**Joint Programme**

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

**MPTF OFFICE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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| **Programme Title & Project Number** |  | **Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results[[1]](#footnote-1)** | |
| * Programme Title: One UN Support to National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda for Data Generation and use of evidence-based planning * Programme Number: **00120073** * MPTF Office Project Reference Number: **00120073** | *Country/Region*  ***RWANDA*** | |
| *Priority area/ strategic results*  UNDAP II, results area 3: Transformational Governance | |
| **Participating Organization(s)** |  | **Implementing Partners** | |
| * Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: **UNFPA** * All UN agencies under the Joint Programme on Data: UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, WHO | National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) | |
| **Programme/Project Cost (US$)**  Total approved budget as per project document: **$5,648,550**  MPTF /JP Contribution: **$952,282**  Agency Contribution (core):   * UNFPA: $ 871,672 * UNICEF: $ 229,763 * UNWOMEN: $43,716 * WHO: $66,802 * TOTAL: **$ 1,211,953** |  | **Programme Duration** | |
|  | Overall Duration *(60months)* |  |
|  | Start Date: 11.02.2020 |  |
|  | Current End date: 30.06.2023 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.** |  | **Report Submitted By** | |
| Assessment/Review  Yes No  Mid-Term Evaluation Report  Yes No | * Name: Kwabena Asante-Ntiamoah * Title: UNFPA Rwanda Country Representative * Participating Organization (Lead): **UNFPA** * Email address: asante-ntiamoah@unfpa.org | |

# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CRVS Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

DHS Demographic and Health Survey

DP Development Partner

EICV Enquete integrale sur les conditions de Vie des menages

GIS Geographic Information System

GMIS Gender Management Information System

GMO Gender Monitoring Office

JP Joint Program

MINECOFIN Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

MPTF Multi Partner Trust Fund

NISR National Institute of Statistics in Rwanda

NSDS National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

NST National Strategy for Transformation

PME Planning Monitoring and Evaluation

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

UNDAF United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNDAP United Nations Development Assistance Plan

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

WHO World Health Organization

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

# NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

Over the reporting period (January-December 2021), the Population and Housing Census (PHC) preparatory phases i.e. census mapping and the pilot census, were successfully conducted informing the PHC methodologies and tools.Key achievements in 2021 also include the publication and dissemination of the Rwanda Demographic Health Survey (RDHS) 2019-2020 full thematic report and the Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey (EICV 6) 2019/2020 following the analysis of the collected data. This will form the basis upon which further analysis will be undertaken including district profiles and the progress of various indexes, including SDG indicators and WASH Index. The capacity of NISR technical staff was strengthened to analyze the 2019-20 RDHS data in the framework of a multidimensional and monetary child poverty analysis as well. The Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system was strengthened through technical and financial support for the scale-up of verbal autopsy at the community level. Furthermore, the capacity of the Ministry of Health’s staff to monitor progress towards the health-related SDGs and other national health priorities was reinforced through the development of a methodology document for Health-SDGs monitoring. A gender thematic report from the 2020 Annual Labor Force Survey (May 2021) was publishedwith updated data on labor force participation rate of women and men, unemployment, unpaid care work, gender pay gap, and other economic activities by women and men.

# Purpose

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

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

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

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

# Results

During the reporting period, the Joint program on data collaborated with the National Institute of Statistics to reinforce sectoral Management Information Systems and administrative data systems (indicator 6.1.2) such as the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system also providing Technical Assistance to NISR to monitor Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators for which data is available and monitored (indicator 6.1.3) to ensure those systems are fully functional and producing timely and quality data. The preparatory phases for the 2022 Population and Housing Census (PHC) is well on track, with the pilot census successfully conducted in 2021.

