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Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations in support of the collective vision and framework for action

Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: initiatives by global, regional and subregional organizations with respect to the collective vision and framework for action**

Summary

Development partners at all levels play important roles in advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The present document contains highlights of the current efforts of selected partners in support of the regional collective vision and framework for action for advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda.

I. Introduction

1. In 2016, the Committee, at its fifth session, endorsed a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia Pacific statistical community for advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda.¹ Collaborative efforts are focused on five action areas: engaging users and investing in statistics; assuring quality of and instilling trust in statistics; using integrated statistics for integrated analysis; modernizing statistical business processes; and developing requisite skill sets. The community committed to expanding and reinforcing global, regional and subregional partnerships, building on existing statistical capacity development initiatives in Asia and the Pacific.

* ESCAP/CST/2020/L.1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

¹ “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community” (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1/Rev.1).

2. The present document introduces efforts of partners that add value to national efforts to strengthen statistics for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in support of the collective vision and framework for action.

II. Progress by action area of the collective vision²

A. Action area A: Engaging users and investing in statistics

3. Action area A has two objectives:

(a) National statistical systems are responsive to the needs of users, including those arising from the 2030 Agenda;

(b) Investments in national statistical systems match the requirements for meeting demands and needs of users.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

4. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organizes user-producer dialogues in the development of agriculture statistics and related Sustainable Development Goals food and agriculture indicators, both at national and regional levels. The ministries of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food security are key national government users, with FAO convening the national statistics office and these line ministries, along with provincial authorities and others, as appropriate, to ensure that users' needs are met in statistical programs that aim to collect and compile agriculture and food statistics. These dialogues are essential in the conduct of agriculture censuses, as well as agriculture integrated surveys (AGRIS), and have occurred in the last two years in Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal, Samoa and Timor-Leste.

5. At the regional level, FAO has organized and participated in workshops and expert group meetings in collaboration with other partners, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), including the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), to communicate dialogues on topics such as women and agriculture land ownership, farm-based Sustainable Development Goals indicators, and agriculture and disaster statistics from a gender perspective. These dialogues brought together national statistical offices, line ministries, academicians and civil society organizations, and were organized in tandem with regional workshops.

International Labour Organization

6. At the global level the International Labour Organization (ILO) contribution to official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been and continues to be in two broad areas: (a) supporting the development of international statistical standards on decent work indicators, to respond to the needs of monitoring new indicators included in the Sustainable Development Goals global indicators framework, through methodological work on these new indicators, and through supporting preparations for resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, the main international standards setting mechanism on labour

² See ESCAP/CST/2018/INF/6 for previous updates on initiatives by international, regional and subregional organizations.

statistics;³ and (b) developing guidance notes, tools and manuals aimed at supporting the implementation of the latest International Conference of Labour Statisticians resolutions, such as the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization (October 2013), and the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians resolution concerning statistics on work relationships (October 2018). Key latest guidance and tools developed are on labour force surveys resources in line with the above standards,⁴ and population censuses resources for measuring economic activity.⁵ In collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Statistics Division, ILO is also currently developing tools to support the implementation of time use surveys, such as through the development and testing of a time use light diary, which can be implemented as a modular tool to labour force surveys or related household surveys, as well as a training package on time use surveys and statistics.

7. In terms of data production particularly for the Sustainable Development Goals, over the past five years ILO has increased its data production work through the gathering and processing of individual level and anonymised microdata on national labour force surveys and other related household surveys. The aim is to reduce international data gaps and to expand the range of disaggregated, internationally comparable labour statistics published on ILOSTAT (ILO's central statistical repository),⁶ inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals aspiration to "Leave No One Behind", which requires more disaggregated and more detailed labour statistics than traditionally published by countries. To date ILO collects labour force survey microdata sets from more than 150 countries around the world. After collecting the datasets and securely storing them on an internal ILO server, they are processed by experts from the ILO Department of Statistics to derive harmonized labour market indicators, based on international standards and definitions. The process is also used to provide further technical guidance (and capacity building) to countries in the processing of their own national indicators.

8. At the regional and national levels the ILO statistical work and assistance to member States from Asia and the Pacific region covers three major areas: (a) capacity building in labour statistics and decent work indicators, particularly covering the latest international statistical standards from the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians, such as the 19th and the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians; (b) support to national implementation of the latest resolutions from the 19th and the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians resolution through revised national labour force surveys or other data collection exercises, including building statistical systems for annual or sub-annual surveys; and (c) support to the measurement and dissemination of Sustainable Development Goals decent work indicators at the national level. At the national level, ILO has been recently supporting the localization of Sustainable Development Goal indicators through national user-producer workshops, involving the three ILO constituents, i.e. governments (national statistical offices and ministries of labour), and employers' and workers' organizations. In selected member States (Mongolia, Philippines, Viet Nam, etc.) such dialogues resulted into

³ <https://ilostat.ilo.org/about/standards/icls/>.

⁴ <https://ilostat.ilo.org/resources/lfs-resources/>.

⁵ <https://ilostat.ilo.org/resources/population-census-resources>.

⁶ <https://ilostat.ilo.org/>.

constituents/ institutional work plans to support the monitoring of the national Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

9. In the last five years ILO has provided technical support to Asia and the Pacific member States such as Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, and Viet Nam, to name few, in the updating and upscaling of their labour statistics system to respond to the challenges posed by the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals development agenda. Support included new labour force surveys, revising existing labour force surveys, or updating the countries labour market information system to include reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicators for which ILO is the custodial agency.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

10. In partnership with national statistical offices across the Asia-Pacific region, UN-Women organized user-producer dialogues, both at regional and national levels. User-producer dialogues support the first objective of action area A for national statistical systems to be responsive to the needs of users, including those arising from the 2030 Agenda.

11. At the regional level, dialogues were held on the topics of communicating gender data, disaster statistics from a gender perspective, and on statistics to capture the gender-environment nexus. All these dialogues brought together national statistical offices, line ministries, academicians and civil society organizations, and were organized in tandem with regional workshops in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and other United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

12. In addition, at the national level, a series of user-producer dialogues were organized in coordination with national statistical offices on the topic of "Using gender data for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and implementation". Such dialogues, which were organized in China; Hong Kong, China; the Maldives; Mongolia; and Timor-Leste, brought together national statistical offices, line ministries, local non-governmental organizations and journalists in countries and resulted in better communication between data users and producers.

United Nations Population Fund

13. Regarding the rationalization of investments in official statistics, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is involved in the search for synergies between Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). Work on this topic was carried out in the contexts of Bangladesh and the Pacific.

14. UNFPA has also been participating in the activities of the regional Partnership for the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade in Asia and the Pacific (2015–2024), which has been instrumental in advocating for the strengthening of civil registration and vital statistics systems as indispensable elements of a basic administrative and statistical infrastructure. UNFPA will be among the co-organizers of the upcoming second regional Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. At country level, civil

registration and vital statistics activities were supported by UNFPA in India, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

15. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), a specialized agency in the United Nations system mandated to promote industrial development and international industrial cooperation with an overall mandate to collect, compile and disseminate global industrial statistics, is supporting achievement of the first objective of action area A: national statistical systems are responsive to the needs of users, including those arising from the 2030 Agenda.

16. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development has been included in the global development agenda under Sustainable Development Goal 9 in recognition of its relevance in an integrated approach to all three pillars of sustainable development, i.e. the economic, social and environmental dimensions. Moreover, inclusive and sustainable industrial development is closely linked to other Sustainable Development Goals and thus helps to improve people's living conditions and the quality of their lives.⁷ In the context of the 2030 Agenda, UNIDO is the custodian agency of four targets and six indicators⁸ of Goal 9, which aims to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

17. The full implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires availability of high-quality data to support evidence-based decision making. Decision makers need better data to shape effective policies, encourage investment, target programmes, and measure progress towards sustainable development. Being a custodian agency brings responsibilities on collecting and verifying country data and metadata, compiling internationally comparable time series to enhance the global Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and track the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.⁹ Apart from UNIDO's activities on supporting countries to strengthen their regular data production systems, UNIDO has developed several tools to help countries tracking their progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 9 industry-related targets.

18. UNIDO introduced a composite measure, the Sustainable Development Goal 9 index, constructed based on the indicators selected from the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.¹⁰ The Sustainable Development Goal 9 index represents a comprehensive but straightforward approach to assess the extent to which countries have industrialized while promoting social inclusiveness and minimizing natural resource use and environmental impacts. The resulting Sustainable Development Goal 9 index benchmarks inclusive and sustainable industrial development in 128 economies over the period 2000–2017. In general, industrialized economies outperform other countries, with the top five leading

⁷ UNIDO (2020). How industrial development matters to the well-being of the population: Some statistical evidence. UNIDO, Vienna.

⁸ Sustainable Development Goal targets 9.2, 9.3, 9.4 and 9.b. Sustainable Development Goal indicators 9.2.1a, 9.2.1b, 9.2.2, 9.3.1, 9.3.2, 9.4.1, and 9.b.1.

⁹ UNIDO (2019). Statistical Indicators of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization: Biennial Progress Report 2019. UNIDO, Vienna.

¹⁰ Kynclova, P., Upadhyaya, S., Nice, T. (2020). Composite index as a measure on achieving Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG-9) industry-related targets: The SDG-9 index. *Applied Energy*, 265(C).

the 2017 ranking being Ireland, Taiwan Province of China, Switzerland, Germany and the Republic of Korea. The calculated scores of the Sustainable Development Goal 9 index can show in which dimensions countries represent the leaders or lag behind other economies.

19. In addition, UNIDO is currently developing an interactive tool to help member States tracking their progress on Sustainable Development Goal 9 industry-related targets and indicators. The Sustainable Development Goal 9 Industry Tracker will be presented as a component of the existing UNIDO Industrial Analytics Platform (IAP). The main aim of the tracker is to provide Sustainable Development Goal 9 country profiles, compare countries' performance and indicate their progress, if they are on track to achieve corresponding Sustainable Development Goal 9 targets. The methodology has been developed together with the ESCAP Statistics Division. The ESCAP approach has been adjusted to assess progress of Sustainable Development Goal 9 indicators at the country level.

20. One of the remaining future tasks is to develop online training materials to guide countries on data collection and compilation of indicators for national and global Sustainable Development Goal monitoring of industry-related targets.

Bern Network on Financing Data for Development

21. Established in January 2019 as an open, multi-stakeholder alliance of national statistical offices, development agencies, philanthropies and civil society partners, the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development aims to promote more and better funding for data and statistics for low-capacity and fragile states. It seeks to catalyse actions and commitments across five areas identified as critical to improving the status quo for financing development data ahead of the United Nations World Data Forum 2020 in Bern, Switzerland: mobilising domestic resources; scaling-up of funding; boosting aid efficiency; strengthening collaboration; and leveraging sectoral funding.

22. The Bern Network contributes to action area A's objective to ensure investments in national statistical systems match the requirements for meeting demands and needs of users. Advocacy materials for investments in statistics have been developed¹¹ and a clearing house to help donors improve the allocation and effectiveness of resources for statistics and strengthen collaboration and harmonisation among donors and partners is under consideration.

B. Action area B: Assuring quality and instilling trust in statistics

23. Action area B has three objectives:

(a) National statistical systems have in place legal frameworks that accord appropriate coordination authority and responsibility to the national statistics office and are fully in line with and facilitates adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(b) National statistical systems, as the national authority on statistics, formulate and implement comprehensive, system-wide and transformative strategies for the development of statistics for progress monitoring of national development plans and the 2030 Agenda;

¹¹ <https://bernetwork.org/Bern%20Network%20Paper.pdf>.

(c) National statistical systems have implemented a system-wide quality assurance framework.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division

24. In December 2019, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) hosted a workshop to train participants from national statistical offices of the Eastern-Europe/Central Asia region on quality assurance and the development of a national quality assurance framework and its implementation throughout the national statistical system. A total of 22 participants from 16 countries including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Turkey and Uzbekistan took part in the workshop.

25. The workshop contributed to the third objective of action area B for national statistical systems to have implemented a system-wide quality assurance framework.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

26. To focus more on supporting countries in the region to improve quality and availability of crime and criminal justice statistics, a new Centre of Excellence was established in the Republic of Korea between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Korean National Statistics Office (KOSTAT) in 2019 and first introduced to Asia-Pacific member States at a special session during the second meeting of the ESCAP Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics in 2019.

27. The UNODC – Korean National Statistics Office Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific (UNODC-KOSTAT CoE) co-organized the Third Regional Meeting on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics in October 2019, and was officially introduced to 50 international, regional, and national representatives. The meeting provided an opportunity for participants to discuss regional challenges and priorities, specifically related to monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, supporting responses to the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS), and implementation assistance for the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes. It highlighted that important progress is being made by some countries in the region. For example, China, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea and have been doing the groundwork for implementing the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes.

28. The UNODC – Korean National Statistics Office Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific launched a Regional Advisory Group composed of experts from countries and institutions in the region and held its first meeting in February 2020. The meeting provided an opportunity not only to identify priority areas of support, but also to strengthen partnerships with other United Nations entities, such as ESCAP, including the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, and UN-Women.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

29. FAO supports countries in implementing cost-effective agricultural censuses that adhere to the updated international standards of the 2020 Round of the World Census of Agriculture 2020. Where possible, FAO advocates for the use of the population and housing census as a frame for agriculture census data collection, provides technical guidance to countries in using list frames and area frames for identification of agriculture households, promotes the use of computer-based interviewing and remote sensing for cost-effective data collection, and emphasizes quality assurance through the entire process from planning to data collection to dissemination. In the last two years, FAO has provided substantial advisory support to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Samoa and Timor-Leste.

30. Quality assurance is also integrated into FAO's Sustainable Development Goals umbrella programming, which provides technical guidance to countries on the collection and compilation of the 21 Sustainable Development Goals indicators under FAO custodianship.

