United Nations Development Programme



Country: <u>Tajikistan</u> **Initiation Plan**

Project Title: Monitoring the SDGs in Tajikistan

Expected UNDAF/CP Outcome(s): UNDAF Outcome 2: Sustainable and equitable economic

development

Expected CPD Output(s): Output 2.4: National data collection, measurement and analytical

systems in place to plan, adopt and implement equitable, sustainable and resilient national development strategies and monitor progress

on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals

Initiation Plan Start/End Dates: April 2020 – September 2021

Implementing Partner: UNDP in Tajikistan

Brief Description

The overall objective of the Initiation Plan is to explore the needs for and expand support to strengthening national system for monitoring of SDG national indicators in close partnership with the Agency of Statistics under the President of Tajikistan. At the Initiation stage the Project will support the Agency with making Sustainable Development Goals data open and available to the widest possible audience. The project will enable greater access to national indicators through national repositories and to international SDG indicators through the SDGs Data and Visualization Platform. Data exchange and improved dissemination, as well as improved metadata, will make SDG Indicators more accessible. Improved cooperation at national level will lead to better coherence of the data in the selected countries.

Specific objectives of the Project are: (i) strengthen the collaboration of the National Statistical System and other stakeholders involved in data collection, (ii) compile data and metadata for SDG indicators and publish it on a national reporting platform to thereafter establish electronic data exchange with the global SDG platform and (iii) identify and engage key users of SDG indicators, and address their needs. In meeting these objectives, the project will improve the availability, accessibility, and coherence of SDG indicators, and facilitate their use in evidence-based decision making.

Programme Period: 2016-2020 Total resources required USD 171,657.95 Total allocated resources: USD 171,657.95 Atlas Project Number: 00123097 Regular USD 0.00 Atlas Output ID: 00118432 Donor 0 USD 171,657.95 Gender Marker: GEN1 Unfunded budget: In-kind Contributions

Agreed by UNDP:

Christophoros Politis, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Tajikistan

I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, the 193 member States of the United Nations unanimously adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets, which build on the Millennium Development Goals and seek to complete what they did not achieve, particularly in reaching the most vulnerable. Member States also committed to the implementation of the goals within a timeframe of 15 years, endorsing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1. The 2030 Agenda emphasizes that it has been accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. It notes that indicators are being developed to assist with the follow up and review processes, and that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress. The Agenda speaks frequently on the need to intensify efforts to strengthen statistical capacities and national data systems in developing countries. It expressly calls for increased support for strengthening data collection and capacity building in member States national global baselines where thev do not yet exist. develop and to

For the Sustainable Development Goals to have the greatest effect, it is vital that indicator data are available to the widest possible audience and that they are reliable, timely, and accessible. This will facilitate evidence-based decision making on the part of governments, researchers, international organizations, civil society, and other end users. However, the repeated emphasis on disaggregated data will certainly pose difficulties for even the most advanced statistical systems. It will undoubtedly increase the level of complexity for developing countries, many of which face challenges to produce even basic statistics which meet international standards. In addition, sometimes the data is produced and available, but users are unaware of it, or it is not presented in a manner that can be easily understood by non-experts. Finally, many National Statistical Systems are not well coordinated, with line ministries such as Health and Education, not linking up with National Statistical Offices.

In 2016, Tajikistan developed and adopted for further implementation its National Development Strategy for the period of 2016-2030 (NDS-2030) ¹ that outlined several major directions for achieving the SDGs in Tajikistan. In 2017, Tajikistan came out with the initiative to prepare the Voluntary National Review (VNR) ² that aimed to reflect the progress of Tajikistan in the nationalization and localization of the SDGs, as well as to share the country's experience in implementing thematic directions. The VNR outlined the existing problems with collection and quality of data, and stipulated the critical need to improve the system of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the NDS-2030, the Midterm Development Program - 2020 (MtDP) and the SDGs.

An appropriate M&E system is important for organizing coherent policy for the implementation of the SDGs within the country, and the integration of vertical linkages at all levels of the Government. In the context of monitoring, there are huge opportunities for the localization of the SDGs through the integration of systems of indicators of local, regional and national levels. The system should monitor activities, allocate financial resources, and evaluate results. Additionally, it should focus on characteristics of the SDGs, in particular working with all SDGs (not separately with each goal) to and the involvement of the whole society. The framework for monitoring and evaluating progress has been developed in support of worldwide SDG implementation. Additionally, indicators for each objective have been set.

