, among other things, for driving and coordinating the national strategic planning and development monitoring-evaluation processes. Its mandate also includes the technical coordination of the development of the aid. The General Planning Commission works with the sectoral planning units, which are more or less effective, existing in the various ministerial departments to accomplish its mission. In practice, due to a lack of capacity and the inherent dysfunctional nature of the public administration, some ministries sometimes conduct strategic planning processes in their sectors that are more or less outside the General Planning Commission's supervision, which often results in a weak linkage of certain sectoral documents with the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development, which is the integrating framework for greater coherence between sectoral strategies and programs and with the macroeconomic policy framework. The government, with the support of its partners, should ensure that this situation does not continue in the context of the implementation of the Comoros Emerging Plan, as it constitutes a serious handicap for the achievement of the SDGs and the country's ambition to emerge.

The General Planning Commission plays a leading role in the steering, implementation and monitoring-evaluation of the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs, which it chairs. The challenge for the Union of the Comoros today is to make this mechanism effective and operational. Indeed, although defined in detail in the Comoros Emerging Plan, including its coordination mechanisms, the mechanism is struggling to be put in place since even the necessary regulatory texts on this subject have not yet been signed. This is the consequence, among other things, of certain important dysfunctions that can be noted in the chain of administrative prerogatives and decisions. A high-level political dialogue between development partners and the government would make it possible to overcome this stumbling block, which had already paralyzed the implementation of the previous monitoring and evaluation framework of the revised Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development.

With regard to the operationalization of the system, the main constraint remains the weak capacities of the public administration in programming, budgeting, execution and

monitoring-evaluation of development programs/projects. The initiatives undertaken so far by the national authorities, with the support of the Financial and Technical partners, to strengthen institutional and human capacities in these different areas have been fragmented, small-scale and poorly coordinated. They have logically led to very mixed results. The enormous challenges posed by the implementation and monitoring-evaluation of the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs should prompt the government and its development partners to put in place a vast program to support the restructuring of the public administration in order to increase its efficiency and effectiveness, including a substantial sub-program to strengthen national development management and coordination capacities. This is a critical condition for increasing absorptive capacity, efficient use of resources and good management of programs and projects implemented under the Comoros Emerging Plan and subsequently within the overall development framework.

Like the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies for the National Statistical System, the General Planning Commission will play a very important role in the process of scaling up the development monitoring and evaluation system. It is therefore essential to stop its current decline beforehand by massively strengthening its institutional and human capacities. In its mandated role of being responsible for the internal coordination of development and the technical coordination of the aid, the General Planning Commission should, among other things, initiate and lead a permanent and sustained dialogue with partners on strengthening national development management capacities. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the financial and human resources allocated to the General Planning Commission are limited and need to be strengthened in order to improve, on the one hand, and to strengthen its institutional positioning on the other.

- ❖ ***In Comoros, there are several data processing and storage softwares***, but there is no basic infrastructure for the security and available online data.

The country has several data processing programs, namely:

- (i) Dev Info provided by UNICEF: this tool is used to store indicators classified according to sectors and development objectives as well as on maps of the country;
- (ii) IMIS provided by UNFPA: this tool is used to store the database, documentation of data collection and output of tables and indicators;
- (iii) Redatam provided by the ADB: this tool is used to archive the databases;
- (iv) Eurotrace provided by COMESA: this tool is used to process foreign trade statistics from customs data under Sydonia World;
- (v) ERETES provided by Afristat: this tool is used to compile national accounts with the SNC 93 version;
- (vi) Chapo provided by Afristat: this tool is used to process price statistics and output the household consumer price index and inflation;
- (vii) Arc View provided by the World Bank: this tool is used to enumerate and digitize census maps.
- (viii) SPSS, STAT, CsPRO for data entry and processing.

- ❖ ***The Vision is a strengthened National Data Ecosystem.***

The proposed joint project will contribute to international frameworks including SAMOA Platform, Sendai and Paris Agreement.

To ensure the effective monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs, a roadmap outlining the guidelines for action and specifying the responsibilities for carrying out the tasks has been developed to achieve the main objectives of the 2030 Agenda for the Union of the Comoros. This roadmap needs to be updated in order to build a strengthened national data ecosystem.

Amongst the numerous benefits that a strengthened national data ecosystem brings through an Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), the following are the most outstanding: easy and rapid access to voluminous micro and macro data through the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS); compatibility with most usual software; export to dissemination software such as UNInfo, IMIS; security: data stored in compressed encrypted format; original file no longer needed – hence removing the fear to share original data; selection of universe and a combination of geographical areas for specific analysis; enhancement of existing data systems, and assistance to the national information system to play its data coordination role and to be the repository of all official national statistical data with gender- and human rights-based lenses.

There is a need to create a national data platform that should be reliable one-stop shops and national data sources with multiple purposes including generation of indicators for monitoring national development programmes and the SDGs. Such a data platform should be capable of producing authoritative reference datasets or best available data needed to support operations and decision-making for all actors in national development planning, programme formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. This will improve visibility, facilitate usability and ensure data quality of high standards.

Setting up a strengthened national data ecosystem would comprise the following steps: Plan, Collect, Process, Endorse, Communicate Feedback, Disseminate and Use and Archive.

To address these issues, the proposed project will improve human and institutional capabilities for gathering data, will clarify the data needs for the Country’s SDG indicators, and will establish a user-friendly digital statistical system which will be accessible to the public. This new system will provide accurate, disaggregated and up-to-date data and information about the SDGs and their indicators, which will enable decision makers to integrate the SDG indicators into policies, projects, and programs, which will accelerate the country’s progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals while pursuing national development objectives.

A strengthened data system will also facilitate evidence generation on the importance of investing in family planning; prevention of gender-based violence and harmful practices; harnessing the demographic dividend; and analysis of vulnerability to crisis and disasters. Indeed, it will contribute significantly to robust policy responses in a crisis, and call on INSEED to assume a central role as coordinator of the national statistical system and chart the way toward improved data ecosystem governance for informing policies during and after COVID-19.

The proposed project will contribute to increased revenue collection, assists to formalize the informal economy through automation and statistics collection as well as promotes good governance via rule based automated and transparency systems linked to data collection systems.

In addition to this transformative shift making governance more aligned to the SDGs, private stakeholders in Comoros will benefit from the new system by using the data to enhance their ownership of the 2030 Agenda, increasing public-private partnerships for mobilizing private capital to fill the investment gap in key SDG sectors.

1.2 Target groups

The programme will target specifically the following institutions and population groups:

- ❖ **The National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED).** To ensure the effective monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs, a roadmap outlining the guidelines for action and specifying the responsibilities for

carrying out the tasks has been developed in 2018 to achieve the main objectives of the 2030 Agenda for the Union of the Comoros. This roadmap needs to be updated in order to build a strengthened national data ecosystem. Four axes have been identified: (i) Enabled legal and institutional framework regulating statistical activities, organizing statistical coordination of sectoral and central planning and monitoring-evaluation units, and strengthening the institutional, technical and financial capacities of structures involved in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, (ii) Development in quantity and quality of human resources assigned to the National Statistical System, (iii) Improved overall quality and consistency of statistics produced, and integration of the indicators of the prioritized SDG targets into the national statistical system (iv) Promote the storage, availability, access and dissemination of data according to standards, and strengthen the governance of the monitoring of SDGs implementation contributing to an effective advocacy for the resource mobilization and financing to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Despite the existence of a modern statistical law that meets the basic principles of the United Nations Official Statistics and defines the roles of the different structures and coordination mechanisms, the national statistical system remains weakly integrated. This is attributable, among other things, to the limited human and financial resources allocated to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies and to the sectoral and island statistical units, as well as to the weak governance of the national statistical system. The law designates INSEED as the central body of the National Statistical System and the National Statistical Council as the coordinating body. The National Statistical Council has hardly ever met since the statistical law was passed in 2011. One of the main challenges is to equip INSEED with the appropriate capacity so that, as coordinator of the National Statistical System and repository of large amounts of data, it can create value by overseeing the production of reliable statistics and helping to interpret them. INSEED also needs to have the capacity to operate effectively within a new, broader data ecosystem that integrates a variety of data producing and data using communities from different backgrounds, including the private sector.

- ❖ **The General Planning Commission:** The national framework for development monitoring-evaluation is articulated around the General Planning Commission (CGP). This institution, attached to the Presidency of the Republic and placed under the supervision of the Secretary General of the Government, is responsible, among other things, for driving and coordinating the national strategic planning and development monitoring-evaluation processes. Its mandate also includes the technical coordination of the development of the aid. The General Planning Commission works with the sectoral planning units existing in the various ministerial departments to accomplish its mission. The General Planning Commission plays a leading role in the steering, implementation and monitoring-evaluation of the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs, which it chairs.
- ❖ **The Ministry of Health, Solidarity, Social Protection and Gender Promotion** is responsible for the health sector in Comoros. To enable informed decision-making, the use of reliable and secure data is essential. Among the difficulties encountered by the Ministry of Health, we note:
 - Insufficient human resources in terms of quality and quantity. There is a great need to recruit new staff and to strengthen the capacity of existing staff, to ensure that the right people are in the right place. In order to enable rapid and efficient data collection in the health sector, emphasis must be placed on techniques, tools and methods of data collection adapted to the local context.
 - In view of the absence of an observed statistical culture, there is a great need to cultivate in each staff involved in decision-making, the need to always refer to up-to-

date statistical data for the development of the various health programs. Capacity building in data collection and use is needed

- The Ministry of Health needs support for the operationalization of its data center. This will facilitate access to information and allow consultation in real time and facilitate the use of available data during program review and planning workshops. To enable equitable allocation of health resources and ensure that no one is left behind, reliable data must be made available to decision makers. These data are collected from various stakeholders directly involved in health. The target groups are the entities from which health data and information will be collected. They include pharmacies, laboratories and medical imaging, health care providers, insurance companies, mutual health insurance companies, NGOs, technical health programs and departments, and technical and financial partners in the health sector.

The Directorate of Health Information and Statistics (DISS) (under the Ministry of Health, Solidarity, Social Protection and Gender Promotion) is fully involved in the health data management process. It receives the health data collected by the regional health department from the basic health structures and is in charge of undertaking quality control, compilation in the form of health statistics directories, statistical bulletins and any other form of report ready to be used for decision making.

- ❖ **General Directorate of Customs (GDC):** GDC is using the SYDONIA system, developed by UNCTAD, to process all Customs declarations and collect duties and taxes. For statistical purposes, GDC sent electronically data for the EUROTRACE system used by INSEED. INSEED has expressed the need to review and improve the production of foreign and internal trade statistics. The main enhancements to achieve are the following :
 - Improvement of the methodology for collecting and processing foreign trade statistics with SYDONIA World and EUROTRACE software
 - Transfer of Customs data from SYDONIA World to EUROTRACE by quarter
 - Development and publication of a dashboard of foreign trade statistics by quarter
- ❖ **The National Agency for Digital Development (ANADEN) will provide technical** Support to the availability of quality ICT services (mobile, internet) for the Minister of Health. This component constitutes the backbone of the provision of digital health services to the decision makers. ANADEN will support the promotion of the use of digital health services by the population and decision makers
- ❖ **National Agency for Investment Promotion (ANPI):** Its main mission is to promote the Comoros as an investment destination. It also acts as a liaison between the government and national and international investors. It provides facilitation services for the access and establishment of foreign and domestic investors, and contacts between investors and public authorities. It contributes to improving the business environment to make Comoros more attractive to investors through digitized e-business and e-investment.
- ❖ **UCCIA: Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture** will support the collection and analysis of data related to economic operators, UCCIA remains the partner par excellence in regional economic integration and will participate in the networking of regional digital platforms, it already holds databases of different operators and an online platform to facilitate trade relations between economic operators. UCCIA will collaborate with the "Nouvelle OPACO", Employers' Organization of the Comoros, the "EFOICOM" , Platform of Women Entrepreneurs, and the "MODEC", movement of business companies (employers' organization).

- ❖ **The programme will target vulnerable populations including women, and adolescent girls.** Analysis of Open Data can highlight shortcomings in the ways that education and health systems serve women and girls. Census, education, and health data from national statistical organizations can be used to develop indicators of gender disparities in these areas. In addition, Open Data on healthcare facilities and public health information can provide women and girls with resources on sexual and maternal health. Programs now use openly available health data to help pregnant women and young mothers, and have decreased rates of infant and maternal mortality. The joint programme will enhance the use of enabling information technology at decentralized and sectoral levels (health, protection, police, justice, NGOs) to promote the empowerment of women and girls in Comoros.

