

United Nations Development Programme



Nigeria

Project Initiation Plan

Project Title : Data for Policy and Impact

Expected UNSDCF/CPD Outcome(s) : OUTCOME #2: By 2027, Nigeria sustains inclusive economic growth and development that provides equitable opportunities for decent employment and livelihoods.

Expected CPD Output(s) : OUTPUT 1.4: National data collection, measurement, and analytical systems strengthened using SDG-aligned state development plans and systems.

Initiation Plan Start/End Dates : 1 July 2025 – 28 February 2027

Implementing Partner : UNDP

Brief Description

This Project Initiation Plan sets out the foundation for establishing a Data for Policy and Impact Unit, designed to transform the way data informs responses to Nigeria's complex development challenges. The Unit will lead efforts in data innovation, advanced analytics, and institutional capacity-building to enable evidence-based decision-making across critical areas, including energy access, digital transformation, conflict prevention, local development, and subnational programming. By building integrated data systems, deploying predictive analytics, providing strategic advisory services, and fostering strong partnerships, the Unit will support timely, high-impact programming that aligns with national priorities and accelerates progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Ultimately, it seeks to strengthen development effectiveness while reinforcing UNDP's position as a leading provider of data-driven, evidence-based solutions across its strategic areas of offer.

Programme Period: 2023 -2027

Quantum Project Number: TBD

Quantum Output Number: _____

Gender Marker: GEN1

Total resources required: US\$2,484,000

Total allocated resources: US\$300,000

• Regular _____

• Multiple US\$300,000

Unfunded budget: US\$2,184,000

Agreed by UNDP:

Name: Varsha Redkar

Title: DRRP

Signature: Varsha Redkar



I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

In an era marked by accelerating development challenges, from entrenched poverty and inequality to climate shocks, conflict, and evolving public health threats, the demand for timely, data-driven decision-making has become more urgent than ever. Traditional models of development response are no longer sufficient to address these complex issues; instead, transformative solutions must be built upon high-quality data, strategic foresight, and robust analytics that can inform real-time policy and program actions.

To meet this critical need, UNDP Nigeria is establishing a Data for Policy and Impact initiative as a strategic enabler designed to drive data innovation, evidence generation, and institutional capacity strengthening across the country. This PIP will function as the backbone for responsive programming, converting raw data into actionable insights that enhance policy coherence, improve operational effectiveness, and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By providing high-quality, data-driven insights, the PIP will be linked to UNDP Nigeria's broader the Innovation, Digital Transformation and Knowledge Economy (iDIKE) initiative. In addition, it will directly contribute to UNDP's strategic offers in priority areas such as expanding access to clean energy, offering tailored support for state-level development solutions and driving local development at both the national and state levels through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

In addition to these priority areas, the PIP will play a key role in supporting UNDP's ongoing interventions in conflict-affected regions, such as the North East and North West, including provision of risk analytics on UNDP's resilience programming in the region, as well as environmental and sustainable development initiatives and rule of law programming. By integrating data from diverse sources, performing advanced analytics, and developing predictive tools, the PIP will provide the evidence needed to design and implement timely interventions that are responsive to both immediate and long-term development needs in Nigeria.

The UNDP's strategic priorities and programmatic goals will enhance the effectiveness of existing programs and will also pave the way for more proactive, data-driven decision-making across all areas of intervention. It will also contribute towards expressed interests for foresight analysis from the Office of the Vice President. This Initiation Plan outlines the scope, structure, and expected outputs for the Unit's establishment phase, serving as the foundation for its early-stage implementation. It will guide key activities, partnerships, resource mobilization, and risk mitigation strategies, while ensuring sustainable integration into UNDP Nigeria's broader portfolio.

Expected Outputs

The Data for Policy and Impact Unit will lead and support a comprehensive portfolio of activities aimed at enhancing the quality, accessibility, and strategic application of data and analytics across the UNDP Nigeria Country Office. During the Initiation Phase, the following key outputs are expected:

Output 1: Integrated Data Collection Systems and Governance Frameworks for Evidence-Based Programming Are Strengthened

Description: Develop and institutionalize robust, ethical, and inclusive systems for data collection, integration, and quality assurance to support evidence-based programming across UNDP Nigeria. This includes the design statistically robust data collection methodologies, adoption of standardized data protocols, and establishment of data governance mechanisms that ensure the generation of high-quality, interoperable, and ethically managed data. The Data Unit will lead efforts to enhance



data infrastructure, promote transparency, and enable real-time access to reliable development data. The Data Unit will focus on:

- Design and deployment of integrated digital platforms for routine data collection for SDG and program monitoring.
- Development of standardized methodologies and quality control protocols for routine and on-demand data collection methodologies, data generation and validation.
- Establishment of data governance frameworks ensuring ethical use, security, and interoperability.
- Institutionalization of data sharing agreements and protocols across UNDP and government partners.

Output 2: Advanced Analytics, Big Data Integration, and Predictive Tools Inform Strategic Foresight and Programming

Description: Design and implementation cutting edge and collaborative analytical initiatives to applying statistical analysis, AI, and machine learning for predictive modeling, trend analysis, and policy diagnostics. Build analytical capabilities to model complex development dynamics and translate them into actionable policy recommendations for key national challenges and key UNDP strategic priorities. This output will focus on harnessing analytical approaches to inform strategic foresight and adapt programming to emerging trends. Key elements under this output will include:

- Conducting trend and spatial analysis using satellite imagery, mobile, and social media data to assess shifts in development patterns.
- Applying ML analysis and qualitative data mining for conflict prevention and peacebuilding and social cohesion.
- Developing predictive models for early warning systems and crisis anticipation
- Creating AI-driven models for real-time monitoring and decision support to inform ongoing programmatic interventions.
- Conducting advanced research on critical intersections like climate-security and economic resilience to inform integrated programming

Output 3: Institutional Capacity and Strategic Partnerships for Data-Driven Decision-Making Strengthened.