International Labour Organization

31. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, ILO has been supporting member States in the Asia and the Pacific region to develop monitoring systems for assessing their progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly for decent work related targets. This also included assisting some countries in developing their Sustainable Development Goal national indicator frameworks. ILO supported the revision or development of Sustainable Development Goals related monitoring and evaluation components of Decent Work Country Programmes for member States such as in Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Nepal, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. ILO supported also piloting the measurement of Sustainable Development Goals indicators for which ILO is the custodial agency in the Asia and the Pacific member States such as Fiji, Mongolia, Philippines and Viet Nam.

32. ILO equally contributed to action area B by supporting selected member States with the development of a priority set of Sustainable Development Goals decent work indicators, including with methodological documents on how to produce these indicators. In Viet Nam, for example, ILO collaborated with ESCAP and the United Nations Data Group to support the General Statistics Office in developing the national system of Sustainable Development Goals indicators, as well as a manual on producing these indicators. A separate manual on Sustainable Development Goals employment indicators was produced with technical and financial support by ILO. Informal consultations were also done or continue with other member States to support national methodological work particularly on Sustainable Development Goal decent work indicators, in countries such as Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia and Mongolia.

33. ILO provided and continues to provide technical assistance to member States in Asia and the Pacific in building their statistical systems to be able to collect and publish annual or sub-annual statistics on work and labour force, as well as in developing Sustainable Development Goals decent work related labour market information systems, such as in Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar. Advocacy work on the production of annual labour force statistics has also been undertaken and is continuing in countries such as Cambodia, Fiji, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Timor-Leste.

34. ILO continues to provide support in developing data collection systems for selected thematic areas through labour force surveys and other labour related surveys, covering topics such as school-to-work transition for youth, children's activities, forced labour, social protection, green jobs, earnings from employment, labour demand (through establishment surveys), labour migration, home-based workers, etc. Member States supported in the past or currently supported include Brunei Darussalam, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

35. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Volunteer Programme, the ILO supported also the development and testing of tools to better measure volunteer work, piloted recently in Sri Lanka.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

36. In partnership with ESCAP and the national statistical office of Viet Nam, UN-Women contributed to action area B of the collective vision by supporting the country with the development of a priority set of gender indicators, which has since been adopted and is currently in use for the calculation of gender statistics and guides the content of Viet Nam's General Statistics Office publication "Men and Women in Viet Nam".

37. In addition, UN-Women contributed to area B of the collective vision by leading the development of a Roadmap on Gender Statistics in the Pacific in partnership with the Pacific Community and with the participation of national statistics offices across the Pacific, line ministries, civil society organizations, and other international partners, including ESCAP and the Asian Development Bank.

United Nations Population Fund

38. UNFPA plays a key role in supporting countries in the implementation of population census projects that are respectful of international standards for census taking. Country-specific technical assistance provided by UNFPA census advisers at national and regional levels aims at responding to national needs. It also puts a strong emphasis on quality assurance at all stages of census processes (census planning and management, resource mobilization, mapping, development of census instruments, training of field personnel, field work, post-enumeration survey, data processing, publication of results, data dissemination tools, thematic analyses and documentation) and on the development of mitigation strategies whenever risks are identified. Countries where substantial census advisory services were provided by UNFPA since the sixth session of ESCAP Committee on Statistics in 2018 include Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Maldives, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

39. Quality assurance is also important in the support provided by UNFPA on household sample surveys, such as the 2019 intercensal survey in Myanmar and the 2020 Demographic and Health Survey of Cambodia.

40. In addition, UNFPA has been supporting the conduct of surveys on violence against women, with the application of well-tested procedures enabling the production of high-quality data on this very sensitive topic, while

ensuring the protection of respondents. Myanmar and Sri Lanka are among the countries where such work was recently carried out.

Asian Development Bank

41. ADB recognizes the key role of timely and reliable statistics in evidence-based policymaking. On this endeavour, the bank has been continuously working with its member countries and the global statistical community to meet the growing demands of policymakers and key stakeholders using state-of-the-art techniques, especially during this time of pandemic.

42. Aside from playing a role in improving the compilation of official statistics, ADB also acknowledges the need to provide institutional support to national statistical offices, i.e., on strengthening the national statistical systems of ADB developing member countries. In a recently completed technical assistance project, ADB supported the strengthening of strategic and institutional capacity of Myanmar's national statistical system, which included the drafting and finalization of the new Statistics Act of 2018 and the drafting of the Statistics Rules that is expected to be approved soon.

C. Action area C: Integrated statistics for integrated analysis

43. Action area C has two objectives:

(a) An integrated statistical measurement framework for sustainable development goals has been developed;

(b) National statistical systems integrate data from multiple sources in a coherent and consistent manner for the production of statistical products that support integrated analysis of sustainable development issues.

44. Global, regional and subregional organizations make many substantive contributions to these two objectives. In addition to the contributions presented below, initiatives associated with integrated statistical measurement frameworks in the form of accounts, including National Accounts and Environmental Accounts, can be found in ESCAP/CST/2020/3 and initiatives associated with the integration of data from multiple sources can be found in ESCAP/CST/2020/4.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

45. As custodian agency for 21 Sustainable Development Goals indicators and supporting agency for another five, FAO developed comprehensive and coordinated training and technical assistance to countries in collecting data and compiling these indicators under global projects, such as the FAO Sustainable Development Goals Umbrella Project; the FAO-World Bank 50 by 2030 initiative, with agriculture integrated surveys that regularize collection of agriculture statistics including farm-based Sustainable Development Goals indicators; and the Voices of the Hungry project, that collects and compiles food security statistics. These are supported by regional and national technical cooperation projects, to help countries systematically collect and monitor food and agriculture related Sustainable Development Goals, including those in Goal 2, to end hunger.

46. With all its indicators in tier 1 or 2 – with approved international methodologies – FAO is expanding its e-learning program to provide users with free access to on-line training on all the 21 indicators from a dedicated

Sustainable Development Goals website. FAO has conducted regional trainings on the suite of indicators, some in collaboration with ESCAP, and national trainings on a subset of indicators in most countries in the region. This integrated approach to capacity development ensures that countries are able to identify multiple indicators that can be collected through a given instrument, or in some cases, identifies existing instruments or surveys to collect vital indicators to monitor a phenomenon such as food security.

47. FAO also supports countries in the adopting of cost-effective methodologies for collecting and compiling agriculture and food statistics, such as computer assisted interviewing using existing free software from the World Bank and the United States Census Bureau, and the use of earth observation data and remote sensing to measure forest areas, crop areas, and crop yields. In partnership with the ADB, FAO has launched a second massive open online course (MOOC) on the use of computer assisted personal interviewing, easily adapted to computer assisted telephone interviewing for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) context. This second MOOC course, with over 1200 learners world-wide, offers the World-Bank's COVID-19 assessment questionnaire as the capstone project.

48. Another important area of work is strengthening countries' capacities to publish anonymized agricultural census and survey microdata, with projects approved for supporting Bhutan, Cambodia and Timor-Leste. At the same time as respecting privacy laws and confidentiality constraints, these microdata will enhance national and international data usage and policy relevance, as tabulated data are by necessity restricted in the number of tables published online.

