

# STDM Quick Start Guide

To create a new project from scratch and generate a certificate from it, follow the following steps.

1. Modify or keep the default directory settings of STDM. These are folders that will be used to store [supporting documents](#), [document templates](#) and [generated documents](#).
2. Create a [new profile](#) or customize any default STDM profiles that are similar to your context. We have informal settlement, local government, and rural agriculture profiles. You can [copy and customize](#) one of them.
3. [Create](#) or [edit](#) an entity. If you are customizing a profile, you can [delete](#) unneeded entities.
4. [Create](#) or [edit](#) columns. If you are customizing a profile, you can [delete](#) unneeded columns.
5. [Create](#) or [edit](#) lookups. If you are customizing a profile, you can [delete](#) unneeded lookup entities.
6. For each lookup entities you have customized or created, you can [create](#) or [edit](#) their lookup values. If customizing a profile, you can [delete](#) unneeded lookup values.
7. [Define](#) a [Social Tenure Relationship](#) by [selecting Party and Spatial Unit entities](#). You can select more than one entity to be a Party entity if you are using STDM 1.5. This is useful if you have party entities that are different in nature such as institutions and private individuals. You can [allow or disallow more than one party record to be linked to a spatial unit](#).
8. [Save your profile to the database](#). If you are not done, you can [save your work as draft](#) so that you can continue any time in the future with the ability of full customization. If you save your profile to the database, you can delete and create items but you cannot edit items and re-define a social tenure relationship.
9. Add at least a party and non-spatial data by [importing into STDM](#) or using the [STDM Form](#).
10. Add a Spatial Unit record by [digitizing using a raster data](#) such as satellite image or by [importing a spatial data](#) such as [shapefile](#).
11. Link the Party (owner) and Spatial Unit (land/parcel) Entities using [the Social Tenure Relationship editor](#).
12. [Design a data driven template](#) for the certificate. You need to go through the sub-topics. It is important to specify a correct [data source](#) that will be used as a data source of your template. It is recommended to use a view with the following format:  
[spatial\_unit\_entity]\_vw\_social\_tenure\_relationship.
13. Publish or test your designed certificate template using the [Documents Generator](#). If you need to make changes to the template, you can re-open the template and modify it. At this stage, make sure you save and close the Document Designer before generating a document out of it.