Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Is the NRP really free? Or are there hidden fees for "enhancements?"*
    The NRP is absolutely free, and there are no hidden fees. The code is available for anyone and everyone to copy and adapt for her/his own use. Any enhancements that are made can be added into the code on the website for all to use freely. There are some organizations that offer to add more bells and whistles for a fee, but what we have generated is free and will continue to be so.

2. *Who owns the NRP?*
    Because the NRP is open source, the US Government does not own it. Again, the code is freely available for all to make and edit a local copy. GitHub allows multiple providers to simultaneously track changes by user through secure access.

3. *Why open source and why free?*
    The way we see it, we are all on the same team. The USG is interested in working with other countries for all of us to reduce reporting burdens, promote interoperability and ease report preparation. We also look forward to collaboration across national statistical offices as countries customize their own NRP. To this end, we have begun a collaboration with the UK to develop future enhancements to the NRP. The UK is currently working on improved graphing features for indicator disaggregations using the same software that can be "plugged in" to the US site. They are also developing guidance on "forking" (copying) the site for other countries to use, available at https://github.com/datasciencecampus/sdg-indicators/wiki. This is a nice addition to our data provider training guide and webinar now available on our staging site. It's a great way to collaborate across countries.

4. *What kind of staff and workload are necessary to launch and maintain an NRP?*
    There are three tasks with launching and managing an NRP: 1) building the platform, 2) inputting statistics and metadata into the platform, and 3) managing updates to the functionality and data in the platform.

    To build the platform (fork and customize), you will need one full time web developer familiar with GitHub and Ruby for at least one week. If the developer is new to these programs, then double the time needed.

    To input the statistics and metadata into the platform, you will need at least one statistician to identify available data and key in the statistics and national metadata. This can be done on a flow basis, and the work load will vary based on the statistics available. In the US, we trained 35 data providers at different statistical agencies. Each keyed in their agencies' statistics and metadata. If the data had already been determined, it probably took them an hour per indicator or less.

    To maintain the platform, you will need a manager to coordinate staff and schedules. The manager should have authority to report official statistics on behalf of the country. This is an ongoing task that takes about a 1/4 full time senior statistician, depending on the rate of updates.

In the US, we have a platform architect (master web developer), a web developer, a senior statistician, a data scientist and training coordinator, and a statistician. The full team reports to the senior statistician. Overall, on average, management and updates require very minimal time of full time staff.

5. ***Can the NRP feature more than one source of data for a given indicator (i.e., data from a DHS survey and a MICS survey)?***
The US version we built assumes there is a single data source per indicator. We recommend identifying which source is the best source for that indicator beforehand. However, in cases where more than one data source will be used, it is possible to use the column labels (variable labels) to denote different data sources. It will be very important to note these different data sources on the indicator's national metadata page. The UK version of the NRP can store metadata for multiple data sources.

6. ***Can dashboards and other data visualizations be added?***
Yes, a dashboard describing reporting status has been added recently to the US NRP. This dashboard automatically updates the reporting status of indicators using provided metadata. The NRP code has been designed to easily incorporate other data visualizations as they become available. For example, the UK is developing enhanced graphics for its NRP.

7. ***Can the NRP be adapted to disaggregate by sub-national units?***
Yes. Columns can be added to provide subnational statistics. Graphs can be adjusted to display subnational statistics. We are planning to incorporate this feature in the future.

8. ***Is the NRP available in languages other than English?***
It is possible to translate our National Reporting Platform into other languages. In the US, we have translated the NRP into Spanish, which is accessible from a toggle button on the platform. We are planning to translate the platform into French as well. A guide on translating the platform is forthcoming.

9. ***Is the NRP accessible to persons with special needs?***
Yes, we have designed the NRP to be compliant with US standards for persons with disabilities.

10. ***What other future enhancements to the NRP can we expect to see?***
A few of our planned enhancements are listed below. When complete, the code can be copied to other countries' NRPs:
- more clearly indicate proxy indicators
- graphs and tables for disaggregated data (with the UK)
- provide a data dictionary
- communication tool to match data holders with NSOs

11. ***Can I fork the UK NRP, too? Which version of the NRP should I fork?***
Yes, you can fork the UK version of the NRP or the US version. In fact, as other countries have their own versions of this open source NRP, you can fork their versions, too.

Deciding which version of the NRP to fork depends on your country needs. The US and UK are exploring incorporating some features that the other country has developed, but currently each version of the NRP has a few unique features. The table below describes some of them. If you have questions, please contact the NRP technical lead provided on each site.

Version	US NRP	UK NRP
Website	https://sdg.data.gov	https://datasciencecampus.github.io/sdg-indicators
Data format	Wide	Long ('tidy' format)
Subnational statistics	Planned	Yes (by constituent county (England, Wales, etc.)
Visualizations		
Univariate graphs	Yes	Yes
Graphs for disaggregations	Planned	Yes
Reporting status		
Overall	Yes	Planned
By goal	Yes	Planned
By indicator	Yes	Planned
Coding		
NRP code and data are separate?	No (must remove data from platform once cloned)	No
SDMX compliant	Yes	Yes
Communication		
Languages	English; Spanish	English

11. Are there additional resources to train my team?
- *GitHub Introduction:* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3jLJU7DT5E
- *Jekyll Resources*: https://jekyllrb.com/
- *US Training materials:* https://gsa.github.io/sdg-indicators/training/ or https://sdg.data.gov
- *UK Training Materials:* https://github.com/datasciencecampus/sdg-indicators/wiki