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Data quality

The data quality unit of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Statistics Division works to ensure that the Organization produces and disseminates high-quality data and statistics related to its mandate for decision-making.

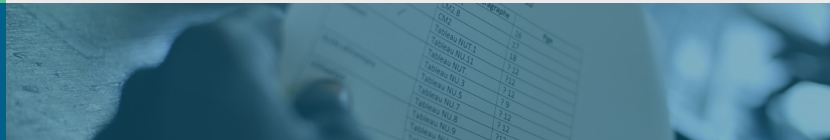
The unit develops, updates and implements corporate quality frameworks, policies and standards to ensure that statistical processes are sound and disseminated data and statistics are of the highest possible quality. It also monitors the quality of FAO data and statistics and supports FAO technical units in improving their compliance to internal quality standards.

FAO, through its data quality unit, provides quality assurance support and tools to countries to improve the quality of food and agriculture data and statistics produced at the national level.

Area of work

In close collaboration with the FAO Chief Statistician, technical coordination groups and FAO technical units involved in data and statistics, the activities of the data quality unit focus on the following:

- > Development, review and implementation of [FAO's Statistics and Data Quality Assurance Framework \(SDQAF\)](#) and related corporate policies, statistical standards and quality assurance procedures.
- > Quality monitoring and assessment of FAO data and statistics and, as necessary, development and implementation of quality improvement plans.
- > Implementation of the accountability framework for FAO statistical activities.
- > User consultations of FAO databases.
- > Capacity development on data and statistical quality assurance.





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Core objectives

- > Ensure that high-quality and internationally comparable data and statistics are produced and made accessible by FAO to support evidence-based policymaking.
- > Ensure a strong culture of quality management within the FAO data and statistical community.
- > Sustain FAO's reputation and credibility as a centre of excellence in food and agriculture data and statistics, and improve the confidence of users in the quality of FAO's statistical processes and outputs.

Key outputs

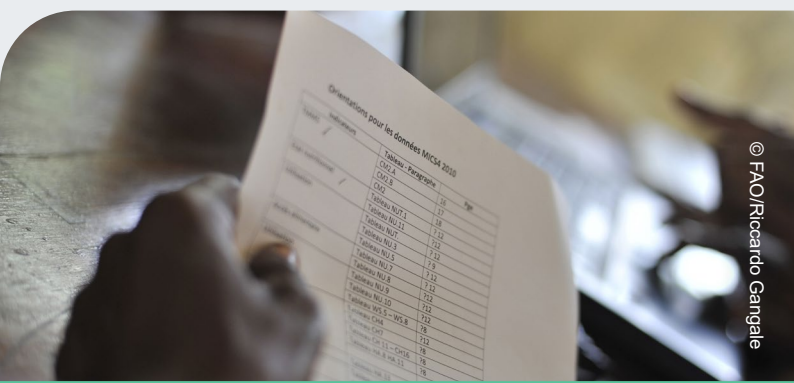
Quality management

- > Establishment, regular update and monitoring of quality assurance frameworks, standards, policies, procedures and guidance for FAO data and statistical processes and outputs, in particular the SDQAF and related corporate statistical standards.
- > Quality assessment and monitoring of FAO data and statistical processes (through the biannual quality assurance and planning survey, in-depth quality reviews and quality audits), and as needed preparation of quality improvement plans in collaboration with relevant technical units.
- > Support to technical teams in the implementation of quality enhancement plans and projects.

- > Exchanges on quality assurance best practices at the national, regional and global level to ensure their uptake by FAO, in particular for the use of non-traditional data sources in statistical outputs.
- > Development of national quality assurance frameworks for key statistical domains and outputs.
- > Implementation of the accountability framework for FAO statistical activities.
- > Regular user consultations on FAO main databases to assess and improve the relevance and quality of data and statistics.

Capacity development

- > Training and technical support to FAO statistical units to improve the quality of their statistical/data processes and products and foster a strong data quality culture within the Organization.
- > Tools, training and technical support to Members on assessing the quality of selected national food and agriculture statistics, and if needed establish data improvement plans (upon availability of funds).



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Data quality

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