The M&E of the NDS-2030 and the SDGs are under the authority of and in coordination with the Secretariat of the National Development Council (NDC) acting as the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT). The NDC Secretariat monitors the process of achieving the SDGs at the national level. It coordinates the efforts of all parties involved. In all existing SDG indicators relevant for the Republic of Tajikistan, the leading agency on creating indicators is the Agency for Statistics (AoS) under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. It remains responsible for creating 46 indicators (19 of them are economic, 19 are social, 5 for the field of energy, and 3 for the rights and management). In 2017, UNDP supported the MEDT in development of a draft Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan as well as the statute on M&E systems and the mechanism of its implementation. These documents were approved by the Government in 2019.

https://medt.ti/en/strategy-and-programes/nds2030 - NDS-2030

² https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/tajikistan - VNR 2017

The assessment of capacity for defining global SDG indicators for Tajikistan was conducted for all 232 SDG indicators, as agreed at the 48th UN Statistical Commission Session with the exception of 30 indicators, which were not applicable for Tajikistan. In the meantime, the metadata for all indicators have not been completed. The completeness of the statistical indicators data was assessed in the context of its overall accessibility and at the disaggregated level. Currently, the Republic of Tajikistan has a statistical capacity to cover 87 SDG indicators. The analysis of data availability by regions and stakeholders highlights that 161 indicators of the SDGs are available to data owners or agencies responsible for M&E of the SDG. Therefore, it is necessary to split the objectives and stimulate effective use of resources in implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

In December 2017, the road map for the implementation of the Action Plan to improve the National system of statistics of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period of 2018-2020 was developed and approved with the technical support of UNDP. The main purpose is to develop and improve the M&E system of the NDS-2030. Along with this, it targets implementation of the inventory of SDG indicators, identification of priorities, development of the Work Plan for monitoring SDG indicators and establishment of cooperation with representatives of various authorities to monitor SDG indicators.

In light of the above, UNDP established a partnership with UN Statistical Division to operationalize the UNSD/DFID project to address the issues of availability, accessibility, and usage of development indicators. The project aims to:

- a. Improve capacity of project countries to support SDGs monitoring by means of:
 - i. Engaging with producers and key users of SDG Indicators;
 - Assessing statistical capacities and assisting in the development of national strategies for SDGs monitoring implementation;
 - iii. Improving coordination of National Statistical Systems around SDG Indicators.
- b. Increase availability and accessibility of SDG Indicators
 - i. At international level through the SDGs Data and Visualization Platform
 - ii. At national level through National SDGs Repositories.

The overall objective of the project is to make Sustainable Development Goals data open and available to the widest possible audience. The project will enable greater access to national indicators through national repositories and to international SDG indicators through the SDGs Data and Visualization Platform. Data exchange and improved dissemination, as well as improved metadata, will make SDG Indicators more accessible. Improved cooperation at national level will lead to better coherence of the data in the selected countries. Better availability, accessibility, and quality of SDG indicator data will promote the use of statistics in evidence-based decision making.

Specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- i. Strengthen the collaboration of agencies of the National Statistical System;
- ii. Compile data and metadata for SDG indicators and publish it on a national reporting platform to thereafter establish electronic data exchange with the global SDG platform.
- iii. Identify and engage key users of SDG indicators, and address their needs.

In meeting these objectives, the project will improve the availability, accessibility, and coherence of SDG indicators, and facilitate their used in evidence-based decision making.

Below are the major **Project OUTPUTS:**

<u>Output 1.</u> Development of a strategy for SDG monitoring and formalize data sharing agreements with agencies of the National Statistical System.

Output 2. Development of Tajikistan's National Dissemination and Reporting Platform.

Output 3. Engaging key users of SDG indicators and Tajikistan's National Dissemination and Reporting Platform.

Output 4. Compilation of metadata for Sustainable Development Goals Indicators.

