



Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in SIDS

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

-

Cover Page

UNCT/MCO: Comoros

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Accelerating SDG Achievement through digitized, innovative and accessible statistical system in Comoros

Stakeholder partner: National Government; Sub-national Governments; Civil Society Organizations; Private sector;

Thematic SDG Areas: Digital transformation; SDG localization; Douanes, Santé;

PUNOs: UNFPA, UNCTAD, UNDP, WHO

Total estimated expenditures: US\$ 306,000.0

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): US\$ 335,037.0

Gender Marker: Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm)

Resident Coordinator: Batalingaya, Francois

Resident Coordinator Email: francois.batalingaya@un.org

Executive Summary

During the first year of implementation, the project has made the following progress towards achieving results:

- Support for the organization of the Etats Généraux de la Statistique (General States of Statistics) organized in January 2022;
- The realization of the institutional diagnosis and the mapping of data producers;
- Analysis of the data access situation in Comoros;
- The development of an open digital portal for data sharing and monitoring of SDG indicators (the portal is not yet online);
- Support for the development of population projections for the period (2017-2041), based on data from the General Population and Housing Census (RGPH 2017);
- Conducting a preliminary mission on how to improve the framework for producing statistics on external and internal trade.
- Support for the dissemination and popularization of major national reports
- The revised 2011, 2015 and 2019 Health Accounts report
- The report on the survey on the operationality and availability of services, including data quality and service delivery indicators (HHFA + SDI 2020)

Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

On-track (expected annual results-achieved)

Overall progress against 3 key results

"The first outcome of the project is to strengthen the institutional framework and operational capacities of the national statistical system to capture 70% of the indicators of the nationally prioritized SDG targets for strategic decision-making for economic and social progress by 2023.

To this end, the project first supported the realization of the Etats Généraux de la Statistique held from January 18 to 20, 2022. This meeting brought together stakeholders in the statistics sector and development partners. It provided an opportunity to take stock of the situation and make recommendations on the reform of the statistical sector in Comoros.

The project also supported an institutional diagnosis and mapping of data producers. The mapping revealed some 40 data-producing services concerned by the 168 indicators selected for monitoring the prioritized national-level SDG targets. The mapping highlights five major contributors of indicators, which are: the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED), the General Directorate of Environment and Forests (DGEF), the General Directorate of Civil Security (DGSC), the Directorates of Statistical Information of Health and Education. The areas of competence of these five entities correspond to the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, environmental and social.

The second outcome of the project is to improve the 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 Plan Emergence Comoros and the SDGs by 2023.

Under this outcome, the country will have a digital repository with an open data portal to monitor the SDGs and new capacities to ensure its use and maintenance. Three phases are necessary to achieve this result: the analysis of the existing situation has been completed; the development of the system has been largely completed but is still ongoing (<http://ckan.dr-fanel.com/>); the transfer of skills and training of future users of the solution began in late December 2022.

Also under this outcome, the project supported the development of population projections for the period (2017-2041), based on data from the General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH 2017), in order to determine the evolution of the population for the coming years, taking into account the results obtained on the factors of population growth, which are fertility, mortality and migration.

The third outcome of the project is the use of quality, disaggregated and updated statistical and geospatial data, in full respect of confidentiality, linked to the SDG indicators, and presented in a meaningful and user-friendly format for informed decision-making in Comoros. To this end, it should be noted that the process of interconnecting the data platforms is underway. A preliminary mission is being carried out on how to improve the framework for the production of external and internal trade statistics through information exchange between the customs services of Comoros.

Some impact survey reports have been printed, disseminated or popularized in June-July 2022. These include

- The report on the Etats Généraux de la statistique;
- The revised 2011, 2015 and 2019 Health Accounts report
- The report of the survey on the operationality and availability of services including data quality and service delivery indicators (HHFA + SDI 2020)

SDG Acceleration progress towards the SDGs, focusing on the main SDG targets

The project has a strong accelerating impact on the SDGs in Comoros. It directly targets two main SDGs (SDG 3 and SDG 17) and has four targets: target 3-3.8, target 17-17.16, target 17-17.18 and target 17-17.19.