Human Rights Mechanisms related to the Joint Programme are aligned with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the report of Special Rapporteur on the right to development, the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 'Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognize everywhere as a person before the law', the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Human Rights Committee, the Report of the Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (2014), and the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Comoros has signed or ratified several international instruments, including: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1994); the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2017); the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (2004); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1993); the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2007); the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016), Conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

In addition, it should be noted that the Union of Comoros has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Maputo Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

It should be noted, moreover, that national indicators must be disaggregated by age, gender, disability status, and other relevant functional categories, in line with **the principle of leaving no one behind**, since targets can normally only be considered "achieved" if they are achieved for all relevant social and income groups.

1.3 SDG targets

The proposed programme will contribute to the achievement of various SDGs, in particular SDG 3 and 17. The programme will help achieve the SDGs by providing critical information on natural resources, government operations, public services, and demographic situations. These insights will inform national priorities and help determine the most effective paths for action on national issues. A digitized, innovative and accessible statistical system through an open data portal is a key resource for fostering economic growth and job creation. Open data can help launch new businesses, optimize existing companies' operations, and improve the climate for foreign investment. It can also make the job market more efficient and serve as a resource in training for critical technological job skills, and build resilient infrastructure and promote sustainable industrialization. The programme will improve efficiency and effectiveness of public services, in particular the health care system (SDG 3), targeting

vulnerable women and girls and other vulnerable populations. The programme will reveal inequalities, help prioritize efforts to address them, and help increase transparency, accountability and citizen participation. Open Data plays a critical role in improving governance by exposing and preventing mismanagement and corruption. It also helps ensure environmental sustainability through transparent data that can help reduce pollution, conserve natural resources and build resilience to climate change. In addition, the programme will facilitate better information-sharing within the government and number of organizations (SDG 17). It can also improve resilience to disasters and ensure that essential resources will be deployed effectively in emergency situations. The proposed integrated approach will create synergies between different programmes leading to mutually reinforcing results that will have a stronger impact on the various SDG goals.

More specifically, the programme is expected to have a significant impact on SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. The benefits of a digitized, innovative and accessible statistical system in health range from provision of basic services to studies that can have a significant impact on healthcare quality and cost. New companies and programs in several countries are giving consumers useful data through applications that help them find healthcare providers and pharmaceuticals. Open Data is also a critical tool for fighting infectious disease, combining clinic reports with social, demographic, geospatial and other data to predict and prevent disease outbreaks and track and combat disease when it does spread.

As part of the National Health Information System (HIS) Development Plan covering the period 2016-2020, Comoros has conducted an evaluation with technical and financial support from WHO and the Global Fund. This evaluation aims, among other things, to better implement the DHIS2 in Comoros. It showed that the National Health Information System (HIS) has made progress in recent years but that one of the major challenges remains data quality assurance. Thus, with technical and financial support from WHO, a budgeted Data Quality Improvement Plan was developed and validated. This plan includes a roadmap for the implementation and operationalization of the DHIS2. The Comorian health information system (HIS) is aligned with the pyramid organization of the health system.

At the health district level, data are collected by the basic health structures, which transmit them to the district health centers, which then compile them and transmit to the regional health directorate

At the regional or island level, the Regional Health Directorate receives data from the district health centers, hospital poles, medical surgical centers and regional hospital centers, which it compiles and transmits to the Directorate of Health Information and Statistics.

At the central level, the Directorate of Health Information and Statistics, which is part of the General Directorate of Studies, Planning and Health Statistics, receives the data compiled by the DRS, the CHN and other specialized central institutions. It carries out quality control of these data, which it then compiles in the form of health statistics yearbooks, statistical bulletins and all other forms of reports ready to be used for decision-making.

The programme will contribute to SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Data revolution is now central to a number of organizations and initiatives that are focused on sustainable development. Digitized, innovative and accessible statistical systems in Comoros can allow for more efficient allocation of foreign aid resources and support for sustainable development.

The program will strengthen the technical and technological capacities of public institutions and non-state organizations to promote a culture of results. It will strengthen staff skills and provide adequate tools and coaching to public institutions and non-state organizations for the effective implementation of results-based management. The program will provide support to strengthen the technical and technological capacities of public institutions and

non-state organizations with a view to improving the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and accountability of the development management system, in particular the effective deployment of the PPPBS chain (Prospective, Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Monitoring and Evaluation). It will assist the Comorian government in setting up publicly accessible information systems, operational planning units in the ministries and operational accountability mechanisms in public institutions and non-state organizations. The program will contribute to the strengthening of technical and technological capacities to improve participatory decision-making processes, the promotion of and respect for human rights, gender equality, and the availability of and equitable access to other public services for citizens both on each island and throughout the country.

SDG target	Baseline (year of reference)	Expected progress by 2023
<p>SDG 3-3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all</p>	<p>Existence of updated data on large household expenditures on health : NO (2020)</p>	<p>Existence of updated data on large household expenditures on health : YES (2023)</p> <p>Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health (greater than 25%) as a share of total household expenditure or income: < = 42% (2025)</p> <p>The quality of data produced by the health information system (HIS) is improved by 100% at the health facility level, 100% at the regional level and 100% at the national level by 2023</p> <p>100% of health programs and hospitals, 50% of the private sector report good quality data to the HIS;</p> <p>Health information products are available and accessible to stakeholders</p>
<p>SDG 17-17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries</p>	<p>Progress report in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals: NO</p>	<p>Progress report in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals: YES</p>

<p>SDG 17-17.18 Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts</p>	<p>Country has national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (NO)</p> <p>Country has national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding: NO</p>	<p>Country has national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (YES)</p> <p>Country has national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding: YES</p>
<p>SDG 17-17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries</p>	<p>Data on Statistical Performance Index available: NO</p>	<p>Data on Statistical Performance Index available: YES</p>

Each SDG indicator will be disaggregated for men and women, boys and girls and for people living with disability in order to ensure the results are not gender biased and in order to evaluate the progress toward the achievement of SDG targets for people with disabilities. Progress toward the achievement of selected SDG indicators will be monitored via follow-up and end-line surveys that will be conducted in beneficiary communities.

1.4 Stakeholder mapping

The proposed joint programme will involve several stakeholders, from Government departments to private sector, donors, technical partners and national and international organizations.

On the Government side, various departments will be involved in the preparation and implementation of the programme, including the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED), the General Planning Commission, the Ministry of Health, Solidarity, Social Protection and Gender Promotion, the Ministry of Production, Environment, Energy, Industry and Handicrafts, the General Directorate of Customs, and the General Direction of Civil Security. More specifically:

- The National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) is responsible for the coordination of the National Statistical System and repository of large amounts of data. It oversees the production of reliable statistics and helps to interpret them. Given its mandate, INSEED will be the main counterpart in charge of the overall coordination of the Joint Program. The programme is fully aligned with the Comoros Emerging Plan and the UNSDCF recently co-signed by the Government and the UN Resident Coordinator. The programme therefore will contribute to support INSEED in achieving its mandate.
- The General Planning Commission. The national framework for development monitoring-evaluation is articulated around the General Planning Commission (CGP).

This institution, attached to the Presidency of the Republic and placed under the supervision of the Secretary General of the Government, is responsible, among other things, for driving and coordinating the national strategic planning and development monitoring-evaluation processes. Its mandate also includes the technical coordination of the development of the aid. The General Planning Commission works with the sectoral planning units existing in the various ministerial departments to accomplish its mission. The General Planning Commission plays a leading role in the steering, implementation and monitoring-evaluation of the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs, which it chairs.

- The Ministry of Health, Solidarity, Social Protection and Gender Promotion **develops** and coordinates the implementation of the Government's policy and strategy on health. It is responsible for the definition and execution of the national health policy. At the level of national health policymaking, the availability of timely and reliable data is of particular interest to the MOH. Indeed, the MOH needs to rely on up-to-date data that reflect the state of the situation, areas with gaps, disadvantaged social categories, and actual health expenditures (preventive and curative care). The analysis of this information allows for objective, optimal and equitable planning of priority strategic actions and indicators to be achieved by the country during a given period. Therefore, the MOH will be involved in all phases of this project (capacity building, data collection, data access and use). During the implementation phase, data is also requested to assess progress and the level of achievement of indicators. In addition, the MOH, the Ministry of Health has just adopted its national digital health strategy 2021- 2025 under the lead of WHO and the Minister of Health. This strategy identifies several activities and challenges to be addressed by all health stakeholders. This project will address some of the issues raised in the strategy
- The General Directorate of Customs is responsible to define and apply Customs regulations and collect duty and taxes. They also produce statistical information on Foreign trade that are sent to INSEED.

On the executing agencies, the main actors involved are:

- The National Agency for Digital Development (ANADEN): will support the provision of internet services (ICT) and connectivity within the MoH. This component is the backbone of the provision and access of digital health services to the population. ANADEN will support the promotion of the use of digital health services by the population and decision makers.
- National Agency for Investment Promotion (ANPI): Its main mission is to promote the Comoros as an investment destination. It also acts as a liaison between the government and national and international investors. It provides facilitation services for the access and establishment of foreign and domestic investors, and contacts between investors and public authorities. It contributes to improving the business environment to make Comoros more attractive to investors through digitized e-business and e-investment.
- The Directorate of Health Information and Statistics (DISS) (under the Ministry of Health, Solidarity, Social Protection and Gender Promotion) is fully involved in the health data management process. It receives the health data collected by the regional health department from the basic health structures and is in charge of undertaking quality control, compilation in the form of health statistics directories, statistical bulletins and any other form of report ready to be used for decision making.

The private sector will also be a key actor for this JP.

- **UCCIA: Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture** will support the collection and analysis of data related to economic operators, UCCIA remains the partner par excellence in regional economic integration and will participate in the networking of regional digital platforms, it already holds databases of different operators and an online platform to facilitate trade relations between economic operators. UCCIA will collaborate with the “Nouvelle OPACO”, Employers' Organization of the Comoros, the “EFOICOM”, Platform of Women Entrepreneurs, and the “MODEC”, movement of business companies (employers’ organization).
- **Various UN agencies will be involved in this JP.** Four UN agencies (UNFPA, UNCTAD, UNDP, and WHO) will be directly involved in the activities financially supporting the SDG Fund. Details of their respective responsibilities are described in the sections 3 and 4 below. Three additional agencies will contribute to the joint program (DESA, ILO, and UNICEF). Those three agencies will not receive financial support from the SDG Fund, but they will provide technical contributions during the implementation of activities related to the proposed JP.

Other development partners will be indirectly involved in the programme, in particular the **European Union and the World Bank**. The World Bank provides important financial support to the Government of Comoros in the assessment of the country's statistical system, development of the national strategy for the development of statistics, provision of a software Arc View to enumerate and digitize census maps. They will be directly involved in all stages of programme development and implementation to ensure that the proposed integrated approach will be scaled up in other sectors in the future. The European Union's ambition is to accompany the Comoros towards emergence, while respecting fundamental values, the consolidation of democracy and human rights. For the EU, it is necessary to better fight against inequalities so that economic growth is sustainable and benefits everyone. This is why the EU attaches great importance to the participation and protection of women and youth, as well as a strengthened national statistical system.

2. Programme Strategy

2.1. Overall strategy

The goal of the programme is to drive better decisions and better lives for all by facilitating the production, sharing and use of better data. **The long term expected objective** of the proposed Joint Programme (JP) is to contribute to more and better data being used to monitor and achieve the SDGs, through the high-performance, digitized and accessible national statistical system that capitalizes on available and improved data from all stakeholders, organized around multi sectoral indicators that are a priority for the government and that allow for informed and integrated decision making for the acceleration of the SDGs and the mobilization of resources around these priorities and at all levels (public, private, civil society).

This joint proposal will support the Government of Comoros in fully harnessing the power of data revolution to efficiently monitor key indicators of development and enable informed and timely decision-making to reduce the country’s vulnerabilities and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs aligned with the Comoros Emerging Plan by 2030.

The expected results of the joint programme are threefold: (i) a developed and improved institutional framework and operational capacity of the national statistical system to capture 70% of the SDGs’ targets indicators prioritized at the national level for strategic decision-making for economic and social progress by 2023.