Expected outcome of the project is that the Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan will have a) developed a draft national SDG monitoring strategy and piloted data sharing

arrangements with key ministries, b) developed a draft user engagement strategy, and c) compiled a draft national metadata handbook for SDG indicators. The outputs are expected to facilitate the uptake of SDG indicators in support of sustainable development policies in line with national priorities. Results of the project will serve as entry points for UNDP's future work on policy support for SDG monitoring.

II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The intervention will be <u>directly implemented</u> by UNDP in accordance with DIM guidelines in close cooperation with the Agency on Statistics (AoS) under the President of Tajikistan.

From UNDP perspective, the following officers/structures will be directly involved in the implementation and monitoring of this particular project:

Ms. Zebo Jalilova, Team Leader, Sustainable Economic Development;

Mr. Parviz Saidov, Programme Associate, Sustainable Economic Development.

The following individual will work as a team to implement the planned activities in the Initiation Plan under the supervision of Ms. Zebo Jalilova:

Mr. Daler Shodiev, Governance, Peace and Development Officer

III. MONITORING

The Initiation Phase Report will be prepared at the end of the Initiation Plan, using the standard format available in the Executive Snapshot.

IV. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN

Period³:

EXPECTED OUTPUTS And baseline, indicators including annual targets	PLANNED ACTIVITIES List activity results and associated	TIMEF Budget		RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET			
	actions	2020	2021		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount (in USD)	
Output 1 Development of a strategy for SDG monitoring and formalize data sharing agreements with agencies of the National Statistical System	1.1 Activity Result: Establishment of an interdepartmental technical working group on SDGs under the auspices of the interdepartmental statistical working group on improving statistical accounting	0.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	No-cost	0.00	
Baseline: 1.1 0; 1.2 0;	- Activity action: ToR of technical working group distributed							
1.30; 1.40; 1.50; 1.60; 1.70; 1.80; 1.90.	1.2 Activity result: Consultancy to develop a strategy for the preparation of indicators and metadata for monitoring the SDGs, including draft national SDG indicator framework, on the basis of existing national strategies and programs	6,500.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	71300 - Consultancy	6,500.00	
1.11; 1.21; 1.31;	- Activity action: First draft of the SDG monitoring strategy and indicator framework							
1.41; 1.51; 1.61;	1.3 Activity result: Final draft of the SDG monitoring strategy and indicator framework; Meeting report	3,018.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	71300 - Consultancy (USD 200)	3,018.00	

³ Maximum 18 months

1.71; 1.81; 1.91.	- Activity action: Seminar to discuss and finalize the draft SDG monitoring strategy, supported by consultants					75700 Trainings/Workshops (USD 2,818)	
1.1.—# of interdepartmental technical working groups established to improve statistical accounting on SDGs; 1.2.— # of developed strategies for preparation of indicators/metadata for monitoring SDGs including draft national	1.4 Activity result: Draft data and metadata exchange format template; Meeting report - Activity action: Seminar on the coordination of SDG data and metadata exchange with the ministries and departments of the technical working group on SDGs, and discussion of the specifications of the national reporting platform	2,050.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	75700 - Trainings/Workshops	2,050.00
framework on SDG indicators; 1.3.— # of conducted seminars to finalize the draft SDG monitoring strategy; 1.4.— # of organized seminars on SDG data exchange format and specifications of the national reporting format;	1.5 Activity result: Draft interdepartmental agreement on the exchange and dissemination of data and metadata - Activity action: Consultancy to improve the dissemination and exchange of official statistical information, in coordination with ministries and departments	3,000.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	71300 - Consultancy	3,000.00
1.5.—# of interdepartmental agreements on the metadata exchange; 1.6.—# of data and metadata exchange pilots; 1.7.—# of reports including the final version of the data/metadata exchange format, action plan for	1.6 Activity results: Updated format/template of exchanging data and metadata (on the basis of the pilot); Report on the pilot - Activity action: Piloting of data and metadata exchange (with 3-5 ministries)	0.00	0.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	No-cost	0.00

