

Projects proposed for funding from the Development Account for 2022

A. Resilient and agile national statistical systems to meet post-COVID-19 data needs to recover better

The project will be implemented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, jointly with ECA, ECE, ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA, UNDP and UNODC (\$3,000,000)	Relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals: targets 17.18 and 17.19
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Objective

To improve the resilience and agility of national statistical systems to meet post-COVID-19 data needs to recover better.

Project plan (for 2022–2025)

At its seventy-fifth session, the General Assembly recognized that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic was one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations and noted with deep concern its impact on people, society and the economy. In its resolution [74/306](#), the Assembly endorsed a comprehensive and coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which called for the development of new interoperable data tools and the strengthening of platforms to inform mitigation and response actions and continuously monitor the impact of the pandemic, especially to assist people in vulnerable situations and the poorest and most vulnerable countries, to build a more equitable, inclusive, sustainable and resilient future. In the same resolution, the Assembly urged Member States to build resilient, inclusive and integrated data and statistical systems, under the leadership of national statistical offices, that can respond to the increased and urgent data demands in times of disaster and ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The project will explicitly address the call made at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly to leverage mechanisms and instruments for the achievement of the Goals, including statistics and data, to inform the COVID-19 response and recovery policy. It will also respond to the request addressed by national statistical offices in both surveys conducted by the World Bank and the Secretariat to consolidate the institutional and organizational frameworks supporting efficient and effective governance and coordination mechanisms of national statistical systems and enhance the technical capacity to continue operating effectively and take advantage of the fast-evolving data ecosystem and digital infrastructure. In terms of governance, coordination and implementation modalities, the proposed project will build on the successes and lessons learned from the Programme on Statistics and Data, carried out under the tenth tranche of the Development Account, including the findings of the final evaluation. The project will bring eight implementing entities together, capitalizing on their individual technical expertise and comparative advantages, with a common objective to help developing countries face the data challenges of the short- and longer-term development agenda, including the specific data needs to inform the COVID-19 response and recovery policy at the local, national, regional and global levels.

The project is expected to improve the resilience and flexibility of national statistical systems to collect, process and communicate data and statistics to inform the COVID-19 response and recovery policy at the local, national, regional and global levels. Thus, the project will address: (a) the institutional environment in which national statistical systems operate to leverage and extend existing programmes and actions for the measurement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals to satisfy the data needs to inform the short- and longer-term COVID-19 response; (b) the use of new technologies and innovative data sources, such as big data and geospatial information, supported by nimble and resilient statistical production architecture and information technology infrastructure, while complying with the applicable quality standards; and (c) specific data gaps that will require conceptual and methodological development and leveraging the leadership of the implementing entities in specific sectoral and thematic areas.

The project aims to leverage other initiatives for strengthening statistical capacities to have a higher multiplier effect and to work in close partnership with the United Nations system, including the resident coordinator system, and other relevant multilateral and bilateral partners. The project will target national statistical systems and national geospatial agencies of least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries and operate at the interregional, regional and subregional levels, where relevant.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to improving the resilience and flexibility of national statistical systems to collect, process and communicate data and statistics to inform socioeconomic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, which would be demonstrated by target countries confirming the usage of technology and data informing socioeconomic recovery and data-driven contingency plans in the eventuality of future shocks.

<i>Deliverables (2022–2025 plan)</i>		<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Quantified deliverables		Other staff costs	180.0
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge		Consultants and experts	480.0
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	165	Travel of staff	510.0
Technical materials (number of materials)	24	Contractual services	250.0
Non-quantified deliverables		General operating expenses	80.0
C. Other substantive deliverables		Grants and contributions	1 500.0
Consultation, advice and advocacy		Total	3 000.0