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**Project proposal: Building statistical capacity to monitor SDGs in Azerbaijan**

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| **Requesting Office(s)** | UNDP Azerbaijan | |
| **UNDP Strategic Plan Area of Work** (Outcome/Outputs): | **Outcome 7:** Development debates and actions at all levels prioritize poverty, inequality and exclusion, consistent with our engagement principles  **Output 7.2.**  Global and national data collection, measurement and analytical systems in place to monitor progress on the post 2015 agenda and sustainable development goals | |
| **Thematic windows**  *A proposal can select more than one sub-area from more than one thematic window* | 1. **Sustainable Development**   ☐ Sustainable Economies including Employment  ☐ Inclusive and sustainable social protection  ☐ Sustainable Natural Resource Management  ☐ Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation across sectors  ☐ Increased energy efficiency and universal modern energy access.   1. **Governance and Peacebuilding**   ☐ Public administration, local governance, effective delivery of public services, and anti-corruption reforms  ☐ Human rights, rule of law and access to justice and security  ☐ Health and HIV related issues  ☐ Women’s participation at all levels of decision-making   1. **Building Resilience and Managing Risks**   ☐ Natural and human-induced disaster risk reduction and management  ☐ Strengthen national capacities in collecting, analyzing and using sex and age-disaggregated data and in analyzing disaster risk from a gender perspective  ☐ Peacebuilding and mediation  ☐ Disaster preparedness and recovery   1. **Cross-cutting area**   x Sustainable Development Goals  ☐ Income inequalities  ☐ Innovations  ☐ Partnerships/South-south cooperation | |
| **Focal person** | Name: Ms. Jamila Ibrahimova  Title: Assistant Resident Representative  Email: [jamila.ibrahimova@undp.org](mailto:jamila.ibrahimova@undp.org) | |
| **Main location(s) of the initiative** | Baku, Azerbaijan | |
| **Start date / End date** | 1 October 2016 | |
| **Duration** | 31 December 2017 | |
| **Total funding requested to the Facility** (in USD) | USD 100,000 | |
| **Partner(s)** | State Statistics Committee | |
| **Total funding** (in USD)  *Please state the total requested funds and other contributions to this project.* | Total requested funds: US$ 85,000  Other financing: US$ 10,000 (UNDP CO) and US$ 15,000 (government) | |
| **Problem statement**  *Please provide a short and concise context analysis and problem statement, accompanied by supporting evidence for a good understanding of the background, what the initiative aims to change and why. What is the issue that the proposal is addressing and how the proposal is linked to national and regional priorities.*  *(Max 200 words)* | Azerbaijan has made good progress moving away from the old Soviet-time to modern statistics system that in many domains conforms to international standards. However, more investments are required to improve national capacities for data collection, dissemination and use for monitoring and policymaking. The call for action has become even more urgent as Azerbaijan embarks on an ambitious project to nationalize SDG framework that is far too broader than the MDGs covering environmental, economic, social and governance dimensions, and has interconnected and transformative nature.  In an effort to strengthen statistical capacity, a new department for sustainable development was established within the State Statistics Committee (SSC) of Azerbaijan and tasked with SDG monitoring.  However, the SSC faces a number of challenges related to the production of SDG indicators. These challenges arise from:   * Lack of institutional strategy and coordination mechanism for SDG monitoring; * Non-availability of data for some SDG indicators in official statistics and/or administrative sources; * Non-compliance of some indicators with standard international methodology; * Inadequate competencies for expertly collection and analysis of SDG data.   This proposal seeks to build the national statistical capacity to monitor SDGs progress by addressing some of these challenges. The project will also support the SSC to implement an action plan to follow-up on the decisions of the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. | |
| **Proposed approach**  *Please provide rationale on why this proposal is catalytic and/or scalable[[1]](#footnote-2). Please elaborate if the proposal is issue-based and multidisciplinary. How does the proposal address the above-stated problem, including the use of innovation, South-south/triangular cooperation, among others? Please elaborate on how the proposal will ensure that gender related issues are addressed. (Max 300 words)* | The project proposes to strengthen national statistical capacity to monitor SDG progress by developing an SDG monitoring strategy, supported by an inventory of SDGs indicators, building competences of national experts and other inputs (see *Results and Resources Framework* for details).  The project approach will be based on following ***core principles:***   1. Sustainability: The project will support development of a national SDG Monitoring Strategy through a multi-stakeholder consultative process. The Strategy will mainstream SDG indicators into overall national planning and set forth a mechanism for SDG monitoring and reporting. Preparation of the Strategy will be guided by an inter-agency group of decision-makers from SSC and line ministries, to catalyze national ownership and commitment to change. The project will also improve the buy-in and compliance with SDG framework among policy makers and build capacity of national specialists involved in SDG monitoring to ensure continuity of actions beyond the project’s life; 2. Participation: Data for some SDG indicators are not readily available from the official statistics routinely collected by the SSC. It is therefore critical that the project brings on board other state agencies as providers of administrative data. This will be achieved by setting up a multi-disciplinary expert group representing different line ministries. By doing so, the project will ensure that data inventory, collection, interpretation and conclusions are widely shared, discussed and agreed; 3. Innovation: The project will mobilize external expertise to advise the SSC, and multi-disciplinary expert group on application of innovative approaches and technologies that will improve the quality of data, explore alternative data sources, fill in missing gaps and reduce the costs of producing SDG data; 4. Gender mainstreaming: The project will undertake inventory of data for SDG indicators from gender perspective and produce recommendations for mainstreaming gender into country-specific SDG framework and SDG monitoring strategy.   South-South cooperation:  The project has excellent potential for South-South exchanges as SDG monitoring presents a challenge for many developing countries that are seeking to adjust their statistical systems in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project will benefit from early experience in SDGs nationalization, for instance, data ecosystem approach used in Moldova or alternative data sources tested in a number of countries. The project proposes to support at least two country visit(s) to exchange experience with more advanced countries (e.g. Georgia, Serbia and Malaysia). In selecting countries the project will also rely on the advice from IRH and UN South-South Cooperation Unit. | |
| **Expected outputs** | * National statistical capacity to produce SDGs indicators, including gender-disaggregated indicators, is strengthened | |
| **Risk Management**  *Please provide brief details of any serious risks to the success of the project and how these will be mitigated; consider at which stage the risk should be flagged up to IRH.* | Risk 1: Line Ministries may not consider SDGs monitoring as a priority issues and genuine participation of all stakeholders may be a challenge. | |
| Impact | High |
| Probability | Medium |
| Countermeasures | The project efforts will be complemented by UNCT high-level advocacy campaign for 2030 Agenda targeting policy-makers. The campaign is expected to sensitize relevant state agencies on the importance of applying SDG framework to national development policies. |
| Risk 2: Collection of reliable quality data for some SDG indicators may not feasible in the short-run undermining efficacy of the SDG monitoring. | |
| Impact | Medium |
| Probability | Medium |
| Countermeasures | The project will explore the feasibility of integrating the SDGs indicators into the existing surveys, questionnaires and will also look into innovative approaches to data collection. |
| **Budget**  *Please provide below the estimated budget (in USD) with itemized breakdown including the 30% of CO cost-sharing. Please note that the standard UNDP cost-recovery arrangements regarding ISS and DPC apply.* | International consultants – 25,000 000  Local consultants –,60,000  Travel – 10,000  Training/Workshop/Conference –9,000  Miscellaneous – 2,000  DPC –4,000  **Total: 110,000** | |

