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**Concept Note:**

**Support to strengthening Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation capacities in Comoros in the context of post-2015 Agenda**

***August 2015***

**1. Background**

Comoros has adopted a new Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development (SCA2D). After a lengthy and participatory process, supported by UNDP and development partners including the EU, SCA2D was validated by all public institutions, civil society, economic operators and donors. Presently, the strategy constitutes the principal reference document of the Union of the Comoros for socio-economic development for the period 2015-2019. The government has developed an action plan to operationalize the SCA2D. The action plan provides a coherent set of seventeen (17) priority programs, which are grouped into the four strategic axes of the SCA2D.

The formulation process of the SCA2D highlighted the relevance of problems of availability and quality of statistical data. Similarly, the evaluation of the previous development strategy 2010 to 2014 – *the Strategy for growth and poverty reduction (PRSP)* - and the development of the MDG monitoring report in 2013 highlighted critical weaknesses in the national statistical information system. Identified deficiencies in monitoring and evaluation mechanism include quantity (timely availability), quality, coverage, analysis, disaggregation, dissemination and effective utilization for planning, policy and decision making. Thus, the SCA2D incorporates strengthening of the collection system and data analysis, as part of a strengthened technical and institutional arrangements for monitoring and evaluation of the performance of policies and development programs.

The National Statistic System (NSS) of the Comoros is under restructuring. The country is positioned to move from a decentralized and disconnected to an integrated system, consisting of the National Directorate of Statistics and statistical services created within ministries (Finance, Education, Health, Manufacturing, Transportation/Tourism and the Central Bank). With UNDP support, most of the laws and regulations governing the system are already in place, including the statistical law and its implementing regulations. As a result, the National Institute of Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) was formally established with the main mandate to coordinate statistical activities in the country.

Unlike other Government departments dealing with statistics, the INSEED has not been operational because of capacity limitations both in terms of professional capacity (mainly statisticians), materials and financial resources. The full operationalization of the INSEED is key to enabling the government and development partners to monitor poverty status including SDGs (*as part of the post 2015 agenda*) and allocate resource to public policy priority areas. The operationalization of the INSEED will also directly complement other interventions that will be rolled out through the recently updated National Development Strategy of Statistics for Comoros.

**2. UNDP Programmatic Framework**

Since the early 2000s, in collaboration with other various Technical and Financial Partners, UNDP has developed and implemented several programs/projects to promote the capacity of countries, particularly in the areas of strategic and operational planning, monitoring and evaluation, statistical and management and aid coordination. In its new cooperation framework with the Union of Comoros (CPD 2015-2019), UNDP plans to continue its support in the area of ​​capacity development in line with the principle of international engagement in fragile states. One of the outputs of the CPD deals with the establishment of a planning and aid coordination system aligned with national priorities.

**3. Expected Results and Proposed Activities**

The project aims to achieve two interrelated outputs as shown in Table 1, below.

***Table 1. Results and Resources Framework***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CP Outcome** | **Project Outputs** | **Core enabling Actions** | **Indicative Budget (US$** |
| ***Improved availability of a planning and aid coordination system aligned with national priorities*** | ***Output 1: Monitoring and evaluation system for public programs and projects is in place*** | Redefine and validate the national monitoring and evaluation system for public programs and projects from the basic elements included in the SCA2D, stating its architecture, specifying its content and associated coordination mechanisms | 20,000 |
| Define and validate a work plan for the entities involved in monitoring and evaluation of programs and public project | 5,000 |
| Train managers responsible for monitoring and evaluation tools and techniques. | 17,000 |
| ***Output 2: The socio-economic database of the Comoros "Comoros-Infos" operational***  | Update and validate the architecture of the database (by capitalizing on DEV INFO and other databases)  | 20,000 |
| Identify and validate the methodological framework for the management of the database | 4,000 |
| Provide technical support to INSEED for the management of the database | 6,000 |
| Provide INSEED and Island Departments of Statistics minimum required equipment, materials and other ICT facilities to effectively use the database | 27,111 |
| ***Monitoring and Evaluation***  | Design of tools, project joint quarterly reviews and terminal evaluation. | 12, 000 |
| ***GMS@8%*** | Cost Recovery [standard] | 8,889 |
| ***Totals*** |  | **120,000** |

**4. Management Arrangement and Partnerships**

The project will be managed under a National Implementation Modality with UNDP providing technical and financial assistance to INSEED, the main implementing partner. INSEED will provides technical support to line ministries in developing M&E systems, data collection and analysis. The UNDP Country Office will also undertake oversight activities as well as M&E. The General Planning Commission will be the main implementation partner and will coordinate the activities, ensuring the capacity building of the line ministries and the coherence with the others capacity development project as the one developed with the support of ADB (African Development Bank). Other potential partners and their contributions are as depicted in Table 2, below.

***Table 2. Partnerships and Complementarity***

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| --- | --- |
| **Partners** | **Envisaged Contribution** |
| **The General Planning Commission [**Commissariat General au Plan] | Promote synergies in the application of evidence to planning, policy formulation and aid coordination system aligned with national priorities at both central and decentralized levels. |
| **Line Ministries** | Will be part of the data collection and the capacity development process as the key beneficiaries of the proposed initiative |
| **World Bank** | Currently supporting INSEED with regards to poverty data collection. The proposed initiative will be complementary to the WB project. |
| **African Development Bank** | Currently supporting the Commissariat General au Plan with a capacity development project for planning. The proposed initiative will be complementary to the ADB project. |