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implementation of interdepartmental data/metadata exchange format; 1.8. – # improved technical capacity of the interdepartmental technical working group on SDGs;	1.7 Activity result: Report on the roundtable; Final version of the data and metadata exchange format/template; Action plan to implement the data and metadata exchange format/template with other ministries and departments		2,500.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	71300 - Consultancy (USD 1,500)	
1.9.— # of specifications developed, validated and presented for consideration to the Government of the RT and potential donors for financing.	- Activity action: Roundtable to discuss the results of the SDG data and metadata exchange pilot with ministries and departments, supported by consultants					75700 - Trainings/Workshops (USD 1,000)	2,500.00
	1.8 Activity result: Equipped office with all necessary IT infrastructure - Activity action: Purchase of equipment for the secretariat of the interdepartmental technical working group on SDGs	6,500.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	72100 Contractual services - Companies	6,500.00
	1.9 Activity result: Specification developed, validated, and presented for consideration to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and to potential donors for financing - Activity action: Gathering requirements and development of a specification for a Data Exchange, Processing and Dissemination Center to facilitate SDG data	10,000.00	5,500.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	72100 Contractual services - Companies	15,000.00
	dissemination and exchange within the NSS Sub-Total for Output 1	31,068.00	8,000.00		and the second of		39,068.00

Output 2 Development of Tajikistan's National Dissemination and Reporting Platform Baseline: 2.1. – 0; 2.2. – 0;	2.1. Activity Result: Draft technical specification for the national dissemination platform prepared and endorsed - Activity action: Consultancy to develop a specification for the national SDG dissemination platform	2,000.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	71300 - Consultancy	2,000.00
2.3 0; 2.4 0. Targets: 2.1 1; 2.2 1; 2.3 1; 2.4 1.	2.2. Activity Result: Beta version of the national reporting platform online; Documentation on populating the platform - Activity action: Develop the national dissemination and reporting platform for monitoring progress toward achievement of the SDGs and increasing public awareness thereof	18,000.00	7,000.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	72100 Contractual services - Companies	25,000.00
Indicators: 2.1. – # of draft technical specifications prepared and	 2.3. Activity Result: National reporting platform online and publicly accessible Activity action: Testing, deployment and maintenance of the national reporting platform 	3,000.00	2,500.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	72100 Contractual services - Companies	5,500.00

endorsed for the national dissemination platform; 2.2. — # of reporting platforms for monitoring progress developed; 2.3. —# of national reporting platforms online and publicly accessible; 2.4. — # of capacity building events organized to improve the statistical literacy of users.	 2.4. Activity Result: Training workshop reports - Activity action: Training to improve the statistical literacy of users and their capacity to use the national reporting platform 		4,000.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	75700 - Trainings/Workshops	4,000.00
	Sub-Total for Output 2	23,000.00	13,500.00	TOTAL STATE OF THE STATE OF		2012 PH 12 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	36,500.00
Output 3 Engaging key users of SDG indicators and Tajikistan's National Dissemination and Reporting Platform Baseline:	3.1. Activity Result: Report on survey results - Activity action: Consultancy to conduct a survey of user needs with regard to monitoring the SDGs	6,000.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	71300 - Consultancy	6,000.00
3.1 0; 3.2 0; 3.3 0; 3.4 0; 3.5 0;	 3.2. Activity Result: Draft user engagement strategy - Activity action: Consultancy to develop a user engagement strategy on the basis of the user needs assessment 	6,750.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	71300 - Consultancy	6,750.00
3.6. – 0; 3.7. – 0; 3.8. – 0.	 3.3. Activity Result: Report on the roundtable; Updated draft user engagement strategy Activity action: Roundtable with users 	1,650.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	75700 - Trainings/Workshops	1,650.00

