

Ten actions to help your data ecosystem deliver better results for children

Every UNICEF office wants to deliver the best possible results for children. A healthy data ecosystem can help offices deliver those results by guiding evidence-based decisions and allowing us to measure progress along the way.

If your team is interested in strengthening your national data ecosystem but unsure about where to start, browse below for some actionable ideas that are useful in every context:

	A good first step	Ready for more?	Helpful links and examples for inspiration	
Enabling environment	1. Address national data work more strategically	<input type="checkbox"/> If there isn't a national data plan in place already, work with the NSO and other partners to decide what sort of plan would be helpful and who should be involved in drafting one.	<input type="checkbox"/> If there is a plan, support or help create a regular process that allows stakeholders monitor and evaluate performance against it.	Here are a few examples of national data and statistics strategies: Bhutan Jordan Sierra Leone Tonga
	2. Strengthen coordination and planning around data publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Work with the NSO and relevant ministries to create a public national data publication calendar.	<input type="checkbox"/> If there is already a calendar in place, support a regular process to monitor performance against the schedule and spot any problem areas.	Click here or here for examples of this kind of work.
	3. Support a solid plan for the data needed to achieve the SDGs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Familiarize yourself with any government-led plans for collecting, analysing, and acting on data needed to achieve the SDGs.	<input type="checkbox"/> If there isn't a plan in place for data on SDGs already, work with the UNCT and national authorities to create a data plan for the SDGs .	Click here for sample tools and templates for this type of work.
	4. Put the protection of children at the forefront of responsible data use.	<input type="checkbox"/> Familiarize yourself with the Responsible Data for Children principles.	<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure UNICEF is setting the best possible example by reviewing all existing UNICEF data investments through the RD4C lens.	Click here for tools to help with the process.
Data Supply	5. Make data more accessible with a public data catalogue.	<input type="checkbox"/> Support the NSO or an appropriate ministry to produce a data catalogue of available and appropriate sources of data for children.	<input type="checkbox"/> If there is a catalogue already, consider ways the office could make it more accessible and useful to key decision makers, in government and outside of it.	Click here for an example of this type of work.

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	<p>6. Reduce duplication in data collection efforts.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Review the data release calendar or data catalogue to identify overlapping collection efforts.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Once you have a good list of potential duplications, work with relevant partners to rationalize collection tools or stagger collection processes to improve insights.</p>	
	<p>7. Invest in data preparedness.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Put together a list of the most important data that you would need to respond to likely emergency conditions in your context.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Take your list of data needs and map out where those data are (or are not) available and how they could be accessed in case of an emergency.</p>	<p>For a much deeper dive on this topic, take a look here.</p>
	<p>8. Learn about the quality of the data you have – and of the data you need.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Read through UNICEF’s draft <i>Data Quality Framework</i> and our <i>What Data When</i> tool to identify the strengths and weaknesses of different data types for different purposes.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Identify the major data uses in your team and review whether the data used are the appropriate type and quality to inform decision-making.</p>	<p>Review the <i>What Data When</i> tool here.</p> <p>Review the draft Data Quality Framework here.</p>
Data Demand and Use	<p>9. Sharpen the data savvy of staff across the country.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Browse the Data Savvy Learning channel to learn more about the available resources for building data savvy in UNICEF teams.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Organize an all-of-office data learning day where every team member completes a data savvy training relevant to their work.</p>	<p>Click here for an example of a more intensive training agenda or look through the Data Savvy learning channel for more resources.</p>
	<p>10. Put data to use for major decisions that impact children.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Identify the five major decisions your team makes each quarter that could be improved by using data more effectively. Make a commitment to using data at each of those major decision-points for the next year.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Adopt data-driven decision-making as a commitment in the CMT, UNCT, and any other fora where UNICEF has a leadership role.</p>	

If you have already made good progress on most or all of these topics, please reach out to the [Data Help Desk](#) for support in identifying what to do next. We’re excited to help you turn your data investments into real results for children!