; (ii) improved regular production and accessibility of a set of relevant multi-sectoral indicators and functionalities in a digital repository with an open data portal for monitoring the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs by 2023; (iii) use of quality, disaggregated and updated statistical and geospatial data, with full respect for confidentiality, related to the SDG indicators, and presented in a meaningful and user-friendly format for informed decision making in Comoros.

The proposed project will bridge data and information gaps in priority areas identified by the country by improving human and institutional capabilities for integrating SDG data from across the national statistical system in Comoros. It will support the creation of an open national SDG data platform based on modern digital technologies and interoperability standards, providing users from different stakeholder groups with access to authoritative, geospatial and statistical data, metadata, as well as visualization and analysis tools to support policy and decision making for sustainable development. In addition, it will strengthen the coordination role of the General Planning Commission (CGP) on the implementation of the SDGs, and the technical coordination role of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) on the statistical work on indicators for global, regional and national monitoring, by supporting the coordination and establishment of data sharing agreements and improved SDG data flows among members of the National Statistical and Information System. The project will deliver enhanced country capacity to produce and disseminate accurate and up-to-date geospatial data and information about the SDGs and their indicators, which will enable decision makers to integrate the SDG indicators into policies, projects, and programs, which will accelerate the country's progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals while pursuing national development objectives. The project will facilitate the development of data sharing and validation agreements between different data producers, and the development of a clear user engagement strategy.

Setting up a strengthened national data ecosystem would comprise the following steps: Plan, Collect, Process, Endorse, Communicate Feedback, Disseminate and Use and Archive.

To address these issues, the proposed programme will also facilitate evidence generation on the importance of **investing in family planning; prevention of gender-based violence and harmful practices; harnessing the demographic dividend;** and analysis of **vulnerability to crisis and disasters**. Indeed, it will contribute significantly to robust policy responses in a crisis, and improve data ecosystem governance for informing policies during and after pandemics like COVID-19.

The proposed project will **contribute to increased revenue collection**, assists to formalize the informal economy through automation and statistics collection as well as promotes good governance via rule based automated and transparency systems linked to data collection systems.

The programme will specifically strengthen the capacity of the health sector to assess, monitor and execute the resources spent in the health system. This JP will support reviewing public expenditure in the health sector to have a better understanding of the use and the efficacy of the resources devoted to the health system. This analysis using innovative methods in public finance will allow advocates for more resources to the social sector including the health system to meet the SDGs and particularly to have a health system that considers the needs of the most vulnerable, the young, and the women. The establishment of National Health Accounts for the years 2021 and 2022 is part of the backbone analysis undertaken to understand the structure of the expenditures in the health system. It will contribute to the regular and annual production of national health accounts to allow better understanding of the burden of health costs borne by families. Making health

data available online will allow their consultation and exploitation for information and better decision making.

In addition to the transformative shift making governance more aligned to the SDGs, private stakeholders in Comoros will benefit from the new system by using the data to enhance their ownership of the 2030 Agenda, increasing public-private partnerships for mobilizing private capital to fill the investment gap in key SDG sectors.

The programme is fully aligned with the Comoros Emerging plan, the Interim Development Plan 2020-2024 and national priorities for the institutional and operational statistical framework.

The programme builds on existing national policies rather than creating new projects and this will ensure sustainability and future scale up. The programme will strengthen and liaise existing national policies adopted by the Government. The package of interventions, including programmes that have been identified as national priorities in the Government sectoral policies: (i) reforming and modernizing administrations for greater visibility, efficiency, quality and better career management through the development and implementation of the master plan for computerization and development of NTIC (e-Administration), (ii) promoting a health system that meets international standards for a high-performance human capital through the support for the data collection system and the national strategy for e-health, defined in the 2016-2020 National Health Information System (HIS) Development Plan and the 2021-2025 National Digital Health Strategy, (iii) promoting the rapid take-off of the economy and improve the circulation of information within the population for a strong social cohesion through enhanced legislative and institutional framework with the protection of personal data, and facilitated access to TIC with the development of TIC infrastructures, development of use of TIC services, and development of TIC contents in the sectors of tourism, culture, trade for the local population.

The programme will build on existing programmes, making them more sensitive to the needs of specific vulnerable people, including people living with disabilities, rather than creating new ones. This will ensure a total ownership of the Government and will facilitate geographic and multisectoral expansion over the long term.

The UN can support the Government in creating the national coherence between policies implemented by different line ministries. The UN is already working with all involved sectoral

ministries. Each UN agency has a privileged relationship with sectoral Government departments and is well positioned to facilitate this multi sectoral dialogue. The joint work of the UN will enable the country to move from the current fragmented approach to an “Integrated national system”.

The programme will support the outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the UNSDCF on (1) resilience to climate change, natural disasters and crises, and sustainable and integrated management of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and associated ecosystem goods and services, in a context of promoting sustainable housing with a small environmental footprint, (2) competitive and inclusive economy, on renewed public-private partnerships, and in a perspective of sustainable growth turned towards the sectors of the future (green, blue and digital economy), (3) the demographic dividend and gender-sensitive, sustainable, and quality health, nutrition, education, social protection, care for victims of violence, (4) citizen participation in public life, social cohesion, human rights, gender equality and democracy.

2.2 Theory of Change

Summary of the Theory of Change (ToC):

IF the Union of Comoros establishes a centralized data collection, analysis and processing architecture within INSEED and organized around the country's prioritized SDG indicators and targets, **IF** these data are digitized and grouped within a single platform or a powerful network, and if the skills to a) update and strengthen these data, b) network these data, maintain and manage this platform are available, **IF** the available data are disseminated and accessible and allow for informed decision-making by stakeholders for integrated policies to achieve the SDGs and regional integration of the country, **THEN** the Union of the Comoros has an efficient, digitized and accessible national statistical system, capitalizing on available and improved data from all stakeholders, organized around multi-sectoral indicators that are a priority for the government and allow for informed and integrated decision-making to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and the mobilization of resources around these priorities at all levels (public, private, civil society).

The goal of the programme is to drive better decisions and better lives for all by facilitating the production, sharing and use of better data. **The long term expected objective** of the proposed Joint Programme (JP) is to contribute to more and better data being used to monitor and achieve the SDGs, through the high-performance, digitized and accessible national statistical system that capitalizes on available and improved data from all stakeholders, organized around multi sectoral indicators that are a priority for the government and that allow for informed and integrated decision making for the acceleration of the SDGs and the mobilization of resources around these priorities and at all levels (public, private, civil society). **To achieve this long-term objective, the programme is expected to work through three pillars:** (i) improved institutional framework and coordination of actors; (ii) improved regular data production and accessibility in a digital repository with an open data portal for monitoring the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs by 2023; (iii) use of quality, disaggregated and updated statistical and geospatial data, with full respect for confidentiality, related to the SDG indicators, and presented in a meaningful and user-friendly format for informed decision making in Comoros.

Detailed explanation:

The Comoros' national statistical system consists of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEED) with its branches in the islands and the statistical services created within certain ministries (Finance, Education, Health (Finance, Education, Health, Production, Transport/Tourism) and the Central Bank. Despite the existence of a modern statistical law that defines the roles of the different structures and coordination mechanisms, the system remains weakly integrated. Apart from INSEED, the services in charge of statistics the statistical offices generally have very few or no professional statisticians and have very limited material and financial resources. Thus, the statistical production is deficient in terms of quantity, quality quantity, quality, coverage, analysis and dissemination.

Assessments of statistical capacity from the perspective of three dimensions (statistical practice data collection and availability of indicators) conducted as part of the monitoring-evaluation of the SDGs have revealed major challenges that the country must overcome in order to be able to effectively monitor the 2030 agenda. With the support of its development partners the Union of Comoros has adopted a national development strategy, which it is implementing with great difficulty due to the lack of available resources. Indeed, support in these areas is almost limited to the United Nations System support, the African Development Bank and the World Bank. Thanks to this support, the country has been able to carry out major statistical operations (RGPH, EDS/MICS, 1-2-3 survey and other household surveys on poverty) and set up important databases (Comoros Infos for socio-economic data, DAD-Comores for development assistance, etc.).

As presented in the ToC graph, the joint programme will support the implementation of three key pillars at central and decentralized levels: (i) improved institutional framework and coordination of actors; (ii) improved regular data production and accessibility in a digital repository with an open data portal for monitoring the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs by 2023; (iii) use of quality, disaggregated and updated statistical and geospatial data, with full respect for confidentiality, related to the SDG indicators, and presented in a meaningful and user-friendly format for informed decision making in Comoros. The three pillars will contribute to more and better data being used to achieve the SDGs, and also contribute to the use of timely and robust data being scaled, which will contribute to more and better data being used to monitor the SDGs.

Building on the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data's (GPSDD) Theory of Change (ToC) Narrative, **the change pathways from outputs to outcomes** are dependent on a combination of mutually reinforcing and sometimes overlapping activities categorized as levers of change (supporting changemakers, creating incentives, and developing learnings) and contributions from partners (skills, data, knowledge, resources). The interventions supported by the joint programme will contribute to change at the outcome (intermediate result) level by supporting activities within one or more outputs that leverage one or more of the levers of change and crowd in (or activate) contributions or inputs from the partners.

Levers of Change are (i) supporting changemakers through partnerships that help individuals and organizations achieving their objectives in strengthening enabling policies and data ecosystems, (ii) creating incentives through communications and advocacy expertise to provide visibility to leaders in the field, create mechanisms for engagement, and build coalitions for change, to promote innovation and investment in data, (iii) developing learnings through network's knowledge and expertise, so all partners can learn and show what can be done and how to do it.

Contributions from Partners are (i) a variety of types of data (mobile, satellite, etc.) as well as datasets, (ii) skills and technical expertise on tools, methodologies, and systems that builds capacity, (iii) knowledge and information in a variety of forms (papers, webinars, discussions, etc.) that support individual and collective learning, and (iv) resources as financial investments, time and personnel investments to a defined data objective.

Each of the outcomes contribute to change at the objective level in the following ways:

- *Outcome 1:* improved institutional framework and coordination of actors including guidelines and examples on the processes and benefits of joining up data systems → embedding standards of interoperability into national frameworks on data and statistics → Prioritizing efficiencies across data systems is the norm → More and better data being used to achieve the SDGs
- *Outcome 2:* improved regular data production and accessibility in a digital repository with an open data portal for monitoring the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs by 2023 → Scaling new technologies and data sources → Decision-makers have the data they need available to identify development needs and inform policy decisions → More and better data being used to achieve the SDGs
- *Outcome 3:* use of quality, disaggregated and updated statistical and geospatial data, with full respect for confidentiality, related to the SDG indicators, and presented in a meaningful and user-friendly format for informed decision making in Comoros → Data users have access to good quality and current data relevant to the SDGs → Provide accurate and timely updates on progress to decision-makers including political, business, and civil society leaders → Promoting responsible data use and build public trust → More and better data being used to monitor and achieve.

Objective to Goal: the use of more and better data will contribute to better decisions because decisions will be based on data that is more reliable, comprehensive, and timely. In addition, more and better data will contribute to better lives for all through better decisions being made in relation to monitoring and achieving the SDGs. The SDGs represent the international consensus on better lives for all. Monitoring the SDGs directly contributes to achieving the SDGs through timely, robust data on the SDG indicators. The development of a national data ecosystem-enabling environment, including political commitment, contributes to the production of timely SDG indicator data that further supports achievement of the SDGs.

ToC assumptions:

The Theory of Change is based on six assumptions, aligned with the ToC of the UNSDCF outcome 4, in particular: “the public administration is modernized, efficient, responsible and close to the citizens thanks to the effective application of the texts, the implementation of results-based management, the implementation of a unified policy for the reinforcement of human resources skills and effective career management, the implementation of the digitization of the archives and an accessible information system in the administration, the increase and efficient use of the budget allocated to the public administration”.

