



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Planning statistics in the 2020–2021 biennium

Guidance for the IDWG on Statistics Technical Task Force

Introduction

These guidelines have been drafted in collaboration with OSP and they are part of the corporate guidance on work planning for the PWB 2020–2021. They are intended to promote consistency and coherence and to support the planning process of statistical activities. The guidelines also introduce some key changes for statistics in the new biennium.

Two-pronged approach to planning statistical activities

As in previous years, statistical results, which have a clear thematic link, should be planned under the five strategic objectives, whereas cross-cutting outputs (contributing to one or more of the SOs) should be planned under Outcome 6.02.

Planning statistical activities under the strategic objectives

Statistical activities, which are strongly and visibly associated with the delivery of specific SO outcomes and, which also contribute to the measurement of SO indicators, should continue to be included within the five SOs.

For example, it would be expected that results related to these types of statistical activities under the SOs would continue to be seen¹:

SO	Type of statistical activities	Main output indicators
Strategic Objective 1	Food security and nutrition statistics and indicators, food consumption, etc.	10301, 10302, 10401
Strategic Objective 2	Production data, environment statistics, statistics related to sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry etc.	20401, 20402
Strategic Objective 3	Social statistics, SDG-related work on 5.a.2 etc.	30401, 30402, 30103
Strategic Objective 4	Economic statistics, trade statistics, commodities, FLW etc.	40401, 40402
Strategic Objective 5	Damages & losses from disasters etc.	50101

Where possible, these results and milestones should be located under the specific outputs described in the table above, which refer to data/statistics/evidence-based decision making etc. This should be discussed with SP teams, who will provide guidance about the most appropriate location for statistical activities under their respective SO. Technical divisions are also encouraged to seek clarity from SP teams on available resources for delivering statistical priority programmes.

¹ This is not an exhaustive list.

Planning statistical activities under Outcome 6.02

The purpose of Objective 6 is to ensure that FAO has the necessary technical capacity to achieve the expected results set out in the strategic framework. O6.02 encompasses statistical cross-cutting activities, which contribute to several, or all, of the strategic objectives. O6.02 is planned and agreed upon with the IDWG on Statistics and a revised proposal of O6.02 results and milestones for 2020-21 has been drafted by the OCS team and circulated for review. This is currently done offline and not included in PIRES. For any questions relating to planning under O6.02, please contact: QAPS-Support@fao.org

The outcome is organized around four outputs:

- OUTPUT 6.2.1: Methods and standards for the collection, processing, dissemination, and use of food and agriculture statistics,
- OUTPUT 6.2.2: Strengthened capacity of national agricultural statistics systems
- OUTPUT 6.2.3 Dissemination of high quality and internationally comparable food and agriculture statistics,
- OUTPUT 6.2.4: Strengthened FAO statistics governance and coordination (including, corporate monitoring and evaluation).

Below are some examples of the type of activity that should be included under O6.02:

- the review and improvement of international statistical classifications for food and agriculture statistics (including Fisheries, Forestry and Natural Resources);
- technical assistance on agricultural censuses (using WCA 2020 standards);
- the dissemination of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry statistics and Natural Resources statistics (including AQUASTAT, DAD-IS, FAOSTAT, FISHSTAT etc.),
- the dissemination of the Global and Regional Statistical Pocketbooks, the Fisheries Statistical Yearbook, the Forestry Statistical Yearbook etc.
- the coordination of FAO corporate engagement in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;
- provision of guidance to countries on the implementation of the Corporate Outcome Assessment (COA), finalization of data collection, analysis and publication of the results (FAO Dashboards, MTP, PIR and Regional Conferences).

Ring-fenced funding

As in the current biennium, ring-fenced resources will be allocated to the Chief Statistician to fund corporate technical activities relating to statistics in both the strategic objectives and O6.02.

These funds will cover the staff time distribution of representatives of the IDWG on Statistics and limited non-staff resources will also be made available to support the statistical programme of work across the Organization (both under the SOs and O6.02). This will include non-staff resources to the Regional Offices for outputs such as the Statistical Yearbooks and the Regional Commissions on Statistics.

SLAs will be drafted between OCS and the implementing divisions (offline) and quarterly reporting will be undertaken to monitor the use of resources, as well as to keep track of

progress, achievements and any issues with delivery. O6.02 monitoring in PIREs is undertaken through two KPIs.

Decentralized Offices

Decentralized offices are encouraged to take the same approach to planning statistical activities: key cross-cutting activities should be included in the offline document summarising the results and milestones for O6.02 (e.g. regional yearbooks, regional commissions on statistics etc.), whilst activities thematically linked to the delivery of the Strategic Objectives should, where possible, be planned under the data specific outputs mentioned above.

Technical Support Requests

In order to assist countries, regions and HQ divisions in deciding who to ask for technical support on statistics, a directory of statistical services at FAO is being developed, which will be circulated to SPLs, regional, sub-regional and country offices, to support the planning process. This should streamline the process and ensure that the correct division receives the request for technical assistance.

New tagging system

One innovation for statistics in the new biennium is the introduction of a simple tagging system in Work Planning Results mode in PIREs, which should be used to indicate that the result inserted in the system refers to a statistical activity.

This new function will:

- improve the overall mapping, coordination and monitoring of statistical activities across the Strategic Framework;
- support the OCS team to ensure broader coverage in the Quality Assessment & Planning Survey (QAPS) exercise, by providing a baseline of ongoing results as well as a way of identifying any missing items that should be captured through the survey. This information will also be used to develop the FAO Statistical Programme of Work.

Guidelines

Simple guidelines on tagging statistical activities in PIREs are provided below. The guidelines explain:

1) How to decide if the activity should be tagged:

In order to decide whether or not your activity is statistical, the following definition should be applied:

'All activities resulting in the production of numerical data, from collection to dissemination, including processing and statistical analysis², in domains that cover agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food and natural resources (including geo-referenced data for statistical purposes)' . This includes activities on related metadata, standards, methodologies, technical assistance and capacity development. Forecasted data should also be considered of a statistical nature if based on a statistical methodology.

² Statistical analysis refers specifically to statistical reports and does not include analytical and policy reports.

The statistical components of broader capacity development projects, which are mainly implementing non-statistical activities, like monitoring and policy analysis, should also be tagged.

In addition, all of the results reported by divisions and regional offices in the 2018-19 QAPS exercise, and included in the [Statistical Programme of Work](#) should be tagged in PIREs. The list also includes some additional results that have recently been identified and that should be included in the new round of planning and reporting. This document can be used as reference point when deciding whether or not to tag your results.

2) How to tag results in PIREs

The tagging function can be accessed through the 2020-21 work planning module. It is a simple button at the bottom of the page, where divisions/decentralized offices can indicate that their result has a statistical component.

The screenshot displays two tables in a software interface. The top table, titled 'Milestones', has columns for 'ID' and 'Description'. It contains two rows with IDs 11389 and 11390, both with the description 'Material prepared and workshop organized'. The bottom table, titled 'Technical Support Requests', has columns for 'ID', 'Supp. Unit', 'Requested', 'Proposed', 'Due', and 'Mileston'. Below the tables, a red-bordered box highlights a question: 'Does this result have a statistical component?' with 'Yes' and 'No' buttons.

Who to contact for help

The OCS QAPS team can provide guidance on deciding whether or not an activity should be tagged. Please send an email to QAPS-Support@fao.org