49. Following two successful regional expert group meetings on the use of computer assisted personal interviewing and earth observation data in November 2019 and February 2020, FAO is also expanding work in this area. FAO has developed a geospatial data platform to bring in various data layers and integrate existing survey and census data. This is complemented by an experimental project underway with the Asian Institute of Technology to develop regular agriculture damage and loss statistics in Lao People's Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea and Thailand.

50. FAO is also working with its development partners throughout Asia and the Pacific to undertake COVID-19 rapid assessments, and develop joint questionnaires that include the coverage of household and individual experiences with food insecurity and changes in food consumption and food prices, and impacts on farmers of input and market constraints. Such surveys have already been implemented in Thailand, under the coordination and leadership of the United Nations resident coordinator's office and UNICEF, and is in planning stages in Papua New Guinea, with data collected using computer assisted telephone interviewing surveys.

International Labour Organization

51. ILO has been collaborating with United Nations partners and regional institutions, as well as regional economic communities such as the Pacific Community, to ensure better coordination of statistical activities such as surveys and other data collection systems, to avoid overburdening national statistical systems. Collaboration with the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community focused on developing data collection tools of core labour force data specific to the Pacific islands countries, and integrating these tools into the most common surveys in the subregion, such as household income and expenditure surveys. A labour force module has hence been

completed by the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community and approved by the Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB) in May 2019;¹² the Pacific Community has therefore started including this labour force module into ongoing and future household income and expenditure surveys in the Pacific. A draft labour force module for population censuses is also being finalised and tested jointly by the Pacific Community and ILO and should be ready within 2020 for further integration into the next round of population censuses in the Pacific.

52. At the global level, ILO continues to work with international partners such as the World Bank to ensure that an updated core module on the labour force is available into their main supported surveys such as the living standards measurement survey. ILO has also integrated the measurement of some important Sustainable Development Goal indicators disaggregation topics into the standard labour force survey questionnaire and has been advising countries to include these at national level as well. The key topics include core international migration statistics, and disability data based on the core questions of the Washington Group. ILO recently launched a project funded by Data2X to test time-use methods and issue practical guidance to support the collection of statistics on unpaid care and domestic work through add-on modules that can be attached to an existing labour force survey. The work is being coordinated closely with the United Nations Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics of which ILO is a member. ILO is also recommending countries to include the measurement of activities performed by households for own use, which can help in deriving valuable estimations of the time spent on unpaid work such as care work.

United Nations Children's Fund

53. As its contribution to the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has prioritized 35 child-focused Sustainable Development Goal targets as its key result areas and indicators to ensure that data on children and women, especially the most vulnerable, and those left behind, are being systematically collected, monitored and reported by the countries it supports.

54. On average, 75 per cent of child Sustainable Development Goal indicators in every country either have insufficient data or show insufficient progress to meet global Sustainable Development Goal targets by 2030.¹³ This calls for a step-change – both in assessing the situation of children everywhere and using data to target efforts to reach those at greatest risk of being left behind.

55. UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance to countries in the Asia and the Pacific region to integrate and align new data collection modules¹⁴ related to child-focused Sustainable Development Goal indicators in national data collection mechanisms, including customization and testing of data collection tools, training and data processing. UNICEF's support included the pilot testing and integration of a disability module into the National Socio-economic Survey in Indonesia, child protection modules in the Household Income and Expenditure Survey in Sri Lanka, and training of government personnel on the use of statistical tools for processing child poverty statistics.

¹² <https://sdd.spc.int/events/2019/05/pacific-statistics-methods-board>.

¹³ Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era: Are we on track to achieve the SDGs for children? The situation in 2019, UNICEF.

¹⁴ <https://data.unicef.org/resources/resource-type/guidance/>.

56. UNICEF organized workshops and trainings for the national statistical offices and line ministries in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Tonga and Viet Nam to enhance their capacity to undertake further analysis of census, survey and administrative data on schooling, multi-dimensional poverty, equity profiling, and disability with special focus on children, adolescents, and women. This also included capacity building workshops organized on estimating child mortality and stillbirth conducted jointly by UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) with the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Mortality Estimation.

57. UNICEF supported the strengthening of administrative data systems both at national and subnational levels, as well as improving the availability of data disaggregated by sex, geographical location, and poverty quintiles to enhance the availability of high quality and internationally comparable data on children, and strengthen systematic monitoring and reporting against the Sustainable Development Goal 4 and 6 targets.

58. In Bhutan, China, Fiji, Nepal, Pakistan and Vanuatu, for example, UNICEF partnered with the ministry of education to align education management information system (EMIS) indicators with Sustainable Development Goal 4 targets. In Cambodia, UNICEF supported the alignment of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) indicators to Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets in the Cambodia socio-economic survey, as well as the population census. In China, UNICEF supported the incorporation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 indicators into a national WASH survey conducted in 3,628 health care facilities in all 31 provinces. UNICEF also supported China's Ministry of Education and the National Bureau of Statistics to monitor Sustainable Development Goal indicator 4.2.1. In Indonesia, UNICEF supported Statistics Indonesia in generating new disability estimates using data from the 2015 intercensal survey; Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam developed modules to collect data on child disability through their disability surveys; Tonga included a disability module in the census and the Marshall Islands included a disability module in its household income and expenditure survey.

59. Key knowledge products on children were also produced by UNICEF in close collaboration with government and other partners that documented the progress on the Sustainable Development Goals related to children. These highlighted data gaps and challenges¹⁵ at national and subnational levels and were used as policy advocacy tools. They included the Atlas of Social Indicators of Children in China;¹⁶ national disability reports in Pakistan, Thailand, Tonga, and Viet Nam; a Lao People's Democratic Republic education country report;¹⁷ and a Malaysia Children's Statistics Report 2019.¹⁸

60. UNICEF, in partnership with other United Nations entities including ESCAP, provided support to countries in the Asia and the Pacific region with the nationalization and localization of Sustainable Development Goals, and with the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process and reporting. UNICEF also provided technical support in the development of Sustainable Development Goals databases, monitoring web platforms and dashboards in

¹⁵ <https://data.unicef.org/children-sustainable-development-goals/>.

¹⁶ Atlas of social indicators of children in China www.unicef.cn/en/atlas-2018-en.

¹⁷ Lao People's Democratic Republic education country report <https://data.unicef.org/resources/lao-pdr-education-country-report/>.

¹⁸ www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/pdfPrev&id=TVY4ZDdTeFJnMFQxWjdFc1dDZEhOZz09.

Cambodia and Thailand directly, as well as in Malaysia through the United Nations country team.

61. Strengthening civil registration and vital statistics is another priority area of UNICEF, where it works in partnership with ESCAP in supporting Sustainable Development Goal 17. UNICEF supported civil registration and vital statistics systems through the strengthening of birth registration in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan and Timor-Leste. Support provided in strengthening civil registration and vital statistics also included the management of unique IDs for new-borns at the time of birth or registration.

62. Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)¹⁹ is the flagship household survey programme of UNICEF that supports countries to collect internationally comparable data on children and women since the 1990s. So far, technical and financial support has been provided to 116 countries globally, and 36 countries from the Asia and the Pacific region. The programme has considerably supported countries' capacity to implement and design household surveys over the years. The current, sixth round of the MICS covers about 41 per cent of Sustainable Development Goal indicators that can be collected through household surveys. Twenty-four countries in the Asia and the Pacific region have joined the MICS 6 round. The current status of MICS 6 in these countries can be broadly grouped into three categories – countries that have released the report/data; countries in the data processing phase; and countries in the design/planning phase.

63. Adapting to the COVID-19 situation, the MICS Plus methodology will be used to collect data using computer assisted telephone interviewing. The MICS Plus methodology facilitates frequent data collection from a sub-sample of MICS households who have a telephone number and given consent for follow-up interviews, enabling countries to track and report on key indicators on a near-real-time basis in multiple concurrent waves. Currently, Mongolia and Samoa are the countries in the region that are in the process of designing and implementing the MICS Plus methodology. This methodology can also be used if other representative household surveys have collected telephone numbers during the field work and even listing exercises, or a representative sample frame with telephone numbers exists. UNICEF is keen to support countries interested in strengthening their data collection and reporting using the MICS Plus methodology.

64. UNICEF has also developed MICS-Link, a new tool that allows linking of the multiple indicator cluster survey data with administrative data such as in an EMIS or health management information system. MICS-Link allows data integration at different levels (institutional and individual) depending on the maturity of the administrative data systems in each country. Currently UNICEF has accelerated the delivery of MICS findings reports, especially those where fieldwork was completed just before COVID-19 protective measures were put into place, to serve as a baseline to monitor the situation of women, children and families.

¹⁹ <https://mics.unicef.org/>.

United Nations Environment Programme

65. UNEP, with support and contribution from the Statistics Division of ESCAP and other partners, organized an Asia-Pacific Regional Environmental Data Knowledge Sharing, Capacity Strengthening and Strategic Pathways Workshop from 22 to 25 July 2019 in Bangkok. Under a UNEP/European Commission project, more than 20 governmental officials and national experts from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal and Thailand met to strengthen national capacity for sharing and reporting environmentally relevant and reliable data and information in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and support science-based decision-making.

66. UNEP, in collaboration with United Nations country teams, has conducted analysis of the trend and progress on the environmental dimension of the 93 environmental Sustainable Development Goal indicators and submitted as inputs into the United Nations Common Country Analysis in Maldives and Thailand to support the respective national United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and the Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh. The analysis also highlights the presence of significant data gaps for the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

67. UNEP has been supporting countries in Asia to report on Sustainable Development Goal 12 through the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component funded by the European Union. As part of this support, in 2019, UNEP organized a policy dialogue on Sustainable Development Goal 12 reporting where different custodian agencies presented specific indicators of the global indicator framework for Sustainable Development Goal 12. Over 100 participants representing 15 governments in Asian countries participated in this event that resulted in eight countries reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.1.1 thanks to the support provided together with the One Planet Network. Also, through the Regional Policy Advocacy Component, UNEP is currently providing technical assistance to India and Pakistan to develop national mechanisms for Sustainable Development Goal 12 reporting. In addition, several capacity building workshops for specific indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 12 are planned to take place during 2020 involving different countries in Asia.

68. UNEP and the UNDP Bangladesh country office jointly organized a National Environmental Data-User-Producer Workshop in Bangladesh in August 2019, with participation of government agencies and stakeholders, and plan to organize a Training Workshop on Methodology for Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 17.14.1 in Bangladesh by the end of 2020.

69. UNEP and the Government of the Maldives reached agreement in January 2020 to cooperate on the development of a database that would facilitate the reporting on the environmental aspect of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Maldives, support the country in its reporting processes including the development of a state of the environment report, as well as facilitate the sharing of environmental data with relevant stakeholders and interested members of the public.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

70. Since the launch of the voluntary commitment on a people-based definition of cities to support harmonized monitoring and reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals and urban related agendas such as the New

Urban Agenda, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the European Commission, the World Bank, FAO, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), organized a series of regional consultations with member States to disseminate the Degree of Urbanization (DEGURBA) methodology and approaches. Two out of the seven regional consultative workshops were held in the Asia-Pacific region, bringing together about 60 participants from 24 countries including senior officials from national statistical offices, ministries in charge of urban planning and development, Sustainable Development Goal monitoring teams and other urban practitioners: in New Delhi, India in September 2019 for the Central and South Asia subregion; and in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 2019 for the Eastern and South-Eastern Asia subregion. This process has greatly helped in disseminating the approach among national statistical offices and other key data producers and users across the world, and was followed by the endorsement in March 2020 of the DEGURBA approach by the United Nations Statistical Commission as a methodology for delineation of cities and urban and rural areas for international and regional statistical comparison purposes.

71. At the global level, UN-Habitat has assisted the United Nations system to redefine the notion of urban, whilst emphasizing the importance of city-level data for efficient monitoring and reporting of urban Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat has been a leading voice advocating for better, timely and relevant urban data at many global events and conferences, including the 10th World Urban Forum in Malaysia; 11th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi in 2020; International Science Council's Committee on Data (CODATA)'s International Data Week in Gaborone, Botswana; United Nations Statistical Commission in New York; High-Level Political Forum in New York; International Urban Health Conference in Kampala, Uganda; Africities Summit in Marrakech, Morocco; and 2018 World Data Forum in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

United Nations Population Fund

72. UNFPA has been co-chairing with ESCAP the Thematic Working Group on Statistics under the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism. The Thematic Working Group²⁰ is the leading regional coordination group on statistical support to countries and has a significant role to play in supporting Sustainable Development Goal monitoring at national level through enhanced investments in statistics. In this context, UNFPA contributed to the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2020, specifically on the analysis of available regional data on violence against women. At country level, UNFPA has been involved in advocating for and supporting the localization of Sustainable Development Goal indicators in India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam.

73. Through its work on population censuses, which helps to produce data at very detailed geographical levels, UNFPA is strongly advocating for the integration of population data with other geospatial information. This goes a long way in promoting a wider use of population statistics for development planning and policy making, as visual displays of development indicators through maps can make it easier to highlight the importance of population dynamics in development processes at different geographical levels. Related work has been supported by UNFPA in Bangladesh and Indonesia. The mapping of population data is also being applied in relation to COVID-19

²⁰ Refer to ESCAP/CST/2020/INF/13.

response, through the development by UNFPA of tools to help countries identify areas where vulnerable populations with high health and socio-economic risk factors are located.

74. A similar approach based on geospatial information has been applied with UNFPA support in Indonesia for the use of population data for disaster preparedness and response. Such an approach requires a closer integration of activities between national statistical offices and national authorities in charge of disaster management, for instance for the production of Common Operational Datasets on Population Statistics (COD-PS), which is a responsibility of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs that UNFPA is collaborating on at regional and country levels (Philippines).

75. UNFPA also promotes the integration of different data sources, typically a population census and a household sample survey, to derive more granular information through the use of small area estimation techniques. The use of this methodology has been supported by UNFPA in relation to topics of UNFPA interest such as family planning and reproductive health, for instance in Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam, but the potential for applications is much broader.