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

**Indicator 6.1.1: Number of main national data collection exercise supported**

* **The Population and Housing Census (PHC) preparatory phases successfully conducted including the pilot census**

Throughout the year 2021, the UN continued working closely with the NISR in the preparation activities for the 2022 Rwanda Population and Housing Census (RPHC 2022) i.e. finalisation of the census mapping exercises and conduct of the pilot census. The main census is planned to take place from 16-30 August 2022. The pilot census was conducted between 16th and 30th September 2021 and covered 64,000 households and 272,000 resident persons. The pilot used nearly all the techniques foreseen for the main census. UNFPA provided technical assistance in the form of a GIS Expert, Data Experts, Institutional Capacity Assessment Expert and a communications firm to support the development of a census communications strategy, all of which will contribute to strengthened capacity of NISR to successfully conduct the 2022 Census. Recommendations from the Capacity Needs Assessment were taken forward including through the procurement of 201 laptops and related software and accessories as part of the institutional strengthening of NISR, particularly with regards to data transmission and data analysis during and after the census. UNFPA further facilitated south-to-south learning between Rwanda and Ghana for experience and knowledge sharing between the 2 countries particularly with regards to conducting digital census. Under the leadership of the RC and UNFPA, the One UN continued its advocacy and resource mobilization efforts in support of the Census. This include amongst Development Partners, both in-country and those without physical presence, and also co-convening Development Partners Meetings in partnership with MINECOFIN as part of the resource mobilization strategy for the census.

* **Final reports of the 6th Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey (RDHS6) and the 2019-2020 Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey (EICV) published and disseminated**

Key achievements in 2021 include the publication and dissemination of the RDHS 2019-2020 full thematic report and the Household Survey 2019-2020. Technical and financial support was provided to the process of developing, implementing and finalizing the RDHS 2019-2020 published in October 2021. The report forms the basis upon which further analysis will be undertaken including district profiles and the Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH) Index. Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) provided technical and financial support to NISR to build the capacity of national and sub-national government, CSO staff in data analysis, dissemination and data use targeting high school teachers, university lecturers, researchers, and students.

* **Gender statistical reports**

Under the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Member States committed to ensure “no one will be left behind”, with gender equality established as a stand-alone goal and a central fundamental to achieving an inclusive and sustainable development agenda by 2030. Ensuring the translation of these commitments into effective action requires disaggregated data to address all the vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls. Within this framework, UN Women in partnership with the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) produced **a gender thematic report from the 2020 annual labour force survey (May 2021)** with updated data on labour force participation rate of women and men, unemployment, unpaid care work, gender pay gap, and other economic activities by women and men. In addition, UN Women contributed to the data analysis of the 6th Demographic and health survey 2019/2020 in particular the domestic violence module, with data on physical, sexual and intimate partner violence, as well as its dissemination in December 2021. The findings from these publications help to inform policy making, planning and advocacy.

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

* **CRVS system strengthened.**

The Joint Programme on data continued supporting the strengthening and implementation of the key sectoral Management Information Systems and administrative data systems, such as the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system. In 2021, the system was strengthened at the community level by scaling up Verbal Autopsy (VA) which is one of the two main sources for mortality-related information along with the Medical Certification of Causes of Death (MCCOD) implemented at hospital level since 2018. The latest CRVS system report registered 86% of births and 30% of deaths[[2]](#footnote-2). To improve mortality reporting, technical and financial assistance were provided to the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) to integrate the WHO’s 2016 VA questionnaire into the national integrated CRVS system and to procure 200 Android tablets to support VA scale-up in the community in 2021. NISR is also committed to strengthening the administrative data collection system including CRVS. The Vital statistics report 2020 was released in May 2021 and routine monitoring of CRVS continues to be improved; data collection to enable compilation of vital statistics annual report 2021 is regular with births registered at health facilities reaching 95% as of end of December 2021.

* **GMIS system strengthened.**

To increase availability and harmonization of gender data across the country, UN Women through MPTF funding has provided support to the Gender Monitoring Office to upgrade the Gender Management Information System (GMIS), including developing a handbook and training of Gender Monitoring Office (GMO) staff. The new features facilitate the view of the GMO parametric report by the public, the data interpretation and infographics, data upload and validation by responsible institutions. Technical staff including GMO and district statisticians were equipped with skills to effectively manage and maintain the system, including on data entry as well as report production and wider dissemination of the information on the public portal.

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

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

The Joint Programme on Data continuously provided technical assistance to further advance SDGs Monitoring in 2021. The capacity of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) staff from the Ministry of Health (MoH) to monitor progress towards the health-related SDGs and other national and subnational health priorities was strengthened through the development of a comprehensive metadata handbook for Health-SDGs indicators in Rwanda. Furthermore, 70% of Health SDGs indicators had at least one data point to monitor these international health targets in 2020[[3]](#footnote-3).