The six assumptions to be monitored are:

- Enabling a political environment that supports changemakers’ ability to invest time and resources.
- Well-trained, well-equipped statistical system is established in Comoros, generating more data of higher quality with greater frequency.
- The National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) works with government institutions, private companies, citizen groups, NGOs and academia to generate data through a more collaborative model.
- Open data, data privacy and data interoperability are norms rather than exceptions.
- A centralized data collection, analysis and processing architecture is functional within the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) and organized around the country's prioritized SDG indicators and targets
- Available data disseminated and accessible for informed decision-making by stakeholders for integrated policies to achieve the SDGs and regional integration of the country

2.3 Expected results and impact

The goal of the programme is to drive better decisions and better lives for all by facilitating the production, sharing and use of better data. The long term objective of the proposed Joint Programme (JP) is to contribute to more and better data being used to monitor and achieve the SDGs, through the high-performance, digitized and accessible national statistical system that capitalizes on available and improved data from all stakeholders, organized around multi sectoral indicators that are a priority for the government and that allow for informed and integrated decision making for the acceleration of the SDGs and the mobilization of resources around these priorities and at all levels (public, private, civil society).

The programme is structured around the two joint SDG Fund outcomes, with three expected joint programme outcomes and six outputs, as follows:

Outcome 1: Developed and improved institutional framework and operational capacity of the national statistical system to capture 70% of the SDGs targets indicators prioritized at the national level for strategic decision-making for economic and social progress by 2023.

This first outcome is expected to produce tangible and transformative results on enhanced legislative and institutional statistical framework. It is structured around two main components: the national statistical strategy and the national statistical system. Each activity will translate into immediate outputs (2021-2022) and medium-term outcomes (2023). Those activities will jointly contribute to longer term outcomes and final impacts (2023 to 2030) detailed in the ToC graph. More specifically:

- **Output 1.1** (*under joint responsibility of UNDP in close collaboration with UNFPA*): The national statistical strategy is updated and reflects the complex architecture of data production and collection, as well as the digital modernization of the statistical system, by a mapping of public and private actors collecting data, institutional diagnosis and establishment of the national data collection architecture, and updating the national statistics strategy including links between actors, the digital dimension and data protection.
- **Output 1.2** (*under responsibility of UNDP in close collaboration with the other PUNOs*): The capacity of the national statistical system is strengthened to inform planning, programming and policy development to accelerate progress towards human rights, gender equality and sustainable development, by capacity building of INSEED and actors involved in the production, collection, and digital modernization of the statistical system, strengthening the National Health Information System to generate quality health data for informed decision making, and establishment of partnerships with actors collecting data

Over the long term those activities will contribute to take-off of the economy and improved circulation of information within the population for a strong social cohesion to achieve the SDGs.

Outcome 2: Improved regular production and accessibility of a set of relevant multi sectoral indicators and functionalities in a digital repository with an open data portal for monitoring the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs by 2023.

This second outcome is expected to have an impact on computerization and development of NTIC in public administrations (e-Administration), networking of public and private digital data platforms, and will contribute to an enhanced health system through the e-health national strategy. The short-term outputs of this outcome will be reflected in digital repository with an open data portal, and production of key multi sectoral indicators, that will translate in increased informed and integrated decision making for the acceleration of the SDGs at mid-term and increased resources mobilization for priority SDGs over the long term. More specifically:

- **Output 2.1** (*under responsibility of UNFPA*): A digital repository with an open data portal to monitor the SDGs is established, functional and the capacity to maintain it is available, by the development of the digital architecture and operationalization of the digital repository (including capacity building on the use and maintenance of the network and the established data center).
- **Output 2.2:** (*under the joint responsibility of the four participating UN agencies*): Strengthened national capacity to produce key indicators for monitoring the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the Comoros Emerging Plan in the perspective that data on critical vulnerabilities for Comoros are regularly fed in order to establish trends, by the training of managers from different sectors on the design, production and use of harmonized tools for data collection, analysis and exploitation, the production and quarterly transfer of the foreign and internal trade statistics with SYDONIA World and EUROTRACE software in collaboration with INSEED and the General

Customs Directorate, the support to the in-depth analysis of the country's economic and social profile, compilation of national accounts, and exploitation, processing and analysis of data from population and housing censuses, and surveys (DHS/MICS, Poverty, Employment, RGA, etc.).

Outcome 3: Use of quality, disaggregated and updated statistical and geospatial data, with full respect for confidentiality, related to the SDG indicators, and presented in a meaningful and user-friendly format for informed decision making in Comoros.

This third outcome is expected to have an impact on informed and integrated decision making for the acceleration of the SDGs and will contribute to more and better data being used to monitor and achieve the SDGs. The short-term outputs of this outcome will be reflected in a user-friendly web-based database, and increased statistical literacy of key decision makers, that will translate in greater visibility, efficiency, and quality national statistical system at mid-term and increased resources mobilization over the long term. More specifically:

- **Output 3.1** (*under the responsibility of UNFPA in close collaboration with the other PUNOs*): Availability of a user-friendly web-based database, accessible to users, including decision makers at all levels (national, decentralized and individual), by making available interlinked data related to key indicators for the monitoring of the SDGs and the Joint Programme, facilitating access and use of the health data available on the platform, sharing private sector data to foster regional integration, supporting quarterly publication of a dashboard of the foreign trade statistics.
- **Output 3.2** (*under the responsibility of UNDP*): Strengthening the capacity and statistical literacy of key decision makers on the timely use of data collected on the SDGs, by capacity building at the institutional level for the timely use of data (multi-sectoral indicators) for decision making, enabling decision makers to access and make good use of the health data available on the platform.

After the completion of the program in 2023 and based on evidence generated on the efficiency of the proposed approach, it is expected that the integrated model will be expanded to other sectors. The JP will provide the basis to scale up the digitized, innovative and accessible national statistical system in Comoros and increase the synergies among various multi-sectoral data and information.

The administrative common system that will be put in place will support the Government in increasing efficiency of public spending and the overall impact of the programmes. It is also expected that, based on positive evidence generated and strong advocacy from various UN agencies, other donors (AFD, EU, WB, bilateral cooperation) will align their sectoral interventions to the priority enhanced statistical system.

The proposed programme will contribute to the achievement of various SDGs, in particular SDG 3 and 17. The programme will help achieve the SDGs by providing critical information on natural resources, government operations, public services, and population demographics. These insights will inform national priorities and help determine the most effective paths for action on national issues. A digitized, innovative and accessible statistical system through an open data portal is a key resource for fostering economic growth and job creation. Open data can help launch new businesses, optimize existing companies' operations, and improve the climate for foreign investment. It can also make the job market more efficient and serve as a resource in training for critical technological job skills, and build resilient infrastructure and promote sustainable industrialization. The programme will improve efficiency and effectiveness of public services, in particular the health care system

(SDG 3), targeting vulnerable women and girls and other vulnerable populations. The programme will reveal inequalities, help prioritize efforts to address them, and help increase transparency, accountability and citizen participation. Open Data plays a critical role in improving governance by exposing and preventing mismanagement and corruption. It also helps ensure environmental sustainability through transparent data that can help reduce pollution, conserve natural resources and build resilience to climate change. In addition, the programme will facilitate better information-sharing within the government and number of organizations (SDG 17). It can also improve resilience to disasters and ensure that essential resources will be deployed effectively in emergency situations. The proposed integrated approach will create synergies between different programmes leading to mutually reinforcing results that will have a stronger impact on the various SDG goals.

More specifically, the programme is expected to have a significant impact on SDG

3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. The benefits of a digitized, innovative and accessible statistical system in health range from provision of basic services to studies that can have a significant impact on healthcare quality and cost. Open Data is a critical tool for fighting infectious disease, combining clinic reports with social, demographic, geospatial and other data to predict and prevent disease outbreaks and track and combat disease when it does spread.

The programme will contribute to SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. Data revolution is now central to a number of organizations and initiatives that are focused on sustainable development. Digitized, innovative and accessible statistical systems in Comoros can allow for more efficient allocation of foreign aid resources and support for sustainable development.

The program will strengthen the technical and technological capacities of public institutions and non-state organizations to promote a culture of results. It will strengthen staff skills and provide adequate tools and coaching to public institutions and non-state organizations for the effective implementation of results-based management. The program will provide support to strengthen the technical and technological capacities of public institutions and non-state organizations with a view to improving the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and accountability of the development management system, in particular the effective deployment of the PPPBS chain (Prospective, Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Monitoring and Evaluation). It will assist the Comorian government in setting up publicly accessible information systems, operational planning units in the ministries and operational accountability mechanisms in public institutions and non-state organizations. The program will contribute to the strengthening of technical and technological capacities to improve participatory decision-making processes, the promotion of and respect for human rights, gender equality, and the availability of and equitable access to other public services for citizens both on each island and throughout the country.

The project will enable the collection, treatment and accessibility of data for the indicators targeted by the project. Quality, up-to-date, disaggregated data collected will help achieve the ultimate goal of development, which is to improve people's well-being and eradicate poverty. These data will facilitate the definition of development goals (planification), their implementation and the quantification of progress in different sectors.

Decision makers and other stakeholders will be able to make informed choices about priorities and strategies supported by a better and more accessible database.

Data availability will be a strategic factor in increasing financing for the SDGs in Comoros

The expected results of the project are:

- The existing gap related to unavailable SDG data filled;
- Data positioning as a cross-cutting priority for development cooperation, so that they can be considered as an important part of the essential framework for delivering on national, regional, and global development commitments;
- Improved data dissemination and promoted a data culture to stimulate the use of statistics and the emergence of dynamic user communities;
- Country support to manage, measure and report on progress against indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by improving the statistical system
- Strengthened Comoros accountability system towards the donors and enhanced resources mobilization: Comoros needs to demonstrate concretely that the funding received for the achievement of the SDGs is well used. Donors want to know how their money is spent and for what results. This means reporting on the immediate outputs of funded projects, such as the number of people trained, equipment built, children enrolled in school, mothers reached during pregnancy, or households provided with safe water or reliable electricity. Reporting on outputs requires data on achievements, impacts, and changes; these data will come from national statistical systems. Making data more accessible will increase transparency; knowing that their efforts will be better recognized motivates donors and other stakeholders to invest more.

In the medium and long term, the project will contribute to the reduction of inequalities. Data collection and analysis make it possible to determine whether inequalities and discrimination exist within the projects. Planning will be based on this data to formulate or adjust national strategies that respect gender, leave no one behind and reduce vulnerabilities.

2.4 Financing

The total budget for this JP is 1,350,400 US\$ considering both SDG Funds and UN financial contributions of the 4 agencies directly involved in the programme (UNFPA, UNDP, UNCTAD, WHO). About 70% of the overall budget will be financed by the SDG Fund, the rest will be financed by UN contributions.

The joint program budget is divided into three pillars to support the implementation of the program components (88%) and technical assistance/institutional work (12%), including evaluation and communication, to reinforce the overall national system and prepare for future scale up. This will ensure sustainability of results over the long term.

The Government ownership and financial involvement in the three pillars programmes that will constitute the package of integrated interventions varies between components. For this reason, for certain components, the SDG Fund will finance only technical assistance activities to expand the programme while for other components the SDG Fund will finance the programme itself. In particular:

- **Output 1.1:** The national statistical strategy is updated and reflects the complex architecture of data production and collection, as well as the digital modernization of the statistical system. A roadmap to update the National Strategy for the development of the Statistics will be established and implemented with the technical and financial support of the SDG fund, UN agencies and development partners.

- **Output 1.2:** The capacity of the national statistical system is strengthened to inform planning, programming and policy development to accelerate progress towards human rights, gender equality and sustainable development. Based on existing data, the programme will strengthen capacity to generate evidence for investing in health especially sexual health and reproductive rights, family planning and harnessing demographic dividend.
- **Output 2.1:** A digital repository with an open data portal to monitor the SDGs is established, functional and the capacity to maintain it is available. The weakness of data availability is exacerbated by weak computer and information technology capabilities. There are several software programs for data processing and storage, but the missing element is the basic infrastructure for an open data portal to access and connect all existing databases. The programme will support the development of the digital architecture and operationalization of the digital repository (including capacity building on the use and maintenance of the network and the established data center), through international and national technical assistance, provision of IT materials and equipment.
- **Output 2.2:** Strengthened national capacity to produce key indicators for monitoring the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the Comoros Emerging Plan in the perspective that data on critical vulnerabilities for Comoros are regularly fed in order to establish trends. This component is a priority programme of the Government. So far it has been financed mainly by donors including the four participating agencies (censuses, foreign and internal trade statistics, Comoros economic and social profile, national accounts, and surveys on DHS/MICS, Poverty, Employment, RGA). The programme will support the training of multi-sectoral technical and administrative human resources on the design, production and use of harmonized tools for data collection, analysis and exploitation, and the provision of IT materials and equipment at sectoral levels.
- **Output 3.1:** Availability of a user-friendly web-based database, accessible to users, including decision makers at all levels (national, decentralized and individual). The programme will support the development of a user-friendly web-based database portal with access to existing public and private data related to key indicators for the monitoring of the SDGs and the Joint Programme, and regular publication of a dashboard on SDGs.
- **Output 3.2:** Strengthening the capacity and statistical literacy of key decision makers on the timely use of data collected on the SDGs. The programme will support capacity building at the institutional level for the timely use of data (multi-sectoral indicators) for decision making, enabling decision makers to access and make good use of the health data available on the platform.

The proposed budget is gender sensitive as it contributes to address the gender issues through official national statistical data with gender- and human rights-based lenses. It should be noted, moreover, that national indicators must be disaggregated by age, gender, disability status, and other relevant functional categories, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind, since targets can normally only be considered "achieved" if they are achieved for all relevant social and income groups. The programme will target vulnerable populations including women and girls. Analysis of Open Data can highlight shortcomings in the ways that education and health systems serve women and girls. Census, education, and health data from national statistical organizations can be used to develop indicators of gender disparities in these areas. In addition, Open Data on healthcare facilities and public health information can provide women and girls with resources on sexual and maternal health. Programs now use openly available health data to help pregnant women and young

mothers, and have decreased rates of infant and maternal mortality. The joint programme will enhance the use of enabling information technology at decentralized and sectoral levels (health, protection, police, justice, NGOs) to promote the empowerment of women and girls in Comoros.

Over the long term it is expected to leverage additional funds particularly national financial resources. In fact, the ultimate objective of this joint program is to optimize (national and international) resources allocation for informed and integrated decision making for the acceleration of the SDGs and the mobilization of resources around these priorities at all levels (public, private, civil society).

2.5 Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

The National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) is responsible for the coordination of the National Statistical System and repository of large amounts of data. It oversees the production of reliable statistics and helps to interpret them. INSEED coordinates the statistical work on indicators for global, regional and national monitoring, by supporting the coordination and establishment of data sharing agreements and improved SDG data flows among members of the National Statistical and information System. Given its mandate, INSEED will be the main counterpart in charge of the overall coordination of the Joint Program.

The JP is a unique opportunity to have various PUNO working together on developing a coherent national statistical system for the country. This JP will bring together 7 UN agencies, four of them (UNFPA, UNDP, UNCTAD, and WHO) will receive financial contribution from the SDG Fund, and three of them (UNICEF, ILO and DESA) will not receive financial support from the SDG Fund, but they will provide technical contributions during the implementation of activities related to the proposed JP.

Each UN agency will bring specific sectoral expertise according to its core mandate. More specifically, UNFPA is one of the world’s largest supporters of population data collection. In addition to supporting censuses and surveys, UNFPA works with policymakers, civil society, health-care providers and educators at all levels to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights – including voluntary family planning. UNFPA supported the conduct of the 4th Population and Housing Census of Comoros, as well as previous censuses which made it possible to enumerate the entire Comorian population and identify its socio-economic characteristics. UNFPA has a worldwide recognized expertise to improve the disaggregation, analysis, availability and use of data and population dynamics intelligence to better inform policy-making and programming focusing on improving the SRHR policy, financing, delivery and measurement systems. UNFPA supports the government in an increased capacity of the national statistical system to produce, monitor and use disaggregated population data and demographic analysis to inform planning, programming and policy making for accelerating progress towards SDG including SRHR and GBV. **UNDP** is the main technical partner of the government in supporting development and implementation of the SDGs. It has extensive experience in developing and implementing reforms and works closely with all sectors and state and non-state institutions, particularly with the Ministry of Environment, Economy, MFB, INSEED, CGP, UCCIA and civil society on the integration and implementation of the SDGs and the various reforms, respectively. It has recently supported the Comorian government in the prioritization and integration of the SDGs in the development and implementation of the various national strategies and the evaluation of national capacities in terms of monitoring the SDGs. **UNCTAD** has implemented the automated system called SYDONIA Word, used by Customs for the

clearance of goods. This system contains statistical data on foreign trade. Some of these data are sent to the system Eurotrace, used by INSEED. During this project, UNCTAD will work closely with INSEED (as the lead government partners) and also Customs to improve the collection, the transfer and the use of these data into Eurotrace and to develop a dashboard. **WHO** is the leader on supporting the health system in Comoros. Public expenditures reviews particularly in social sectors including health have been carried out by WHO in many countries. The National Health Account exercises have been undertaken by WHO in Comoros for the fiscal years 2011, 2015, 2019 and are planned for upcoming years to ensure proper decision making by the Minister of Health.

Other strategic partners will be involved in the JP, in particular the **European Union and the World Bank**. The World Bank provides important financial support to the Government of Comoros in the assessment of the country's statistical system, development of the national strategy for the development of statistics, provision of a software Arc View to enumerate and digitize census maps. They will be directly involved in all stages of programme development and implementation to ensure that the proposed integrated approach will be scaled up in other sectors in the future. The European Union's ambition is to accompany the Comoros towards emergence, while respecting fundamental values, the consolidation of democracy and human rights. For the European Union, it is necessary to better fight against inequalities so that economic growth is sustainable and benefits everyone. This is why the European Union attaches great importance to the participation and protection of women and youth, as well as a strengthened national statistical system.

3. Programme implementation

3.1 Governance and implementation arrangements

The programme will be implemented under the overall coordination of the General Direction of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) in collaboration with other stakeholders' members that will be involved during each stage of programme preparation and implementation.

A small Steering Committee, composed of selected members of the stakeholders, will be put in place to oversee the programme. This includes key focal points of the four UN agencies involved, one representative of the INSEED, General Planning Commission, Ministries of Finance, Health, as well as ANADEN, General Customs Directorate. INSEED will be in charge of the aspects related to the national institutional, policy and legal framework, and the technical interventions of the statistical system in close collaboration with the General Planning Commission, and sectoral departments and national implementing agencies based on their respective mandate established by the Government.

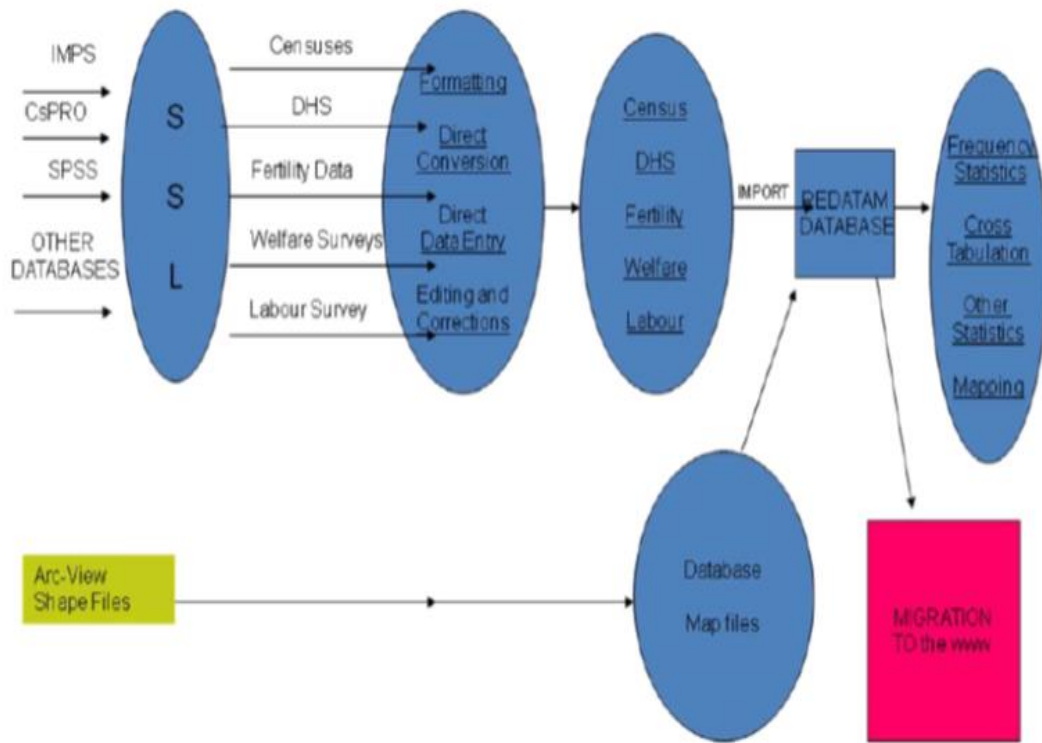
All interventions related to the JP will be implemented at the central and decentralized levels (in the 3 islands) and will target the same communities and sectors.

The implementation of the statistical system interventions will be done by national implementing agencies and Government organizations based on their respective mandates, in particular:

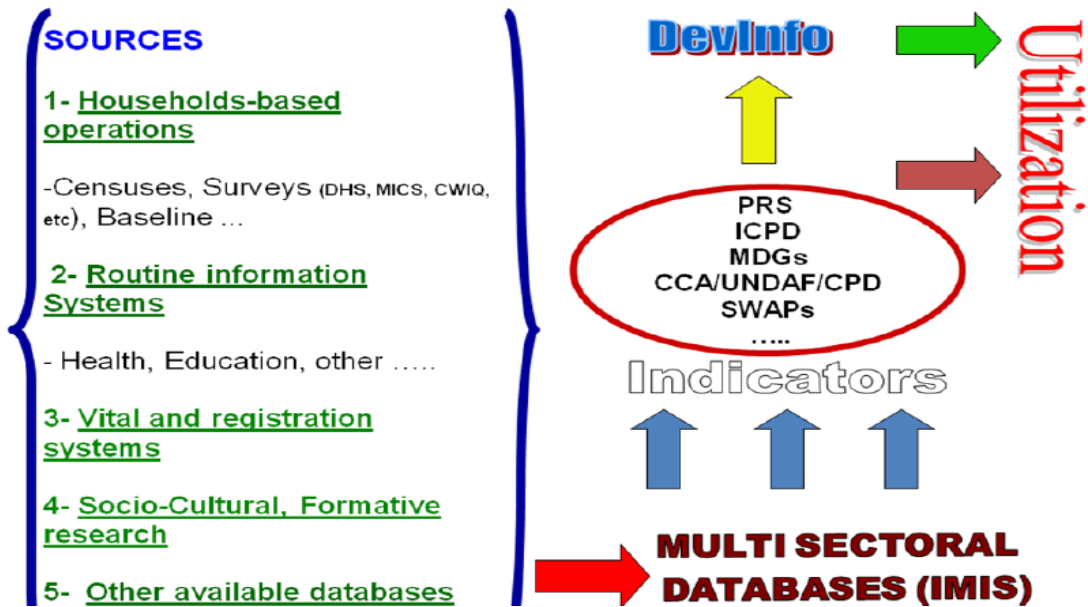
- **Output 1.1. National statistical strategy:** UNDP in close collaboration with UNFPA will work with INSEED, the General Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministries in charge of the environment, and health, and all other public and private institutions respectively on the integration and implementation of the SDGs in the national strategies, the monitoring and evaluation of public policies.

More specifically, UNDP and UNFPA will ensure the updating of the national strategy for the development of statistics.

- **Output 1.2. National statistical system:** Drawing on its reputation as a reliable technical and financial partner by state and non-state actors, especially in its integrating role for the achievement of the SDGs, UNDP in collaboration with other PUNOs will work with all stakeholders such as INSEED, the General Planning Commission, UCCIA, ANPI, the National Waste Management Agency, the Directorate General of the Environment, Ministry of Health, and the General Customs Directorate in the implementation of public policies in order to strengthen their capacities to better ensure the planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation chain.
- **Output 2.1. Digital repository with an open data portal:** UNFPA will work closely with INSEED to develop and strengthen an integrated national statistical database with a central repository networking with all existing databases in collaboration with decentralised staff across key government Ministries, Agencies and private sector. UNFPA will support INSEED and key stakeholders in capacity building on the use and maintenance of the network and the established data center. The programme will support: development and implementation of the “Comoros Infos” database, storage and security of databases, capacity building in management and use of “Comoros Infos”, training of national managers, administrators and network managers on appropriate softwares, organization of statistical seminars for government, and data producers and users from public and private sectors, capacity building workshops to share and improve data collection, international technical assistance and national expertise for network design, procurement of IT material and equipment (computer and digitized mapping), data collection and processing for updating “Comoros Infos” database, and operations costs (supplies, fungible equipment and communication costs).



DATA for DEVELOPMENT



- Output 2.2. Data Production: UNFPA** will support the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) in analysis and exploitation of censuses and national surveys on economic and social profile, and DHS/MICS. UNFPA will support INSEED in the training of central and decentralized technical and administrative human resources on the design, production and use of harmonized tools for data collection, analysis and exploitation, and the provision of IT materials and equipment at sectoral levels. INSEED will lead the implementation of the activities to improve the production of foreign and internal trade statistics. **UNCTAD** will provide technical expertise and assistance regarding statistics data, electronic transfer between SYDONIA and Eurotrace and developments of the dashboard. UNCTAD will also coordinate meetings with Customs to improve statistical data exchange. **UNDP** will work with the Ministry of Environment for collection and production of data related to the environment and waste. The General Director of Planning, Studies and Health Statistics under the Ministry of Health will lead the implementation of the health activities. **WHO** will provide technical support during project implementation and will ensure a close monitoring as well as sustainability of activities. Activities related to gender and GBV statistical data will be led by the General Gender Commission under the Ministry of Health, Solidarity, Social Protection and Gender Promotion in collaboration with UNFPA.
- Output 3.1. User-friendly web-based database:** UNFPA and the three other UN agencies will work closely with INSEED and the general Planning Commission for the development of a user-friendly web-based database. UNFPA will support the management and updating of a website at INSEED for the dissemination of data and metadata, as well as the development of the online data portal.
- Output 3.2. statistical literacy of key decision makers:** UNDP will support state and non-state institutions in building their capacity and raising awareness on statistical literacy and the timely use of data collected on the SDGs (national budget and strategy).

3.2 Monitoring, reporting, and evaluation

Reporting on the Joint SDG Fund will be results-oriented, and evidence based. Each PUNO will provide the Convening/Lead Agent with the following narrative reports prepared in accordance with instructions and templates developed by the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat:

- *Annual narrative progress reports*, to be provided no later than one (1) month (31 January) after the end of the calendar year, and must include the result matrix, updated risk log, and anticipated expenditures and results for the next 12-month funding period;
- *Mid-term progress review report* to be submitted halfway through the implementation of Joint Programme¹; and
- *Final consolidated narrative report*, after the completion of the joint programme, to be provided no later than two (2) months after the operational closure of the activities of the joint programme.

The Convening/Lead Agent (UNFPA) will compile the narrative reports of PUNOs and submit a consolidated report to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, through the Resident Coordinator.

¹ This will be the basis for release of funding for the second year of implementation.

The Resident Coordinator will be required to monitor the implementation of the joint programme, with the involvement of Joint SDG Fund Secretariat to which it must submit data and information when requested. As a minimum, joint programmes will prepare, and submit to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, 6-month monitoring updates. Additional insights (such as policy papers, value for money analysis, case studies, infographics, blogs) might need to be provided, per request of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat. The joint programme will adequately allocate resources for monitoring and evaluation in the budget.

Data for all indicators of the results framework will be shared with the Fund Secretariat on a regular basis, in order to allow the Fund Secretariat to aggregate results at the global level and integrate findings into reporting on progress of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs will be required to include information on complementary funding received from other sources (both UN cost sharing, and external sources of funding) for the activities supported by the Fund, including in kind contributions and/or South-South Cooperation initiatives, in the reporting done throughout the year.

PUNOs at Headquarters level shall provide the Administrative Agent with the following statements and reports prepared in accordance with its accounting and reporting procedures, consolidate the financial reports, as follows:

- Annual financial reports as of 31st December each year with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the Joint SDG Fund Account, to be provided no later than four months after the end of the applicable reporting period; and
- A final financial report, after the completion of the activities financed by the Joint SDG Fund and including the final year of the activities, to be provided no later than 30 April of the year following the operational closing of the project activities.

In addition, regular updates on financial delivery might need to be provided, per request of the Fund Secretariat.

After competition of a joint programmes, a final, *independent and gender-responsive*² *evaluation* will be organized by the Resident Coordinator. The cost needs to be budgeted, and in case there are no remaining funds at the end of the joint programme, it will be the responsibility of PUNOs to pay for the final, independent evaluation from their own resources.

The programme will be subject to a joint final independent evaluation with an established arrangement for managing the joint evaluation. The final evaluation will be managed jointly by the PUNOs as per established process for independent evaluations, including use of a joint evaluation steering group and dedicated evaluation managers not involved in the implementation of the joint programme. The evaluations will follow the United Nations Evaluation Group's (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the UN System, using the guidance on Joint Evaluation and relevant UNDG guidance on evaluations. The management and implementation of the joint evaluation will have due regard to the evaluation policies of the PUNOs to ensure the requirements of those policies are met; and with use of appropriate guidance from PUNOs on joint evaluation. The evaluation process will be participative and will involve all relevant programme's stakeholders and partners. Evaluation results will be disseminated amongst governments, donors, academic institutions and stakeholders of civil society (including workers' and employers' organizations) and a joint

² [How to manage a gender responsive evaluation, Evaluation handbook](#), UN Women, 2015

management response will be produced upon completion of the evaluation process to be made publicly available on the evaluation platforms or similar of the PUNOs and through the UNEG database.

3.3 Accountability, financial management, and public disclosure

The Joint Programme will be using a pass-through fund management modality where UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will act as the Administrative Agent (AA) under which the funds will be channelled for the Joint Programme through the AA. Each Participating UN Organization receiving funds through the pass-through has signed a standard Memorandum of Understanding with the AA.

Each Participating UN Organization (PUNO) shall assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent of the Joint SDG Fund (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office). Such funds will be administered by each UN Agency, Fund, and Programme in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. Each PUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through programme support costs will be 7%. All other costs incurred by each PUNO in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs.

Funding by the Joint SDG Fund will be provided on an annual basis, upon successful performance of the joint programme.

Procedures on financial transfers, extensions, financial and operational closure, and related administrative issues are stipulated in the Operational Guidance of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs and partners must comply with Joint SDG Fund brand guidelines, which includes information on donor visibility requirements.

Each PUNO will take appropriate measures to publicize the Joint SDG Fund and give due credit to the other PUNOs. All related publicity material, official notices, reports and publications, provided to the press or Fund beneficiaries, will acknowledge the role of the host Government, donors, PUNOs, the Administrative Agent, and any other relevant entities. In particular, the Administrative Agent will include and ensure due recognition of the role of each Participating Organization and partners in all external communications related to the Joint SDG Fund.

3.4 Legal context

Agency name: **UNDP**
Agreement title: Standard Basic Assistance Agreement
Agreement date: 27 January 1976

Agency name: **UNFPA**
Agreement title: Standard Basic Assistance Agreement
Agreement date: 27 January 1976 with UNDP but applying mutatis mutandis to UNFPA activities and staff, pursuant to the agreement entered into force by exchange of letters on August 21, 2014.

Agency name: **WHO**

Agreement title: Standard Basic Assistance Agreement

Agreement date: 27 January 1976

Agency name: **UNCTAD**

Agreement title: UNCTAD is part of the UN Secretariat with direct reporting to the General Assembly. Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures.

Agreement date: Non Applicable

D. ANNEXES

Annex 1. List of related initiatives

Name of initiative/project	Key expected results	Links to the joint programme	Lead organization	Other partners	Budget and funding source	Contract person (name and email)
Strengthening SDG Financing Framework and Ecosystem in Comoros to meet the SDGs	<p>1. By 2022, the capacity to mobilize internal resources is increased</p> <p>2. By 2022, the country puts in place and uses effective tools and procedures for optimal management of development resources to meet the SDGs</p> <p>3: By 2022, the health sector public expenditure framework is strengthened for more transparency and efficacy in the implementation of the SDGs</p>	<p>Outcome 2</p> <p>Outcome 3</p>	<p>UNDP</p> <p>WHO</p>	<p>Minister of Finance and budget Minister of Health</p> <p>Civil society organizations: o FENMUSAC - International Financial Institutions: o IFM o World Bank o AfDB - Other partners: o UNICEF</p>	1 170 000 USD (SDG Funds) (2020-2022)	François Batalingaya, Francois.Batalingaya@un.org
Compilation of foreign and domestic trade statistics	Improved production of foreign and domestic trade statistics	Outcome 2	UNCTAD	INSEED General Directorate of Customs	200 000 USD	jean-marc.benoit@un.org
Population Dynamics	<p>In-depth analyses, particularly on SRHR, GBV, population and development using census and DHS data</p> <p>Availability of a national population data platform accessible by users for mapping and analyses of selected socioeconomic inequalities, demographic patterns for monitoring of SDGs</p>	<p>Outcome 1</p> <p>Outcome 2</p> <p>Outcome 3</p>	UNFPA	INSEED	800 000 USD UNFPA Core funds (2022-2026)	kouame@unfpa.org

	<p>Availability of population projections at national and subnational levels, disaggregated by age, sex and location</p> <p>Existence of a national development plan that explicitly integrates demographic dynamics, including changing age structure, population distribution and urbanization</p>					
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Annex 2. Overall Results Framework

2.1. Targets for Joint SDG Fund Results Framework

Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Indicators	Targets	
	2022	2023
1.1: integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope ³	0	1
1.2: integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ⁴	0	1

Joint SDG Fund Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Indicators	Targets	
	2022	2023
3.1: # of innovative solutions that were tested ⁵ (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	0	1
3.2: # of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	0	1
3.3: # and share of countries where national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators has been strengthened	0	1

Joint SDG Fund Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement

Indicators	Targets	
	2022	2023
2.1: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scope ⁶ (disaggregated by source)	0	1
2.2: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scale ⁷ (disaggregated by source)	0	1

³Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

⁴Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

⁵Each Joint programme in the Implementation phase will test at least 2 approaches.

⁶Additional resources mobilized for other / additional sector/s

⁷Additional resources mobilized for the same multi-sectoral solution.

Joint SDG Fund Output 4: Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Indicators	Targets	
	2022	2023
4.1: # of integrated financing instruments/strategies that were tested (disaggregated by % successful / unsuccessful)	0	1
4.2: # of integrated financing strategies that have been implemented with partners in lead ⁸	0	1
4.3: # of functioning partnership/governance frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate progress on SDGs made operational	0	1

Joint SDG Fund Operational Performance Indicators

- Level of coherence of UN in implementing programme country⁹
- Reduced transaction costs for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other joint programmes in the country in question

- Annual % of financial delivery
- Joint programme operationally closed within original end date
- Joint programme financially closed 18 months after their operational closure

- Joint programme facilitated engagement with diverse stakeholders (e.g. parliamentarians, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor, private sector).
- Joint programme included addressing inequalities and the principle of “Leaving No One Behind”.
- Joint programme featured gender results at the outcome level.
- Joint programme undertook or draw upon relevant human rights analysis, and have developed or implemented a strategy to address human rights issues.
- Joint programme planned for and can demonstrate positive results/effects for youth.
- Joint programme considered the needs of persons with disabilities.
- Joint programme made use of risk analysis in programme planning.
- Joint programme conducted do-no-harm / due diligence and were designed to take into consideration opportunities in the areas of the environment and climate change.

⁸ This will be disaggregated by (1) government/public partners (2) civil society partners and (3) private sector partners

⁹ Annual survey will provide qualitative information towards this indicator.

