



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



# ADDRESSING GAPS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS DATA AND STATISTICS IN UGANDA



## 1. Background

In 2007, the Government adopted the Comprehensive National Development Planning Framework (CNDPF) that defines the planning process in Uganda, comprising: the 30-year National Vision 2040; three (3) 10-year plans; six (6) 5-year National Development Plans (NDPs); Sector Development Plans (SDPs); Local Government Development Plans (LGDPs); Annual Work Plans (AWPs) and budgets. The Uganda Vision 2040 sets forth a roadmap outlining development pathways and strategies aimed at advancing the country from a predominantly agrarian society to a modern and prosperous country by 2040. To date, two NDPs have been implemented and Uganda is currently implementing its third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2020/2021-2024/2025 with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets fully integrated. In addition, the United Nations Sustainable Development

Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025<sup>1</sup> articulates the United Nations' collective response to support the Government of Uganda to address development challenges and achieve the NDP III and SDG targets.

The above obligations require regular and consistent monitoring, evaluation and reporting to support evidence-based decision making for policy and programmatic interventions. This presents key data requirements that call for further strengthening of the National Statistical System (NSS) in Uganda to enable adequate data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination. In turn, this will support evidence-based decision making that can drive socio-economic transformation and generate multiplier effects that can accelerate progress on the SDGs in the remaining seven years.



## 2. Status of SDG related data and statistics in Uganda

In 2022, the United Nations (UN) system collaborated with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) to carry out a review of the status of SDGs related data and statistics in Uganda. The purpose was to establish the extent to which

data and statistics have been generated and utilized at all levels for decision making and reporting on commitments by state and non-state actors. The findings indicate a general improvement in coordination and engagement

<sup>1</sup> <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/Uganda-UNSDCF-2021-2025.pdf>

with stakeholders. However, there is constrained resource allocation to statistical interventions with several development partners still credited for providing varying technical and financial support. This support is fragmented and towards isolated projects leading to duplication of efforts. The coordination mechanisms in place have also not been fully broadened and updated to cover all data producers and users so as to respond to the evolving data landscape.

The study also assessed availability of data on each SDG indicator as identified in the definitions of the global indicator framework. Uganda was only able to report on 92 out of 201 indicators applicable to the country's context in the 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR)<sup>2</sup>. The number of indicators for which data is available had reached 119 by the time of the study. This number further increased to 121 by December 2022. See Table 1 below.<sup>3</sup>

Table 1: SDG indicator availability score

No.	SDG indicator group	Number of indicators	% assessed indicators
1	All unique SDG indicators	231	
2	Assessed (applicable to Uganda)	201	100%
3	Available	107	53%
4	Partially available	12	6%
5	Non-available	58	29%
6	Computed globally	24	12%
7	<b>Total available/partially available indicators</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>59%</b>

Source: Status of Sustainable Development Goals Data and Statistics in Uganda, 2022

There are also 24 proxy indicators in general in the Uganda SDG indicator framework with 20 labelled as having data available and four as partially available. The existing data sources in Uganda for compilation of SDG indicators include mostly surveys and administrative data, which are not complemented by innovative data sources that can provide supplementary disaggregated

information to report on the partially available and non-available indicator data.<sup>4</sup> In addition, there are still persistent challenges in the use of data and statistics in policy making, programming, operations, and management. This is largely due to capacity issues from both data producers and data users in the NSS.

<sup>2</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26352VNR\\_2020\\_Uganda\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26352VNR_2020_Uganda_Report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The availability assessment score of each SDG indicator was calculated taking into account data disaggregation as identified in the definitions of the global indicator framework. The scores are categorized as follows:  
• Available • Partially available • Non-available • Computed globally.

<sup>4</sup> SDG data and statistics review in Uganda 2022: Available at [https://uganda.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/Status%20of%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20Data%20and%20Statistics%20in%20Uganda%202022\\_0.pdf](https://uganda.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/Status%20of%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20Data%20and%20Statistics%20in%20Uganda%202022_0.pdf)



### 3. Recommendations

Addressing the above challenges will require; a strengthened policy, legal and financial environment that can enable production, analysis and use of SDG data and statistics; production of comprehensive, quality, human rights, gender sensitive and globally comparable data for SDG monitoring, reporting and evidence-based action; and improved access to and use of SDG related data and statistics for inclusive decision making. Actualisation of these recommendations will require building relevant strategic partnerships

to undertake joint programming and resource mobilization between the government and its development partners. This will help reduce duplication of efforts that increase the transaction costs of the support provided to the National Statistical System (NSS) and ultimately improve efficiency. The actors in the data ecosystem should also consider collaborative initiatives to leverage their respective comparative advantages. This will help to promote improved targeting of interventions and sustainability of results.