76. The integrated analysis of demo-economic information has also been encouraged by the support provided by UNFPA to many Asian countries for the construction of National Transfer Accounts, an accounting system designed to improve understanding of the impact of population growth and changing population age structures on the macro-economy. This has been done mostly through capacity building and experience sharing.

77. Finally, UNFPA is engaged in the activities of the United Nations Statistical Commission Titchfield City Group on ageing, which calls for the availability of age-disaggregated data and ageing statistics.

World Tourism Organization

78. Measuring sustainable tourism is a macro initiative of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division to provide all countries a common framework to measure the impacts and dependencies of tourism on the economy, society and environment. The initiative includes the development of a Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism as a standard framework for collecting, organizing and disseminating relevant information. The initiative is supported by the UNWTO's Committee on Statistics, which includes members from Nepal, the Philippines and Macao, China. The development of the Statistical Framework is led by a Working Group, which includes Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. An editorial board chaired by the Philippines has been established to periodically review and provide substantive advice on the development and finalization of the Statistical Framework.

79. The Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism project and specifically its Statistical Framework is perfectly aligned with the collective vision by the Asia-Pacific statistical community, as it is in alignment with both objectives of action area C.

80. The Statistical Framework of the Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism initiative was born in part to fill the need to establish a framework for the measurement of the contribution of tourism as a sector to the 2030 Agenda

in a standardized and comparable manner. As part of its ambition to become an internationally agreed framework, it can be the foundation for measuring such a contribution and provide a set of tourism-related indicators to this end. This is consistent with the first objective of action area C.

81. The Statistical Framework also contributes to the second objective of action area C. The Framework relies on the use of sources from multiple areas, including economic, social, environmental and geospatial, to populate an accounting framework (and complementary statistics and indicators) that can allow for more integrated and coherent analysis, using principles from national accounts and other fields of measurement.

82. In December 2019, the first ever regional training workshop on measuring sustainable tourism took place in coordination with ESCAP in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop provided a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences on methods to measure the sustainability of tourism. In addition, several countries, including Fiji, the Netherlands, the Philippines and Thailand, have pioneered, or are currently in the process of pioneering, the implementation of Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism initiative through pilot studies.

Asian Development Bank

83. ADB had been an active player in the International Comparison Programme (ICP), the largest global statistical initiative that computes purchasing power parities (PPPs) to allow cross-country comparison of gross domestic product (GDP) and other macro-economic aggregates. Since 2005, ADB has been the regional coordinator of ICP in Asia and the Pacific and is collaborating with the World Bank in implementing the program. The latest 2017 ICP cycle, which saw the participation of 22 economies in the region, has recently been completed. Results of the cycle are available on the ADB website.²¹ In the implementation of the 2017 ICP, ADB provided technical and financial support to the participating economies. The ICP Governing Board has decided in light of the COVID-19 pandemic to move the benchmark year for the 2020 ICP from 2020 to 2021.

84. ADB has also been involved in improving the compilation of national account statistics of selected ADB developing member countries. A number of technical assistance projects have been implemented aimed at assisting participating countries in implementing the System of National Accounts 2008 recommendations. This for example involved updating and constructing the supply-use tables, which facilitate the production of disaggregated data on economic transactions and are also a key input to the production of global value chain statistics. Through these technical assistance projects, the participating ADB developing member countries were able to construct supply-use tables and input-output tables adhering to System of National Accounts 2008 recommendations. Statistical capacity building activities like training programs and knowledge-sharing workshops on global value chain statistics and analysis, compilation and analysis of supply-use tables, input-output tables, and social accounting matrices were provided.

85. ADB facilitated a series of strategically designed training workshops and course modules on disaggregation of official statistics and sustainable development goal indicators targeted at national statistical offices of selected

²¹ The regional results were released on 6 May 2020. The report can be accessed at www.adb.org/publications/international-comparison-program-2017-summary-report. The 2017 ICP global results will be released by the World Bank on 19 May 2020.

ADB developing member countries. Case studies are being conducted on the use of innovative data sources, like big data (particularly, satellite imagery and other sources of geospatial data) to provide more granular population and poverty statistics. In the project, ADB took stock of various conventional small area estimation methods and techniques, provided training to several ADB developing member countries and designed a step-by-step guide on implementing various small area estimation techniques for national statistical office staff. ADB is also collaborating with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division in developing a handbook on Sustainable Development Goal data disaggregation.

86. ADB will continue to support ADB developing member countries in strengthening their statistical systems with a focus on promoting the use of non-traditional data sources, statistical methods, and technology, while continuing support in implementing statistical standards in core areas of statistics.

D. Action area D: Modernizing statistical business processes

87. Action area D has two objectives:

(a) National statistical systems have used the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) (or the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO)) to map their current business processes and have used the resulting findings to identify opportunities and priorities for change;

(b) National statistical systems have implemented modernization tools and concepts, such as the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX), for strengthened quality, efficiency and effectiveness of statistical information management and exchange.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division

88. In 2019, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division collaborated with national statistical offices in Cambodia and Myanmar to conduct workshops supporting countries in their endeavour to compile and disseminate metadata on Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

89. Building on a January 2018 Conference on National Reporting and Dissemination Platforms hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division, the Division, in partnership with Open Data Watch, hosted a workshop with the national statistical office of Bangladesh on Sustainable Development Goal Open Data and Interoperability in April 2019. Open source Sustainable Development Goal monitoring platforms, such as the Division's Open Sustainable Development Goal platform, allow users quicker and easier access to the Sustainable Development Goals data.

90. The Division also hosted, in collaboration with UN-Women, a Regional Workshop on Data and Metadata Sharing and Exchange for Asian countries as an opportunity for countries to learn from global and regional experts working in various United Nations entities including UN-Women, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division, ESCAP and UNICEF how to enhance Sustainable Development Goal and gender data reporting using Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX). Bangladesh,

Cambodia, China, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Tajikistan, Thailand and Viet Nam participated in the regional workshop.

International Labour Organization

91. In partnership with international partners such as the World Bank and the United Nations Statistics Division, ILO contributed to action area D of the collective vision by organizing regional trainings on documenting labour force survey microdata. Such activities have been framed in reference to the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), highlighting the fact that metadata collection is an overarching process and must be performed in all the phases of any statistical activity.

92. ILO has also been organizing regional or subregional trainings on standardised data processing of labour force and related microdata for the production of core labour force statistics using Stata. Such a training was organized in collaboration with the World Bank and the Pacific Community in Noumea in December 2017. A similar training is now available at global level with the ILO International Training Centre in Turin and is provided on an annual basis.

93. With the ADB, the World Bank, and the Pacific Community in the Pacific, ILO has been recently supporting the use of technology for data collection of labour force surveys and related surveys, such as moving from paper interviewing to computer-assisted personal interviewing data collection. Computer-assisted personal interviewing tools for the labour force survey have been produced and are available on the ILO website at global level (ILO labour force survey resources); and support to implement these was provided to countries such as Brunei Darussalam, Cook Islands (with the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community), Lao People's Democratic Republic (with ADB and World Bank), and Tonga (with the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community).