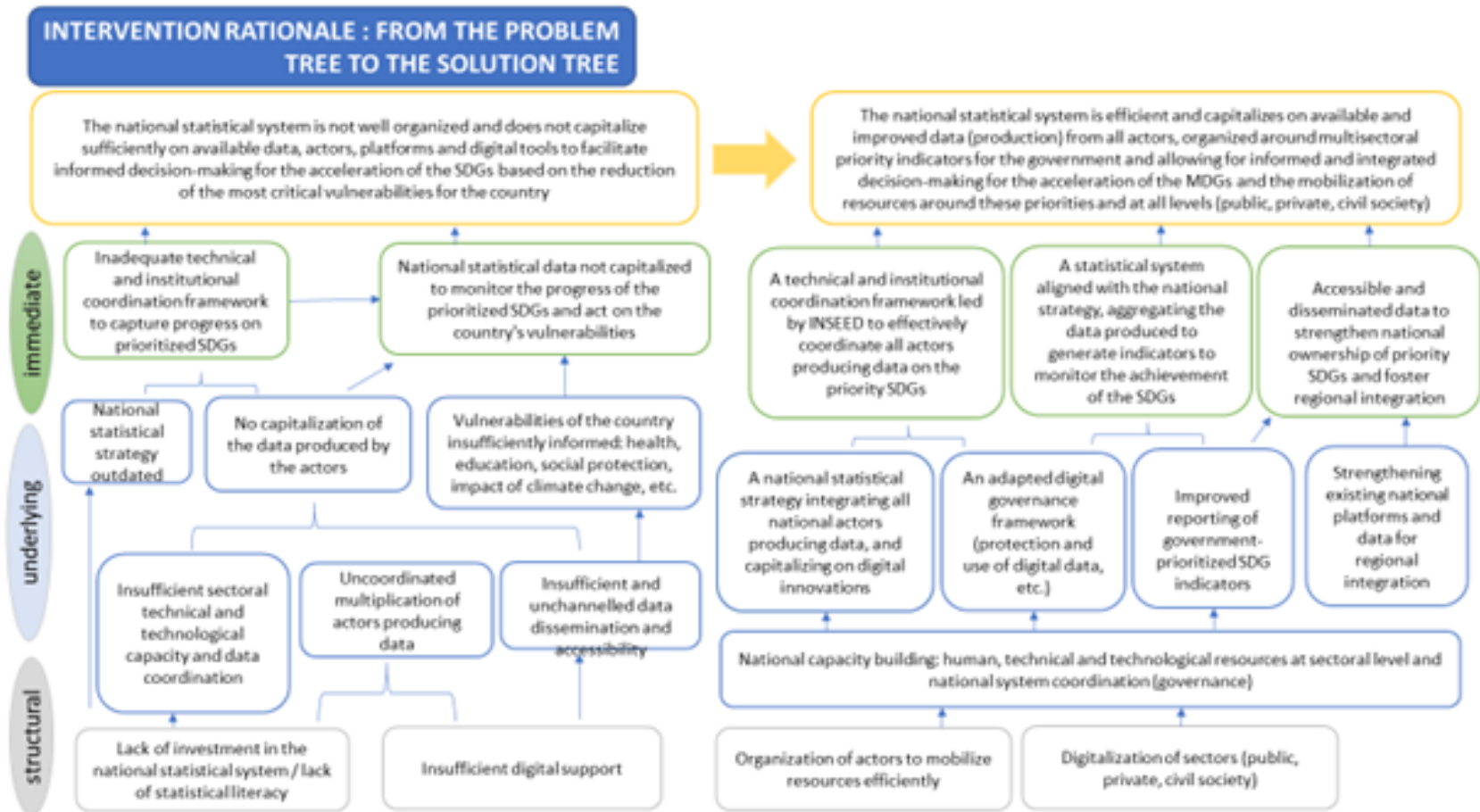
2.2. Joint programme Results framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	2022 Target	2023 Target	Means of Verification	Responsible partner
Outcome 1: Developed and improved institutional framework and operational capacity of the national statistical system to capture 70% of the SDGs targets's indicators prioritized at the national level for strategic decision-making for economic and social progress by 2023					
Outcome 1 indicator: Legislative and institutional statistical framework strengthened	No	Yes	Yes	Beneficiaries and Programme reports	UNDP
Outcome 1 indicator: Pourcentage of prioritized national SDG indicators produced	30%	50%	70%	programme reports and publication	UNDP UNFPA UNCTAD WHO
Output 1.1: The national statistical strategy is updated and reflects the complex architecture of data production and collection, as well as the digital modernization of the statistical system					
Output 1.1 indicator: Existence of the updated national statistical strategy	No	Yes	Yes	Beneficiaries and Programme reports	UNDP
Output 1.1 indicator: Existence of resource mobilization strategy for the national statistical system	No	Yes	Yes	Beneficiaries and Programme reports	UNDP
Output 1.2: The capacity of the national statistical system is strengthened to inform planning, programming and policy development to accelerate progress towards human rights, gender equality and sustainable development					
Output 1.2 indicator: Number of national actors trained in data production, collection, processing, analysis and policy formulation	0	50	100	Reports from Department of Finance, INSEED, Public Administration, General Planning Commission	UNDP UNFPA UNCTAD WHO
Output 1.2 indicator: Number of statistical units or departments equipped to undertake data analysis	0	4	4	Reports from Department of Finance, INSEED, Public Administration, General Planning Commission	UNDP UNFPA UNCTAD WHO
Outcome 2: Improved regular production and accessibility of a set of relevant multi-sectoral indicators and functionalities in a digital repository with an open data portal for monitoring the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs by 2023.					
Outcome 2 indicator: Proportion of Comoros Emerging Plan and SDGs indicators updated	30%	50%	70%	Reports from Department of Finance, INSEED, Public Administration,	UNDP UNFPA UNCTAD WHO

				General Planning Commission	
Outcome 2 indicator: Number of studies and publications on the SDGs status	0	3	6	Reports from Department of Finance, INSEED, Public Administration, General Planning Commission	UNDP UNFPA UNCTAD WHO
Output 2.1: A digital repository with an open data portal to monitor the SDGs is established, functional and the capacity to maintain it is available					
Output 2.1 indicator: Existence of a digital repository with access to existing data platforms	NO	YES	YES	Reports from Department of Finance, INSEED, Public Administration, General Planning Commission	UNFPA
Output 2.1 indicator: Number of existing platforms connected with the digital repository	0	5	15	Census, DHS/MICS, Routine data	UNDP UNFPA UNCTAD WHO
Output 2.2: Strengthened national capacity to produce key indicators for monitoring the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the Comoros Emerging Plan in the perspective that data on critical vulnerabilities for Comoros are regularly fed in order to establish trends					
Output 2.2 indicator: Number of indicators regularly fed in order to establish trends	57	70	87	Census, DHS/MICS, Routine data	UNDP UNFPA UNCTAD WHO
Output 2.2 indicator: Number of sectoral planning units operational	0	4	4	Programme Reports	UNDP UNFPA UNCTAD WHO
Outcome 3: Use of quality, disaggregated and updated statistical and geospatial data, with full respect for confidentiality, related to the SDG indicators, and presented in a meaningful and user-friendly format for informed decision making in Comoros					
Outcome 3 indicator: Number of platform users disaggregated by sector	0	10 000	30 000	Programme Reports	UNDP UNFPA UNCTAD WHO

Outcome 3 indicator: Proportion of SDG indicators, selected by the country, and reported	46%	55%	65%	VNR SDG National Report	UNDP
Output 3.1: · Availability of a user-friendly web-based database, accessible to users, including decision makers at all levels (national, decentralized and individual).					
Output 3.1 indicator: Number of users of digital solutions to promote the rule of law and gender equality	0	5 000	15 000	Reports ANADEN	UNFPA UNDP
Output 3.1 indicator: Number of public institutions and non-state organizations with publicly accessible information systems through a user-friendly web-based data portal	0	2	5	Reports from Department of Finance, INSEED, Public Administration, General Planning Commission, General, Customs Direction	UNFPA UNDP UNCTAD WHO
Output 3.2: · Strengthened capacity and statistical literacy of key decision makers on the timely use of data collected on the SDGs					
Output 3.2 indicator: Number of decisions based on data analysis	0	3	10	Programme reports	UNFPA UNDP UNCTAD WHO
Output 3.2 indicator: Number of decision makers trained on the use of data analysis	0	10	20	Programme reports	UNFPA UNDP UNCTAD WHO

Annex 3. Theory of Change graphic



THEORY OF CHANGE

THEN, the Union of the Comoros has an efficient, digitalized and accessible national statistical system, capitalizing on the data available and produced by all stakeholders, organized around multisectoral priority indicators for the government and allowing for informed and integrated decision-making for the acceleration of the SDGs and the mobilization of resources around these priorities and at all levels (public, private, civil society)

RESULT 1: Developed and improved operational national statistical system capacity to capture 70% of prioritized national SDG indicators and targets for strategic decision-making for economic and social progress by 2023.

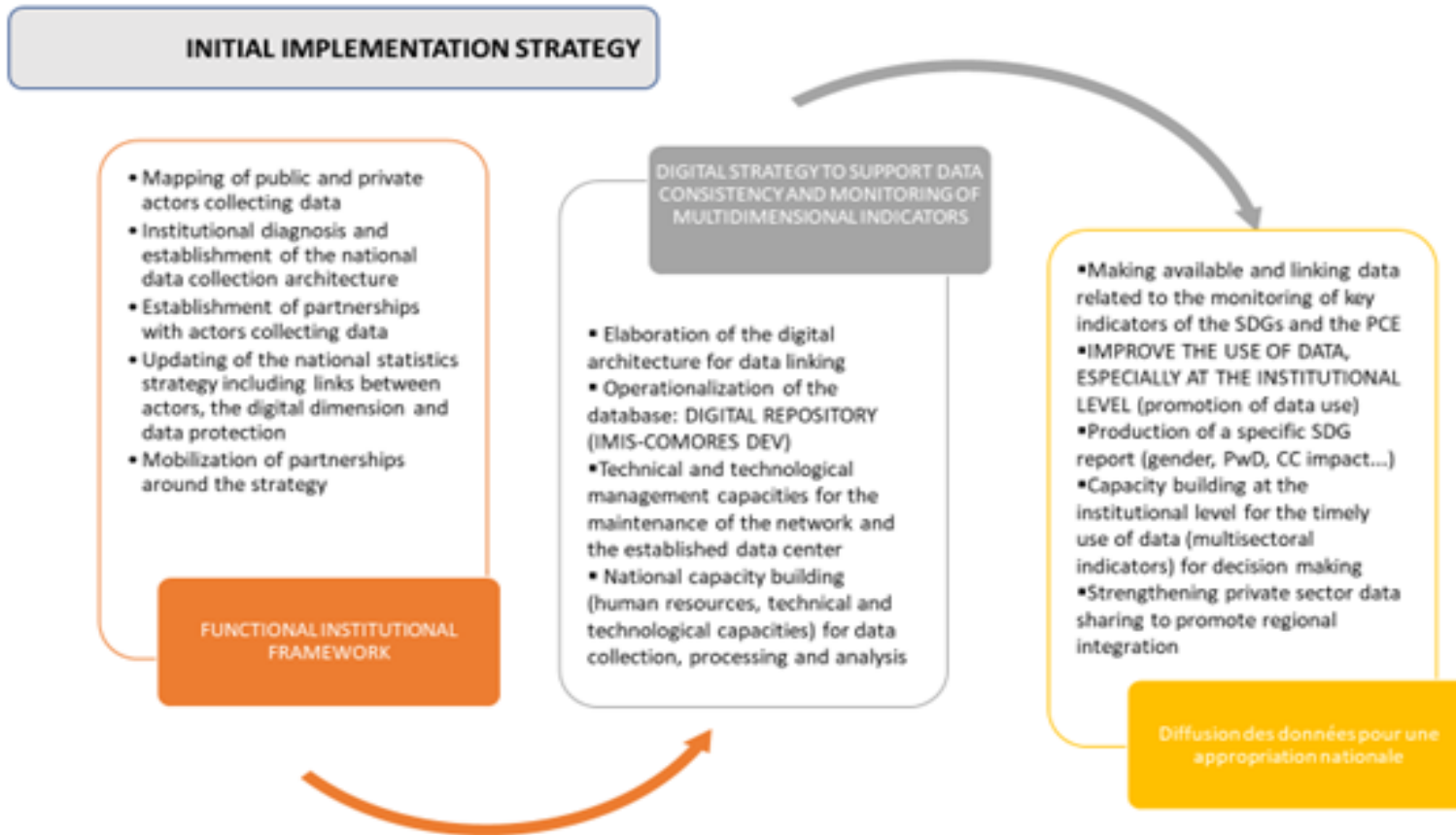
If the Union of Comoros establishes a centralized data collection, analysis and processing architecture within INSEED and organized around the country's prioritized SDG indicators and targets...

RESULT 2: Enhanced regular generation and accessibility of a set of relevant multisectoral indicators and functionalities in a digital repository with an open data portal for monitoring the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs by 2023.

If these data are digitized and grouped within a single platform or an efficient network, and if the skills to a) update and strengthen these data, b) network these data, maintain and manage this platform are available...