With UNICEF’s support, NISR in partnership with high schools conducted ‘Reading Data with Youth’ events in four high schools; these were attended by 208 youth (121 girls, 87 boys). In 2021, 31 journalists (7 female, 24 male) increased their knowledge and skills in evidence-based storytelling through NISR training with support from PME. University lecturers and researchers have improved their capacity in data analysis and evidence. This helped them to make better use of statistics in their teaching, articles and papers which, in turn, have the potential to inform policy and programme formulation. There has also been steady improvement in the quality of infographics and in 2021, NISR organized a coaching week for 30 university students (10 female, 20 male) working on trend analysis and data visualization of national surveys, covering socioeconomic indicators including children.

As well, the capacity of NISR to monitor the implementation of SDGs through administrative systems, data storage and analysis was strengthened. UNICEF supported NISR with a refresher training on the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) approach through online and face-to-face sessions. This increased the capacity of 26 statisticians to continuously measure child poverty trends and other vulnerabilities facing Rwandan children through survey data. The MODA report will contribute to discussions on evidence-based planning and budget prioritization. These efforts have been supplemented by UNICEF support to strengthen the SDG monitoring framework through administrative systems, data analysis and data storage capacities.

* Support provided in piloting the Global SDG Dashboard Initiative**.**

The review of all SDG indicators by NISR and DESA was initiated with an initial display of 23 indicators fully matching NISR and DESA indicators. Differences in methodologies between global data reported by custodian agencies and national data compiled by NISR was reviewed and clarified on the basis of the respective metadata analysis. This will provide the basis to undertake further analytical work to unpack the Finalized Official Report data collected to strengthen policy analysis and decision making through briefs and other strategic communications materials to improve policy dialogue and debates.

Furthermore, with the technical support from UN Women, UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA, a new portal/hub for SDGs indicators including the gender sensitive indicators with their metadata was developed on the NISR website to facilitate the monitoring and tracking the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All the indicators have been updated with recent data showing Rwanda’s progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in all areas.

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

1. **Challenges**

The implementation of innovative health information systems to monitor Health SDGs requires considerable resource mobilization. More efforts are also needed to strengthen coordination, monitoring and evaluation system for SDGs and in addressing the prevailing data gaps across sectors.

Vital statistics, which include births and deaths, are linked to over 80% of the SDGs targets and therefore critical for SDGs monitoring. Mortality data are now collected in a standardized way at hospital level since 2018 in Rwanda. However, over 60% of deaths happen in the community[[4]](#footnote-4). The scale-up of the CRVS system has therefore started using verbal autopsy to strengthen mortality reporting in the community.

There have been delays in implementation caused by the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, with UN support, NISR invested heavily in the use of online surveys and remote management and monitoring of census preparatory activities to conduct a digital census.

1. **Best Practices**

The partnership with NISR has expanded to reach other partners and has created synergy with the potential to leverage capacities and resources for a greater benefit for population, particularly children and women in Rwanda. Many universities, schools, media houses, the Rwanda Basic Education Board (REB) and government institutions are appreciating the partnerships with the UN in advancing evidence-based programming.

Tapping into regional expertise is good practice as always, UNFPA partnered with Economic Commission for Africa/African Centre for Statistics (ACS) to support NISR to streamline the digital census methodology and tools. UNECA supported the provisions and settings of the dashboard in the smartphones, and worked with local Mara phones company to load the application from the factory. Rwanda will be the first country to use mobile phone technology for data collection. If successful, ECA will be sharing the tools with other countries in the region to fast track the 2020 round of censuses. UNFPA availed funding for the knowledge transfer and training of enumerators in the use of the digital census dashboard.

**V. Resources**

**Strengthened Partnership for Resource Mobilization**

The funding received through the MPTF/SDG Fund in support of Data and Evidence-Generation remains critical and catalytic to ensure a coordinated and coherent UN support to reinforce sectoral MISs and administrative data systems such as the CRVS and the 2022 Population and Housing Census. Funding from SIDA, administered by UNFPA, was used to support the census preparatory activities. As members of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) steering committee, UN participating agencies in the JP on Data contribute to NISR’s NSDS3 strategy by providing technical expertise and financial resources (core and non-core resources) to amplify the UN contributions to the JP on Data generation and use of evidence based planning for transformational governance. For example, the work with the Gender Monitoring Office to upgrade the Gender Management Information System (GMIS) or UNICEF supported refresher training on the Multiple Overlapping Deprivations Analysis (MODA) approach through online and face-to-face sessions were funded from core resources. For 2022, there is still a funding gap for the dissemination of new evidence from DHS 2019/2020, the Household survey 2019/2020 and the upcoming 2022 Census reports at national and subnational level. There is also a need to supporting GoR initiatives for the secondary analyses of the available data as well as conducting specific assessments and investment cases for key issues such as a comprehensive analysis of factors driving teenage pregnancies in Rwanda, a thematic analysis of older adult’s perspective on successful ageing and policies and priority interventions for healthy ageing to enhance social protection. The UN in Rwanda will work with GoR relevant sectors to determine the research agenda.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Achieved Indicator Targets** | **Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)** | **Source of Verification** |
| *Outcome 6:* By 2023, people in Rwanda participate more actively in democratic and development process and benefit from transparent and accountable public and private sector institutions that develop evidence-based policies and deliver quality services.  *Output 6.1.* Government institutions and civil society organizations at the national and sub national level have increased technical and financial capacity to generate, disseminate and use quality disaggregated data aligned to the SDGs to inform policies and programmes in development and humanitarian settings  **Indicator 6.1.1:**  Number of main national data collection exercise supported  **Baseline**: 4th PHC 2012, 2014/2015 RDHS, 2013/2014 EICV, gender statistics reports  **Planned Target:** 5 (2022 Census Project Document; EICV; 2019/2020 RDHS, Gender statistical reports). | The Pilot Census as one of the preparatory phases for 2022 Population and Housing Census (PHC) was successfully conducted and informed the methodologies of the PHC.  The 2019-2020 RDHS data analysis was successfully completed and the final report is available.  The final report of the 2019-2020 Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey (EICV) was published in April 2021.  [The Gender thematic report](http://statistics.gov.rw/publication/national-gender-statistics-report-2019) from the 2020 annual Labour Force survey is available. |  | NISR Website  <http://statistics.gov.rw/publication/1724>  https://www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/rwanda-household-survey-20192020  <http://statistics.gov.rw/publication/labour-force-survey-2020-thematic-report-gender> |
| **Indicator 6.1.2**:  Sectoral MISs and administrative data systems fully functional.  **Baseline**: No (CRVS, GMIS, HMIS and ID registration for refugees in place but not fully functional).  **Planned target:** Yes (CRVS, GMIS, HMIS fully functional and producing timely, quality data, Refugees ID Registration fully functional). | The CRVS is functional at hospital level and the system registered 86% of births and 30% of deaths in 2020 countrywide. | The high proportion of deaths (60%) occurring outside the hospitals requires the scale-up of techniques such as verbal autopsy to strengthen the CRVS system nationwide. | 2020 NISR Vital Statistics  <https://www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/1705> |
| GMIS is functional and strengthened in 2021, including developing a handbook and training of GMO staff to increase availability and harmonization of gender data across the country. |  |  |
| **Indicator 6.1.3:** % of SDG indicators for which data is available and monitored.  **Baseline**: 23%  **Planned target:** 70% | 70% of indicators to monitor the Health-related SDGs were available in 2020. | More efforts are still needed to strengthen coordination, monitoring and evaluation systems for SDGs and in addressing the prevailing data gaps across sectors. | WHO SCORE report  <https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/ddi/score/country-profiles/who_score_rwa_en.pdf?sfvrsn=87cc117c_13> |
| **Indicator 6.1.4:** Number of national development strategies and frameworks that have integrated the Demographic Dividend (DD) study recommendations.  **Baseline:** 0 (2017).  **Planned targets:** 4 sector frameworks (HSSP, ESSP, NST1, PS DYE). | Completed in 2020 |  |  |

1. Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

   [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Rwanda Vital Statistics Report - 2020 | National Institute of Statistics Rwanda](https://www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/1705) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/ddi/score/country-profiles/who_score_rwa_en.pdf?sfvrsn=87cc117c_13>

   [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [Rwanda Vital Statistics Report - 2020 | National Institute of Statistics Rwanda](https://www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/1705) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)