## 4. The Joint Programme for Data and Statistics in Uganda

### 4.1. Programme theory of change and focus areas

Appreciating the need to further promote UN system coherence in its development work in Uganda, and for a collaborative approach to addressing the needs of the NSS, twelve (12) UN agencies, including UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNCDF, UNGP, ILO, FAO, UNEP, UNAIDS and IOM, under the overall coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and technical leadership of UNDP have partnered with UBOS to develop a Joint Programme for Data and Statistics in Uganda (JPDS). This is one of the implementation mechanisms for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021- 2025 and is anchored in the framework's theory of change and accountability mechanisms.

The Joint Programme, which will be implemented from 2023 to 2025, responds to the need for provision of more coordinated and innovative support to Uganda to address challenges related to SDG data and statistics. The JPDS aims to overcome issues of fragmentation, overlaps, competition for donor support and reduce transactional costs. It is anchored on the three UNSDCF strategic priorities, which include, transformative and inclusive governance; shared prosperity in a healthy environment; and building human well-being and resilience.

This intervention is premised on the theory that supporting enhanced statistical coordination and partnerships, as well as mechanisms for quality SDGs data and statistics production, reporting, access, and use is a prerequisite for transformative and inclusive governance and an enabler for promoting shared prosperity in a healthy environment and building human well-being and resilience across all levels of society.

Based on the findings of the status review of data and statistics in Uganda and the comparative advantage of the UN, the JPDS has prioritised three outcomes:



a strengthened policy, legal and financial environment enabling production, analysis and use of SDG data and statistics in Uganda;



comprehensive, quality, human rights, gender sensitive and globally comparable data systematically produced for SDG reporting and monitoring;



improved access to and use of SDG related data and statistics for inclusive decision-making

In addition to partnering with UBOS as the supervisor and coordinator of the NSS in the achievement of the above outcomes, the UN will also mobilize other actors including development partners, civil society, private sector and academia

to ensure that their potential contribution to data and statistics is fully utilized.

#### 4.2. Gender and human rights compliance

The JPDS is consistent with gender equality norms and principles for programme development, with overall gender equality marker of 2 out of 3. This score is based on its reflection of a thorough gender focus, commitment to supporting collection and use of sex and age disaggregated data, and intention to address the root causes of gender inequality. The programme also gives special consideration to international human rights norms and principles for programme development. The overall human rights marker is 3 out of 3 with normative frameworks and outcomes of treaty bodies used to inform the programme interventions. Activities are also explicitly grounded in the enjoyment of human rights and target patterns of discrimination, inequality, and marginalisation.

#### 4.3. Programme coordination and management arrangements

To facilitate successful implementation of the programme, the existing national coordination mechanisms will be leveraged and strengthened to ensure coherence among the UN Country Team (UNCT) and all stakeholders in the data ecosystem. Joint annual progress monitoring and review involving all partners of the JPDS will be undertaken to document the key results at both outcome and output levels and generate feedback from implementing entities and beneficiaries, lessons learned and recommendations for improving results. Effective communication will be undertaken to raise awareness, promote partnership building, recognise the contribution of partners and publicise the results of the joint initiative.

#### 4.4. Programme sustainability

The sustainability plan for the Joint Programme is vested in the commitments made in the UBOS Strategic Plan III 2020/21-2024/25 which focuses

on strengthening institutional collaboration arrangements, structures and partnerships within the NSS and the Third Plan for National Statistical Development (PNSD III). The programme outcomes and interventions will be implemented within the existing national and subnational structures. Hence the UN and other partners will work with Government and relevant stakeholders in the NSS to strengthen institutional capacities to effectively coordinate and scale up the achievements made during the joint programme cycle.

Evaluation of the JPDS will be undertaken in accordance with the Government's requirements, the UN joint programme guidelines and the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) evaluation guidelines. The programme end-term evaluation will be conducted in the last half of 2025 to assess the outcomes and inform the development of the next five-year phase of the joint programme for the period 2026-2030.

#### 4.5. Steering and management arrangements

To ensure strong national ownership and strong coordination for the successful achievement of its objectives, the Joint Programme's governance structure includes the UBOS Board of Directors to provide strategic leadership and policy guidance. Implementation will be steered by the Joint Coordination Team (JCT) and the Joint Programme Team (JPT) consisting of Participating UN Organisations (PUNOs), UBOS, relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other stakeholders within the NSS. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics is the lead technical Government agency and will coordinate other government agencies and national organisations implementing the JPDS. In close collaboration with UBOS, UNDP will be the lead technical UN agency and will support convening and steering of the JPT. The UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) is responsible for overall coordination of development partners for joint resource mobilisation, monitoring, evaluation, progress reporting and communication in collaboration with the national implementing partners and the PUNOS.