The Union of the Comoros suffers from a severe lack of up-to-date statistical data. And when they are produced, they are not easily accessible to the public and to decision-makers. The project addresses the acceleration of the SDGs from the perspective of strengthening national capacities for data production, dissemination and accessibility. Accelerating the SDGs is the focus of the project. The first one lays the foundation.

Constraints that were encountered and any adjustments that were made to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.

Constraints:

The implementation of the project is behind schedule due to dependencies on several aspects:

- Dependency on the local operator Comores Telecom, which is experiencing technical difficulties in setting up the functional domain name with an SMTP server for professional e-mail addresses. This automatically postpones the setting up of the production infrastructure, and therefore the putting online of the platform on the official production environment.
- The dependence on the various focal points of the institutions with which we are in contact within the framework of the project, for the collection of information and sectoral data to enrich the platform. During the training sessions, it was noted that very few

had access to the internet, and some did not even have a computer to follow the training and practice, hence their repeated absence.

- The Ministry was not available to implement the activities as all technical officers were involved in the process of ongoing health systems reform activities.

Adjustment:

- Implementation and production are delayed due to the constraint mentioned above.
- The planning of training sessions needs to be done more broadly to ensure better handling of the database by all the different project actors, technical staff, trainers, monitoring teams and end users.

Lessons Learned:

- The need to strengthen the capacity of Comores Telecom.
- The need to raise awareness of institutional data management in several organizations.
- The need to strengthen statistical knowledge in several organizations.
- Limited training in universities for some subjects such as computer science, which is limited to the undergraduate level.
- The willingness of different actors to cooperate for the success of this project
- The need for support for the poorly maintained technical infrastructure.

Next steps, scaling and sustainability [up to half a page]

"The next steps can be grouped into three main areas.

The first component concerns the finalization of the digital data portal. This involves a number of actions, including

- Obtaining from Comores Telecom the SMTP server setup for INSEED's professional emails
- Setting up the production environment
- Deploying the platform in production and putting it online
- Extension of the platform and connections to other identified platforms, ...
- Follow-up of the ODD and integration in the platform
- Training and support

The second component concerns the reinforcement of technical and operational capacities in the field of the production of reliable and permanent statistical data. The main actions to be carried out are, in particular

- The establishment of various sectoral planning units
- Capacity building (equipment and training) of the major structures involved in data production;
- The establishment of a mechanism for collecting and sharing data on foreign trade
- Equipping the INSEED office with infrastructure equipment and computers

The third component concerns the major studies, reports and strategies needed to update the data. These include

- Updating the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)
- Supporting the development of the Voluntary National Report on the SDGs (VNR 2023)
- Produce the National Health Accounts for 2020, 2021 and 2022
- Develop the Program Budget for the sector with the support of an international technical expert
- Evaluate progress in health financing to achieve universal health coverage
- (MPFS)
- Develop and validate the 2022 Health Statistical Yearbook

"

Programmatic Survey

Total number of people benefited from the JP in 2022:

Percentage (%) of women benefited among the total number:

Percentage (%) of children & youth (0-24 years of age) benefited among the total number:

Percentage (%) of older persons (age 60 and above) benefited among the total number:

Percentage (%) of persons with disabilities benefited among the total number:

Explain how people benefited from the joint programme.

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

The creation of a digital portal for the dissemination and access to data in general and to SDG indicators in particular

- The strengthening of national statistical capacities
- National dialogue on access to data and the production of up-to-date statistics

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm). Evidence, data collection and analysis (e.g. gender assessments of programmes; policy briefs, costing for scale-up of social services);Capacity development (e.g. training of social workers, local governments, local communities);

JP address the below cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
No	No	Yes	Yes

Key meetings and events organized in 2022

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event	Kick-off meeting
Yes, in 2022	Yes, in 2022	Yes, in 2022

Explanation if you have not held any key meeting/events.

Contribution to enhancing SDG Financing

Drafted a bill, strategy, and/or approved a law increasing the fiscal space for the policy focus	Produced financing, costing, diagnostic and feasibility analyses as a basis to invest or increase spending on the SDGs	Improved efficiency (cost savings) in the management of programmes/schemes	Improved effectiveness (value for money; i.e. social impact of \$1 spent) of spending	Drafted policies/regulatory frameworks or developed tools to incentivize private sector investment on the SDGs	Structured new financial instruments (public, private or blended) to leverage additional funding
No	No	No	No	No	No

How JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing