



**Defining, estimating and
disseminating statistics on
illicit financial flows in Africa**

UN Development Account Project

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Project objectives

Strengthen the statistical capacity of countries in Africa to monitor IFFs through an agreed-upon methodology that produces robust, consistent and comparable estimators

- Develop guidelines and capacity building materials for the estimation of IFFs (SDG 16.4.1)
- Help build data infrastructure for the national monitoring of the 2030 Agenda
- Enhance the capacity to use data to monitor IFFs in support of national policy



Project components

- Methodological work – review research, harmonize concepts and develop common methodology to measure IFFs
- Capacity building – prepare conceptual and methodological guidelines, training materials and provide workshops
- Pilots – test proposed methodology, learn and distill knowledge into publications and training materials
- Dissemination – raise awareness by preparing reports and presenting at conferences and events



Steps taken to prepare for country work

- July 2017: UN General Assembly adopted the SDG indicator framework / UNCTAD and UNODC as custodians of SDG 16.4.1
- 2017-2018: IFF expert consultations and a stock take of IFF research
- January 2019: Task Force on the Statistical Measurement of IFFs launched by UNECA, UNCTAD and UNODC
- October 2019: [SDG metadata](#) on concepts and methods was approved by IAEG-SDGs and UN Statistical Commission
- October 2020: [Conceptual Framework](#) for the Statistical Measurement of IFFs
- Methodological Guidelines (being finalised)



Moving to country activities

- Launch pilots in a continental workshop on statistical methodologies to measure IFFs in Africa – today!
- Set criteria to identify up to 9 interested pilot countries in Africa
- Make available global guidelines, instructions and training material
- Provide continuous technical support and a help desk for the duration pilot testing in countries
- Allocate funds to cover limited direct costs or assign an expert to guide and coordinate work

Planned steps of country pilots

Pilot activities in 2021:

- IFF assessment
- Mapping of agencies
- Data availability
- Method selection for pilots
- Results and lessons learned
- Action plans

Future:

- Input to a Global Statistical Framework to Measure IFFs
-> to be sent to the UN Statistical Commission
- Increased capacity to report on IFFs for the 2030 Agenda