Description:

The Unit will strengthen institutional capacity and foster strategic partnerships to promote data-driven and evidence-based policymaking. It will support government and partners with technical assistance on data strategies, governance frameworks, and innovative technologies. At the same time, the Unit will cultivate cross-sector partnerships with government, academia, civil society, and the private sector to expand local data generation, improve systems integration, and promote knowledge sharing. Work under this area will include:

- Partnerships with government agencies, academia, private sector, and other stakeholders working on data for development
- Establishing data-sharing agreements and initiating joint research initiatives to enhance data integration and utilization
- Development of institutional data and digital strategies
- Co-creating knowledge products translating data into policy insight
- Promoting evidence-based programming through joint learning platforms

II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

This Project Initiation Plan (PIP) will be directly implemented by UNDP (DIM modality) and implemented inline with UNDP's programme and operations policies and procedures. Throughout the programme, emphasis will be placed on capacity development and the progressive implementation of activities to ensure sustainability.

A dedicated Data for Policy and Impact Unit will lead the technical design, implementation, and oversight of all data-related components. Drawing on in-house expertise, external consultants, and strategic partnerships with government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector, the Unit will operate under the leadership of a Technical Lead, Data Systems and Analytics, reporting to the Economics Advisor to ensure alignment with UNDP's policy and programmatic priorities.

Key Team Functions:

Technical Leadership: Provision of strategic direction, technical oversight, and coordination of the Initiation Plan. Leadership of the design of integrated data systems and analytics, ensuring alignment with UNDP's development agenda. Managing work plans, team coordination, and financial delivery for timely and quality implementation.

GIS/Geospatial Analysis: Spatial analysis and mapping to support area-based planning, targeting, and reporting. Management of geospatial data and generation of visual outputs to inform decision-making and insights.

Methodology and Survey Analysis: Design of robust and ethical data collection methodologies, including survey instruments and sampling strategies, tailoring and contextualising to diverse development contexts. Quality assurance in primary data collection and processing.

Data Infrastructure, Visualisation and Big Data Analytics: Developing and maintaining integrated data platforms and dashboards. Ensuring data accessibility, security, and interoperability, and transforming complex data into actionable visuals. Big Data Analytics: Integration of alternative data sources (e.g., satellite, mobile, social media) into analytical workflows. Development of predictive and real-time analytics models for rapid assessments and anticipatory actions.

In addition to directly supporting the Country Office programmes teams, the Unit will draw on existing expertise within the Country Office and work in close collaboration with the following teams:

- **Strategic Policy & SDG Acceleration team:** Aligns data work with national policy dialogues, generates evidence for strategic positioning, and integrates insights into UNDP and UNCT priorities.
- **Programme and Management Support team:** Ensures data quality in programmatic decision-making and identifies areas where real-time data can enhance programme design and delivery.
- **Communications and Partnerships team:** Translates analytical outputs into accessible knowledge products, amplifies insights through strategic dissemination, and strengthens engagement with government, development partners, and civil society.
- **Programme Associates:** Provide logistical and programmatic support to ensure smooth operation and compliance with regulations.

III. MONITORING

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring plan:

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.		
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.		
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.		
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.		
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk log with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)			

IV. WORK PLAN

Period: 01/07/2025 – 28/02/2027

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME						RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6		Funding Source	Amount (US\$)
Output 1: Integrated Data Collection Systems and Governance Frameworks for Evidence-Based Programming Strengthened <i>Indicator: Number of integrated digital data platforms operational with real time sharing capabilities</i> <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Targets: 2</i> <i>Data Source: Project Report</i>	Activity Result 1.1: Design, develop, and pilot an integrated digital platform that consolidates fragmented national and subnational data systems, with a built-in subnational SDG tracking dashboard. The platform will feature real-time data integration and user-friendly visualizations to enable timely, data-driven decision-making.	X	X					UNDP		\$100,000
	Activity Result 1.2: Design and implement primary data collection initiatives (e.g., household surveys or rapid assessments) to fill data gaps in key thematic areas.				X	X	X	UNDP		\$400,000
Output 2: Advanced Analytics, Big Data Integration, and Predictive Tools Inform Strategic Foresight and Programming <i>Indicator 1: Number of analytics products developed to inform programming</i> <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Targets: 2</i> <i>Data Source: Project Report</i>	Activity Result 2.1: Develop and deliver targeted analytics products (e.g., geospatial analysis, impact assessments, predictive models, thematic dashboards) in sectors such as energy access, digital governance, climate security and conflict prevention, particularly in priority states and strategic initiatives.	X	X	X	X	X	X	UNDP		\$900,000
	Activity 2.2: Pilot real-time or AI-enhanced policy insight tools in selected thematic areas (e.g., youth employment, disaster risk) to explore use cases and scalability.	X	X	X	X	X	X	UNDP		\$300,000

Output 3: Institutional Capacity and Strategic Partnerships for Data-Driven Decision-Making Strengthened.	Activity Result 3.1: Provide technical assistance to public institutions (e.g., Nigeria Police Force, House of Representatives) to design and implement data and digital systems that enhance data management, decision-making, and public service delivery	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	UNDP	Technical Consultations, Staff Salaries	\$300,000	
		Activity Result 3.2: Establish partnerships with NBS, academic institutions, and think tanks to co-produce knowledge, promote innovation in data use, and support a local data ecosystem through events and open platforms.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	UNDP	Technical Consultations, Staff Salaries	\$400,000
GMS (8%)												\$184,000
TOTAL												\$2,484,000

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