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

94. In partnership with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division and Eurostat, UN-Women contributed to action area D of the collective vision by organizing two regional face-to-face trainings on Using Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) for Gender Data and Metadata Exchanges, which brought together data producers from national statistical offices and line ministries. In addition, UN-Women and Eurostat produced an online training course on the introductory concepts on the same topic. The course is now online²² and freely available.

United Nations Population Fund

95. In the field of population censuses, the UNFPA global Census Strategy for the 2020 round (2015-2024) highlights the identification and promotion of innovative technologies and methodologies. These include for instance digital cartography or the use of mobile devices for census enumeration. In several countries of the region, UNFPA provided technical support for the adoption of various innovations in the conduct of population censuses, such as the use of online tools (China), the mobilization of administrative records (China,

²² See: <https://data.unwomen.org/news/eurostat-and-un-women-launch-joint-e-training-programme-using-sdmx-gender-data>.

Indonesia) or the shift towards multi-modal data collection modalities (Indonesia and Nepal).

96. UNFPA is also supporting globally the production and use of model-based population estimates using satellite imagery, in specific situations where traditional data collection through field work cannot take place (Afghanistan).

97. Moreover, as far as data dissemination is concerned, UNFPA advocates for free and open access to population census data, through platforms that make it possible to users to access microdata according to their needs, while ensuring data confidentiality. UNFPA plans to support the adoption of such an approach for upcoming population censuses that it is involved in, for instance in Bangladesh, Nepal and Timor-Leste. UNFPA can also support the use of its own IT infrastructure for the development of spatially enabled national census data portals.

98. Finally, UNFPA is engaging in technical discussions with countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran that have an interest in moving towards a register-based approach for their population census.

Asian Development Bank

99. ADB supported the installation and operationalization of statistical business registers in selected participating ADB developing member countries. ADB and ESCAP worked together on the establishment of a statistical business registers system in Myanmar. ADB also co-organized with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division a regional training workshop in February 2020 on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) for economic statistics and finalized an agreement with the National Statistical Office of Thailand on the development of the country's Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX).

E. Action area E: Having requisite skills set

100. Action Area E has two objectives:

(a) Statistical requirements for the 2030 Agenda are supported by appropriate guidance material and training;

(b) The combined skillset of the staff of national statistical systems, together with capable management and sufficiency of human resources enable the continuous generation of statistical products and services required for monitoring of national development plans and the 2030 Agenda.

International Labour Organization

101. At the global level, ILO launched in 2015 the Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy, with the main objective to enhance member countries' capacity to plan and implement national labour force and related household surveys to produce a wide range of labour statistics, following the latest international statistical standards adopted by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians. The Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy is held annually and offers a curriculum covering the full statistical production process from high level planning and identification of core indicators to be constructed, to questionnaire design, indicators calculation, analysis, interpretation and communication of the results, including the issue of gender mainstreaming in labour statistics. Other global trainings in the ILO

International Training Centre, some of which organised on an annual basis, include Stata for labour market analysis,²³ Measuring skills mismatches, Measuring and analysing labour migration (organized also in Daejeon in collaboration with Statistics Korea), etc. Each year the ILO supports the participation of technical specialists from various national statistical offices and ministries of labour in the Asia and the Pacific region.

102. At the regional and national levels, ILO organizes regular regional trainings on various aspects of the latest standards from the 19th and 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, at least once a year. Since 2012 regional training on labour statistics and decent work indicators were organized once or twice a year, such as in Bangkok, Thailand; Beijing, China; Chiba, Japan; Daejeon, Republic of Korea; Nadi, Fiji; New Delhi, India; and Noumea, New Caledonia. Each involves some 25 to 30 technical specialists from national statistical offices and ministries of labour. In collaboration with ESCAP, ADB, or the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community, similar national trainings were also organized for at least 20 member States from Asia and the Pacific region since 2012.

103. In partnership with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, ILO organizes annual courses on various topics of labour and decent work statistics, including on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators for which ILO is the custodial agency.²⁴ Key recent courses organized in Chiba include the ILO-Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) Regional Course on Informality: Definitions, Measurement, Sustainable Development Goals and Other Policy Indicators, held in October 2017 in collaboration with ESCAP, the WIEGO network (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing), and the Japan Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC); the Regional Course on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators: Measuring decent work in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (October 2018); and the latest Regional Course on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators: Measuring decent work using microdata from labour force surveys (October 2019).

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

104. In partnership with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and national statistical offices across the region, UN-Women organized numerous capacity-building related activities across the region in contribution to action area E of the collective vision. For instance, UN-Women and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific coordinated the work of the Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, which met periodically and developed a Regional Training on Gender Statistics composed of 12 modules, including exercises, testing materials, syllabi and various guidance materials for trainers and trainees. Furthermore, UN-Women facilitated training on various topics – from general training on Gender Statistics for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring, to targeted training on selected topics such as violence against women (which was organized in China in partnership with UNFPA). These trainings took place in China; Hong Kong, China; the Maldives; Mongolia; the Republic of Korea (in partnership with Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and Statistics Korea) and Timor-Leste. Furthermore, UN-Women

²³ www.itcilo.org/courses/stata-labour-market-analysis.

²⁴ Further details on these courses can be found on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific website at <http://unsiap.or.jp/programmes/labor.html>.

collaborated with other partners, such as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to facilitate two regional trainings on Sustainable Development Goal Monitoring and Data Disaggregation; one for the Asia-Pacific region and one specifically for the Pacific alone.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

105. In partnership with national disaster management offices and national statistical offices across the region, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) created and organized a number of capacity building related tools and activities that contributed to action area E, specifically around disaster-related damage and loss data. These contributions included:

(a) In partnership with the Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), the creation of an online e-learning course in early 2019 for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Monitor. The e-learning course has been translated into three languages and allows member States (particularly national disaster management offices and national statistical offices) to learn how to use the online monitor in their own time and pace. The monitor allows member states to report country progress in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and disaster-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

(b) In addition to online training, national capacity building and data collection coordination workshops were held by UNDRR. These aimed to assist national disaster management offices and national statistical offices to coordinate the collection and reporting of disaster-related data required to report national implementation progress on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and disaster-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Countries where capacity building workshops were provided by UNDRR in collaboration with other partners since the sixth session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics in October 2018 included: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Tonga;

(c) In partnership with the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, UNDRR organized a workshop in disaster data collection and reporting in the Islamic Republic of Iran in April 2019, which aimed at reinforcing national technical capacities to collect and maintain Damage and Loss Databases through DesInventar Sendai, as well as to collect and manage data for reporting progress on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals through the online Sendai Framework Monitor;

(d) Through remote support, UNDRR provided advice to researchers and government institutions from different countries in the region interested in using data from DesInventar databases. Among others, UNDRR supported historic research focused on Nepal, advised the Government of Afghanistan on options to utilize DesInventar software for their national disaster loss database systems, and provided technical advice to the Youth Innovation Lab Nepal contracted by the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal to develop and improve the damage and loss module within a new integrated system for disaster information (BIPAD);