RESULT 3: Improved access to and use of quality, up-to-date and reliable statistical data by at least 50% of identified public and private stakeholders in Comoros and by regional and international actors

If the available data is disseminated and accessible and allows for informed decision-making by stakeholders for integrated policies to achieve the SDGs and regional integration of the country...



Annex 4. Gender marker matrix

Indicator		Score	Findings and Explanation	Evidence or Means of Verification
N°	Formulation			
1.1	Context analysis integrate gender analysis	2	Consideration of gender analysis in the context	Proposal section 1.1 to 1.3
1.2	Gender Equality mainstreamed in proposed outputs	2	Outputs specifically target gender equality in line with SDG 17.17.18 In addition, each SDG indicator will be disaggregated for men and women, boys and girls and for people living with disability in order to ensure the results are not gender biased and in order to evaluate the progress toward the achievement of SDG targets for people with disabilities.	SDG proposed indicators and results framework
1.3	Programme output indicators measure changes on gender equality	2	All indicators are able to track changes in gender equality	Results framework
2.1	PUNO collaborate and engage with Government on gender equality and the empowerment of women	2	The program openly targets gender empowerment and it has been designed in collaboration with the INSEED and the Ministry of Health, Solidarity, Social Protection and Gender Promotion. Other Government departments have been consulted in the preparation phase of the program as well as implementing agencies.	Proposal section 3.1 Governance and implementation arrangements
2.2	PUNO collaborate and engages with women's/gender equality CSOs	2	The programme will target vulnerable populations including women and girls. Analysis of Open Data will highlight shortcomings in the ways that education and health systems serve women and girls. Census, education, and health data from the national statistical system will be used to develop indicators of gender disparities in these areas. In addition, Open Data on healthcare facilities and public health information will provide women and girls with resources on sexual and maternal health. Programs now use openly available health data to help pregnant women and young mothers, and have decreased rates of infant and maternal mortality. The joint programme will enhance the use of enabling information technology at decentralized and sectoral levels (health, protection,	Proposal section 1.3

			police, justice, NGOs) to promote the empowerment of women and girls in Comoros.	
3.1	Program proposes a gender-responsive budget	2	<p>The proposed budget is gender sensitive as it contributes to address the gender issues through official national statistical data with gender- and human rights-based lenses. It should be noted, moreover, that national indicators will be disaggregated by age, gender, disability status, and other relevant functional categories, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind, since targets can normally only be considered "achieved" if they are achieved for all relevant social and income groups.</p> <p>The programme will target vulnerable populations including women and girls.</p>	Proposal section 2.4
Total scoring		2		

Annex 5. Budget and Work Plan

5.1 Budget per UNSDG categories

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	PUNO 1 UNFPA		PUNO 2 UNCTAD		PUNO 3 UNDP		PUNO 4 WHO		TOTAL	
	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	UNFPA PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	UNCTAD PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	UNDP PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	WHO PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)
1. Staff and other personnel	50 000	100 000	150 000	100 000	0	100 000	0	100 000	200 000	400 000
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	20 000		0		25 000		20 000		65 000	
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	50 000		0		0		0		50 000	
4. Contractual services	50 000		0		120 991		50 000		247 991	
5. Travel	20 000		30 000		30 000		30 000		110 000	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	50 000		0		0		57 290		107 290	

7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	31 028		6 916		67 000		30 000		107 944	
Total Direct Costs	271 028		186 916		242 991		187 290		888 225	
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	18 972		13 084		17 009		13 110		62 175	
TOTAL Costs	290 000	100 000	200 000	100 000	260 000	100 000	200 400	100 000	950 400	400 000
1st year	190 000	50 000	100 000	50 000	160 000	50 000	100 400	50 000	550 400	200 000
2nd year	100 000	50 000	100 000	50 000	100 000	50 000	100 000	50 000	400 000	200 000

Twelve percent of the total direct costs requested from the SDG Fund will be transferred to national executing agencies and Government departments (Transfer and Grant to Counterpart) to support the implementation of the joint programme, and 28 percent of the budget will be allocated to contractual services to conduct necessary analyses and to support implementation of specific actions.

The remaining 60 percent of the total direct costs will support staff time and missions for the four UN agencies involved in the Joint Programme implementation as well as for the purchase of supplies, equipment, and other operating costs.

5.2 Budget per SDG targets

The overall budget will contribute to the achievement of the 4 proposed SDG targets with a focus on statistical capacity-building and development of measurements of progress on sustainable development. SDG 3 in fact accounts for 22 percent of the overall budget. SDG 17 represents about 78% of the share of the total budget.

SDG TARGETS		%	USD
1	SDG 3-3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	22, 24%	300 400
2	SDG 17-17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries	22,21%	299 924
3	SDG 17-17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	33,34%	450 152
4	SDG 17-17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries	22,21%	299 924
TOTAL		100%	1 350 400

5.3 Work plan

The first semester of the Joint Programme will focus on preparatory activities in order to have all statistical capacity-building and development of measurements of progress on sustainable development interventions at the same operational level to deliver an integrated package of interventions in 2022. The open national SDG data platform based on modern digital technologies and interoperability standards that will liaise all data platforms is expected to be developed by June 2022 and will be operational during the second semester of 2022, and in 2023.

According to the proposed timeline, the integrated package of interventions can be delivered from July/August 2022.

The institutional work will begin during the first trimester of the program with some preliminary assessments and the various consultations and activities will be deployed over the two years implementation period.

Evaluation plan will be finalized before the beginning of the program, it is envisaged to have a continuous evaluation methodology with light and periodic surveys. Information and lessons learnt from this continuous evaluation exercise will inform the program design and suggest timely revisions if necessary.

Outcome 1			Developed and improved the institutional framework and operational capacity of the national statistical system to capture 70% of the SDGs targets indicators prioritized at the national level for strategic decision-making for economic and social progress by 2023																		
Output	Annual target/s		List of activities	Time frame								PLANNED BUDGET				PUNO/s involved	Implementing partner/s involved				
	2022	2023		Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Overall budget description	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contributions (USD)	Total Cost (USD)						
Output 1.1 The national statistical strategy is updated	Regulatory texts and institutional reforms are put in place	The national statistical strategy is updated	Mapping of public and private actors	X	X										this budget takes into account all expenses related to the acquisition of goods and services including communication	30 000	12 500	42 500	UNDP	ANPI, UCCIA, INSEED	
			Institutional diagnosis	X	X											this budget takes into account all expenses related to the acquisition of goods and services including communication	35 609	10 000	45 609	UNDP	INSEED
			Updating of the national statistics strategy	X	X	X											this budget takes into account all expenses related to the acquisition of goods and services including communication	37 991	22 500	60 491	UNDP

Output 1.2. The capacity of the national statistical system is strengthened	50 actors trained	100 actors trained	Capacity building of INSEED and key actors		x	X	X							this budget takes into account all expenses related to the acquisition of goods and services including communication	25 000	10 000	35 000	UNDP	INSEED ,ANIPI,UCCIA	
			Strengthening of the National Health Information System	X	X										Budget includes Need assessment and capacity building	25 000	0	25 000	WHO	MOH
			Establishment of partnerships with actors collecting data			X	X	X							this budget takes into account all expenses related to the acquisition of goods and services including communication	25 000	15 000	40 000	UNDP	INSEED, ANPI, UCCIA
Outcome 2			Improved regular production and accessibility of a set of relevant multi-sectoral indicators and functionalities in a digital repository with an open data portal for monitoring the Comoros Emerging Plan and the SDGs by 2023.																	
Output	Annual target/s		List of activities	Time frame								PLANNED BUDGET			PUNO/s involved	Implementing partner/s involved				
	2022	2023		Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Overall budget description	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contributions (USD)			Total Cost (USD)			
Output 2.1 A digital repository with an open data portal to monitor the SDGs is established, functional and the capacity to maintain it is available	5 platforms connected with the digital repository	15 platforms connected with the digital repository	Development of the digital architecture and Operationalization of the digital repository (including capacity building in maintenance of the network and the established data center)			X	X	X						Budget include costs for international and national consultant fees, purchase of ICT equipment and supplies, Internet, connectivity services, maintenance services of IT equipment, Transportation and distribution costs, Training and capacity building activities, furniture, and monitoring/communication activities	160 000	35 000	195 000	UNFPA	INSEED Ministry of Finance General Planning Commission Public administrations Sectoral ministries	

Output 2.2 Strengthened national capacity to produce key indicators for monitoring the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the Comoros Emerging Plan	4 sectoral planning units operational	4 sectoral planning units operational	Review and improve the production of foreign and internal trade statistics (i) improvement of the methodology for collecting and processing foreign trade statistics with SYDONIA World and EUROTRACE software (ii) Transfer of Customs data from SYDONIA World to EUROTRACE by quarter (iii) Development and publication of a dashboard of foreign trade statistics by quarter	x	X											Budget includes staff time, consultant fees, and travel fees	200 000	100 000	300 000	UNCTAD	INSEED General Directorate of Customs		
			Production of specific SDG report															this budget takes into account all expenses related to the acquisition of goods and services including communication	50 000	10 000	60 000	UNDP	INSEED
			Improved health Data collection			X	X											Budget includes: Data collection tools, field surveys, various workshops, travel fee, consultants fees	147 900	50 000	197 900	WHO	MOH
			Analysis and exploitation of censuses and national surveys on economic and social profile, DHS/MICS, and gender and GBV statistical data			X	X	X	X	X								Budget includes training and capacity building activities, production and use of harmonized tools for data collection, analysis and exploitation, and monitoring/communication activities	60000	35 000	95 000	UNFPA	INSEED Ministry of Health
Outcome 3			Use of quality, disaggregated and updated statistical and geospatial data, with full respect for confidentiality, related to the SDG indicators, and presented in a meaningful and user-friendly format for informed decision making in Comoros																				
Joint programme management			List of activities		Time frame								PLANNED BUDGET				PUNOs involved	Implementing partner/s involved					
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall budget description	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contributions (USD)	Total Cost (USD)							

Output 3.1 Availability of a user-friendly web-based database, accessible to users	2 organizations with publicly accessible information through the user-friendly web-based data portal	5 organizations with publicly accessible information through the user-friendly web-based data portal	Making available and interlinking data related to the monitoring of key indicators of the SDGs and the Joint Programme			X	X		X	X	X	Budget include costs for international and national consultant fees, purchase of ICT material and supplies, Internet, connectivity services, maintenance services of IT equipment, Training and capacity building activities, printing and media services and publications, and monitoring/communication activities	70 000	30 000	100 000	UNFPA	INSEED Ministry of Finance General Planning Commission Public Administrations Sectoral ministries UCCIA, ANPI
Output 3.2 Strengthening the capacity and statistical literacy of key decision makers on the timely use of data collected on the SDGs	10 decision makers trained on the use of data analysis	20 decision makers trained on the use of data analysis	Capacity building at the institutional level for the timely use of data (multi-sectoral indicators) for decision making									this budget takes into account all expenses related to the acquisition of goods and services including communication	35 000	20 000	55 000	UNDP	INSEED, Ministeres soctoriels, UCCIA, ANPI
			Enable decision makers to access and make good use of the health data available on the platform					X	X	X	X	Support to the development of the Dater Center hall Development of statistical culture in health sector through capacity building Monitoring and evaluation	27 500	50 000	77 500	WHO	MOH & ANADEN
			Independant Evaluation of the Programme							X	X	Monitoring and evaluation fees	21 400	0	21 400	UNDP RCO	INSEED General Planning Commission

Annex 6. Risk Management Plan

Risks	Risk Level:	Likelihood:	Impact:	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Contextual risks					
Lack of political will and/or instability to further SDG implementation	1	1	1	Advocacy	UNCT
Humanitarian situations will undermine project gains	9	3	3	Efforts will be made to identify and engage strategic partners with the capacity necessary to deliver the critical assumptions.	UNFPA UNDP WHO UNCTAD
Programmatic risks					
Weak linterlinkages across collaborating institutional structures and coordination mechanisms	12	3	4	Active engagement of PUNO's on the ground to ensure links	UNFPA UNDP WHO UNCTAD
Institutional risks					
Unsatisfactory programme performance	5	1	5	PUNOs have excellent track record in the area	UNFPA UNDP WHO UNCTAD
Fiduciary risks					
Misuse of funds by counterparts	5	1	5	Continued capacity building on HACT framework	UNFPA UNDP
The expected co-funding is not reached	12	3	4	active RM with partners	UNFPA UNDP WHO UNCTAD