Targets: 3.1. – 1; 3.2. – 1; 3.3. – 1;	 3.4. Activity Result: Report on the seminar Activity action: Training seminar on statistical literacy in the context of the SDGs 	2,000.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	75700 - Trainings/Workshops	2,000.00
3.4 1; 3.5 1; 3.6 1; 3.7 1; 3.8 1.	3.5. Activity Result: Report on the seminar - Activity action: Training seminar with representatives of SDG stakeholders (civil society, academia, the private sector, etc.)		2,500.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	75700 - Trainings/Workshops	2,500.00
Indicators: 3.1. – # of surveys conducted to assess user needs on SDGs monitoring;	3.6. Activity Result: Advertisement launched on national TV - Activity action: Consultancy to develop a video advertisement for the SDGs		8,500.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	72100 Contractual services - Companies	8,500.00
3.2 # of developed user engagement strategies; 3.3 # of conducted roundtables with users; 3.4 # of trainings on	 3.7. Activity Result: Report on the seminar Activity action: National seminar on progress towards the 		3,000.00	UNDP	UNDESA/	71300 - Consultancy (USD 1,400)	3,000.00
statistical literacy; 3.5. – # of trainings with SDG stakeholder; 3.6. – # of Ads/Outreach	achievement of the SDGs with ministries, departments, scientific community, civil society, international organizations, and the international experts		3,000.00	UNDI	DFID	75700 - Trainings/Workshops (USD 1,600)	3,000.00
materials developed and launched on National TV; 3.7. – # of National seminars conducted on progress towards SDGs achievement; 3.8. – # of awareness raising events conducted on SDGs	3.8. Activity Result: Materials on SDGs prepared, published, and distributed; Report on events - Activity action: Events on SDGs and their implementation in		11,175.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	72100 Contractual services - Companies	11,175.00
and their implementation in the country.	Tajikistan Sub-Total for Output 3	16,400.00	25,175.00				41,575.00

Output 4 Compilation of metadata for Sustainable Development Goals Indicators Baseline: 4.1 0; 4.2 0; 4.3 0; 4.4 0; 4.5 0.	4.1. Activity Result: Draft version of the publication "Statistical Classifications for SDG Indicators" - Activity action: Consultancy for the preparation of the publication "Statistical Classifications for SDG Indicators" with the aim of improving interdepartmental coordination as concerns the harmonization of methodology and classification of SDGs and preparation of metadata on statistical classifications used in national SDG indicators	4,000.00	2,000	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	71300 - Consultancy	6,000.00
Targets: 4.1 1; 4.2 1; 4.3 1; 4.4 1; 4.5 1. Indicators: 4.1 # prepared draft of "Statistical Classifications for SDC Ladioctors"	4.2. Activity Result: Report on the workshops; Draft metadata on administrative sources - Activity action: Training workshops targeting representatives of the NSS to build capacity for the production of SDG data and metadata from administrative sources, and to ensure use of a harmonized classification system in conjunction with administrative data sources in support of SDG monitoring	3,500.00		UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	71300 - Consultancy (USD 1,000) 75700 - Trainings/Workshops (USD 2,500)	3,500.00
for SDG Indicators" publication; 4.2. — # of trainings for NSS representatives on production of SDG data/metadata; 4.3. — # prepared draft of the SDG Metadata Handbook;	4.3. Activity Result: Draft version of the SDG Metadata Handbook - Activity action: Consultancy for the development and adaptation of SDG metadata for the existing indicators in the national statistical system.	6,000.00	3,000.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	71300 - Consultancy	9,000.00

4.4. — # updated SDG metadata handbook; 4.5. — # Compendium published and printed in 3 languages.	4.4. Activity Result: Updated SDG Metadata Handbook; Meeting report - Activity action: Discussion of first draft compendium with line ministries and agencies - member of IAWG, including international partners.		1,500.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	75700 - Trainings/Workshops	1,500.00
	4.5. Activity Result: Compendium published and printed in 3 languages - Activity action: Consultancy/contractors to translate, publish and print the compendium of national SDG indicator data and metadata.		13,000.00	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID	72100 Contractual services - Companies	13,000.00
	Sub-Total for Output 4	13,500.00	19,500.00		7.721.23		33,000.00
Output 5 Project Management and Technical Support	Project support cost (Gov,Peace and Dev. Officer, Admin/Finance Associate)	2,801.46	2,801.46	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID		5,602.92
	UPL	472.24	472.24	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID		944.48
	Bank charges (1.5%)	1,126.07	1,126.07	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID		2,252.15
	General Management Services (8%)	6,357.70	6,357.70	UNDP	UNDESA/ DFID		12,715.40
	Sub-Total for Output 5	10.757.47	10.757.47		THERE		21,514.95
	GRAND TOTAL	94,725.47	76,923.47	The second second			171,657.95

Annex I - UN Agency to Agency Contribution Agreement

(Project on Monitoring the SDGs in Tajikistan)

Annex II – UNDP/UNSD Implementation Plan - Budget