(e) Additionally, UNDRR organized during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (May 2019) in Geneva several training labs related to disaster loss databases open to member states and registered participants. A number of these labs were oriented towards development and maintenance of disaster loss databases with the Desinventar Sendai methodology and software; with another on application of disaster information for decision-making; and a third on the Sendai Framework Monitor. The labs provided practical recommendations to institutionalize the disaster information management process and reporting of disaster-related data online through the Sendai Monitor. Through a series of case studies and practical demos, the labs provided practical guidance and allowed for “clinics” to solve any user questions;

(f) Through a global user forum and training of trainers organized by UNDRR, UNDRR trained a number of development partners from Asia-Pacific to act as replicators in capacity development efforts in regard to disaster loss information systems and the Sendai Monitor. During these workshops, the focus was not only on technical contents, but also on case studies showing good practices on managing disaster loss information systems and applying the information for vulnerability assessment, contingency planning, land-use planning, scenario building, etc;

(g) UNDRR, with support of technical experts, updated data administration and data analysis Desinventar manuals to reflect changes in the Desinventar Sendai upgraded software version. New manuals were made available on the website for the larger Desinventar user community and promoted in the Asia Pacific region.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

106. A roadmap to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics was updated by UNODC and endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission and the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in 2019. Many innovative methodologies and tools were developed and distributed to implement the roadmap. These methodologies and tools contribute to the first objective of action area E for the statistical requirements for the 2030 Agenda to be supported by appropriate guidance material and training:

(a) International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, a tool to provide a comprehensive framework for producing statistics on crime and criminal justice. The International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes is the first common framework to categorize all criminal offences for the systematic production and comparison of statistical data across different times, criminal justice institutions and jurisdictions;

(b) Manuals on victimization surveys and corruption surveys, which enable the measurement of the dark figure of crime while gathering necessary data for the Sustainable Development Goals. The manuals provide guidance for the entire process of conducting surveys from planning to analysis and dissemination of the results;

(c) Methodology to estimate victims of trafficking in persons (Multiple System Estimation: MSE);

(d) Global data collection on crime and criminal justice such as the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS), Illicit Arms Flow Questionnaire (IAFQ), Global data collection on Trafficking in Persons (GLOTIP), Global data repository of individual seizures on wildlife (WorldWISE), etc;

(e) A standardized survey module to collect statistics for monitoring progress on Sustainable Development Goal 16.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

107. Since 2016, UN-Habitat and other custodian agencies, in collaboration with various stakeholders and partners, have developed guides and materials with refined urban concepts and definitions and supported member States to set up the required monitoring systems for the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, thereby creating the conditions for producing and using urban data for policy-making and informing transformative actions. These guides and materials include a global framework for monitoring human settlements indicators, a technical note on the national sample of cities methodology, a guide on setting up urban observatories, a technical note on the City Prosperity Index, as well as nine training modules on Sustainable Development Goal 11 indicators. These tools are now being used as training materials for the country-level and regional workshops on human settlement indicators. UN-Habitat collaborated with ESCAP to organize in March 2018 a regional workshop on human settlements indicators for Asia-Pacific countries (46 participants from 14 countries), and an international workshop on human settlements statistics in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in February 2018 as part of the 10th World Urban Forum (85 participants from 27 countries).

108. These capacity building activities put a strong focus on earth observation and geospatial information (EO & GI) technologies given their role in improving understanding of urban patterns and trends. Within the monitoring and reporting frameworks for global agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, these technologies are deeply entrenched into the data needs, with at least seven of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 indicators requiring some form of spatial data collection and analysis at local/urban level. These include indicators 11.2.1 on public transport; 11.3.1 on urbanization trends and urban land consumption patterns; 11.5.1 and 11.5.2 on disaster risk reduction; 11.6.1 and 11.6.2 on urban solid waste and air quality patterns; 11.7.1 on urban access to public space; and 11.b.1 and 11.b.2 on climate change and resilience. Computations required for these indicators can be attained through spatial analysis techniques using remote sensing and geographic information systems. In addition, these technologies are invaluable for understanding the spatial manifestation/distribution of phenomena across all the 232 Sustainable Development Goal indicators and helping in sustainable urbanization and development decision making processes. At the indicator level, UN-Habitat and other United Nations agencies and other partners working on Sustainable Development Goal 11 have developed spatial analysis techniques and models with guides that countries can easily apply for generation of relevant Sustainable Development Goal 11 data. UN-Habitat have organized workshops to build and strengthen national capacities to collect, analyze, and use spatial data for monitoring progress in the implementation of the urban sustainable development goals.

109. In October 2018, UN-Habitat and the World Bank co-organized a technical workshop on data collection for Sustainable Development Goal land indicators during the World Data Forum. The workshop aimed at introducing and discussing with national statistical offices and other key partners the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators approved methodology for measuring indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1, data sources, and the feasibility of its adaption in countries for effective monitoring and reporting on Sustainable Development Goals. The workshop was attended by national statistical office officials responsible for the survey design,

management, and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals including land indicators from various countries including Bangladesh, China, India and Malaysia.

United Nations Population Fund

110. UNFPA contributes to national capacity building in statistical offices in relation to population censuses and household surveys it supports. This is done either directly through the provision of country-specific technical assistance or through the organization of regional capacity building workshops, which facilitate experience sharing and collaborative dialogue between countries. For instance, since the sixth session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, workshops on general census methodology and on census data collection through mobile devices were organized for countries in the region. Capacity building activities also took place in relation to the conduct of surveys on violence against women and the analysis of data on this topic. At country level, specific statistical training activities have been supported by UNFPA in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India and Myanmar.

Asian Development Bank

111. In February 2020, ADB co-organized with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division and ESCAP a regional thematic conference in Manila on 'Managing a Statistical Organization' in times of change. The conference served as a forum for in-depth discussions and provided comprehensive inputs for updating the Handbook of Statistical Organizations drafted by the division.

112. In continuation of the support to gender statistics, ADB has plans to publish a working paper on measuring ownership of assets from a gender perspective based on its experience from the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality initiative and will continue further research work in this area.

113. Knowledge-sharing training workshops on latest standards in compiling labour statistics were conducted for selected ADB developing member countries in collaboration with ILO. Research is being conducted to examine the use of administrative data sources to provide additional employment-related information to complement labour force survey data and meet the employment-related data requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals.

114. One ADB technical assistance project supported the conduct of trainings on census and survey data processing and mobile data collection to prepare the participating ADB developing member countries for the adoption of computer-assisted personal interviewing platforms. In-country and regional workshops were conducted to disseminate the country reports and results of the computer-assisted personal interviewing-pen and paper interviewing randomized experiment using data from the Labour Force Survey in Viet Nam and the Agricultural Household Survey in Sri Lanka. Technical reports and working papers on computer-assisted personal interviewing/ paper interviewing comparison were produced. ADB collaborated with FAO on developing handbooks on computer-assisted personal interviewing platforms. Two massive online open courses on computer-assisted personal interviewing for (i) Census and Survey Processing System (CSPro) and (ii) Survey Solutions were developed and offered online from 28 January 2019 to 15 March 2019.