**Results and Resources Framework**

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| **INTENDED OUTPUTS** | **INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES** | **PARTNERS** | INPUTS |
| **Output 1**  National statistical capacity to produce SDGs indicators, including gender-disaggregated indicators, is strengthened  Baseline: SDG indicators not nationalized and not produced systematically.  Indicators: List of national SDG indicators available – Yes / No  Target: List of national SDG indicators produced and included in annual plan of statistical works  Baseline: National capacity is inadequate for comprehensive monitoring of SDGs  Indicator:  Target: Plan for introducing new indicators for SDG monitoring prepared and approved and integrated into the next Strategic Plan of the State Statistics Committee  Baseline: Except for the newly established Department on Sustainable Development and partial list of SDG indicators, the overall institutional framework on SDG data collection and monitoring is lacking.  Indicators:  SDG Monitoring Strategy available and approved by the State Statistics Committee – Yes/No  Targets:  SDG Monitoring Strategy is developed and submitted for government follow-up | 1. Inventory of SDG indicators    * Set up a multi-disciplinary expert group guided by international consultant, to lead the inventory process    * Undertake inventory of available data looking into availability, relevance, quality, level of disaggregation, feasibility of producing new data including gender-disaggregated data and innovative approaches (using Data Ecosystem approach tested in Moldova)    * Produce final agreed list of relevant SDG indicators, specifying sources of data, frequency of data collection, level of disaggregation, responsible entity, etc. 2. Capacity building for national specialists    * Provide training on overall SDG framework, monitoring and reporting    * Provide training on innovative approaches to data production (e.g. big data) for data gaps identified Data Ecosystem Analysis    * Provide training on gender-sensitive SDG country framework, data collection and analysis    * Organize a study tour to developing   country(ies) to exchange experiences on SDG monitoring.   1. Development of the national SDG Monitoring Strategy    * Establish Task force of national experts to lead the process of strategy development with support of international consultant    * Establish a multi-disciplinary group of decision makers to agree on strategy approach, conceptual framework, format    * Undertake gender analysis of relevant targets and indicators and make recommendations for mainstreaming gender   Into country-specific SDG framework and SDG monitoring strategy   * Produce inputs into the strategy as per conceptual framework and format   + Draft the first version of the strategy document   + Present and validate the strategy document at a national workshop   + Finalize the strategy and submit for endorsement | *State Statistics Committee, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and other providers of administrative data;*  *Istanbul Regional Centre;*  *UN South-South Cooperation Unit* | *International expert –9,000*  *Expert on data innovation –9,000*  *Gender expert –4,000*  *Local experts –17,000*  *Miscellaneous – 500*  ***Sub-total for Activity 1: 39,500***  *International expert –9,000*  *Travel – 10,000*  *Training costs –4,500*  *Gender expert – 5,000*  *Miscellaneous – 500*  ***Sub-total for Activity 2: 29,000***  *Local experts – 19,000*  *International expert –8,000*  *Gender expert – 5,000*  *Conference cost –4,500*  *Miscellaneous – 1,000*  ***Sub-total for Activity 3:37,500***  *Direct project costs –4,000*  ***Total: 110,000*** |

1. COs may refer to the attached Project Navigation Map (drafted by Johannes Linn) and use the questions as a guide when checking the scalability and catalytic nature of the proposal. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)