



Regional: Strengthening Digital Information of the National Statistical Data Systems

Project Name	Strengthening Digital Information of the National Statistical Data Systems	
Project Number	54350-001	
Country	Regional	
Project Status	Proposed	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA: Strengthening Digital Information of the National Statistical Data Systems	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 750,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development	
Sector / Subsector	Information and communication technology - ICT strategy and policy, and capacity development Public sector management - Public administration	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements	
Description	<p>This knowledge and support technical assistance (KSTA) has been conceptualized by the Statistics and Data Innovation Unit (EROD-SDI) of the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD) to enhance the capacity of the national statistical data systems (NSDatS) of select developing member countries (DMCs) in Asia and the Pacific to produce high quality statistical information to illuminate critical socioeconomic phenomena, as well as shocks with socioeconomic consequences such as natural disasters (e.g. earthquake, typhoon, etc.), global pandemic [e.g. coronavirus disease (COVID-19)], etc.; and facilitate policy using modern technology, innovative data, advanced methods, and best practices.</p> <p>The TA, which directly supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through technological and technical innovations is in line with the framework of Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) Strategy 2030, wherein both DMCs and the ADB have pledged support to the SDGs and the related Financing for Development Agenda. It supports ADB Strategy 2030's operational plan (OP6) strengthen governance through enhancing the capacity of the statistical systems to produce information needed for rigorous evidence-based policy making and program monitoring. Further, the statistics to be produced in the participating DMCs will enable the respective governments and the ADB to track the progress towards poverty alleviation (OP1: Addressing Remaining Poverty and Reducing Inequalities) and country and sector specific participation in global and regional value chains (OP7: Fostering Regional Cooperation and Integration). This KSTA is part of the approved workplan of ERCD.</p> <p>The proposed KSTA will also enable the ADB to expand its socioeconomic databases by the inclusion of critical statistics relevant to the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the region, including fragile and conflict-affected situations and small island developing states. These databases can be integrated NSDatS to satisfy the demands of policy makers and other users who rely on comparable data across locations and time. Further, institution of databases and technological and technical innovations through governance and statistical capacity building will not only assist in the development of the NSDatS but also the economic development plans of the DMCs.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Data are a prerequisite for delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that no one is left behind. Producing more data is not enough, there is a need for data to be transformed and analyzed to be useful for policy making, monitoring, and accountability. In a highly globalized and increasingly digitalized world; relevant, accurate, timely, cross-cutting, and readily accessible and usable statistical information based on both conventional as well as innovative data are critical to discern and analyze the local and global socioeconomic issues. The use of modern technology, cutting-edge methods, and innovative data in statistics can significantly improve the quality, accessibility, and usability of critical information needed to study current and emerging phenomena, formulate policy, and track the progress towards development goals, especially SDGs which ADB recommends using to guide recovery from COVID-19.</p> <p>While the NSDatS in the target DMCs produce a number of key socioeconomic indicators and even compile crucial data relevant to the SDGs, they have not been able to effectively utilize technological and technical innovations in the field of statistics. DMCs continue to compile statistics through relatively outdated, and costly means, adversely affecting the quality and timeliness of data. DMCs need to implement several international statistical standards, definitions, concepts, and frameworks in their NSDatS. Further, traditional data release and dissemination methods severely limit the accessibility and usability of data. These shortcomings seriously hamper the NSDatS' ability to provide critical and timely data needed to shed light on important issues such as response to disasters, current COVID-19 pandemic, etc. The selection of the DMCs will vary and will be broadly based on the following criteria: the DMCs (i) will be conducting a relevant census, survey, administrative, or nontraditional data; (ii) should have qualified pool of staff who can be trained in relevant areas of statistics; and (iii) keen to incorporate modern tools and statistical innovations into their system.</p> <p>This proposed TA will focus on innovative technological and technical approaches to improve the relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, and costs associated with producing key socioeconomic and SDG relevant statistics across two specific domains: (i) data collection, management, and dissemination through innovative mechanisms; and (ii) knowledge sharing on technological, technical, and data innovations in statistics. By building the DMCs' capacity in the domains outlined in paragraph 6, the proposed TA will facilitate the modernization of the respective NSDatS through the institutionalization of the use of innovative technologies, methods, and data to meet the increasing data requirements of the stakeholders. Further, by integrating international standards, and modern means for data production and exchange in the NSDatS, the proposed TA will facilitate comparative studies across space and time.</p>	
Impact	DMCs capacity to produce information needed for rigorous evidence-based policy making and program monitoring particularly under the SDGs enhanced.	
Outcome	The capacity of DMCs' NSDatS in producing high quality, high frequency, and highly granular statistics on selected socioeconomic indicators strengthened.	
Outputs	Data collection, management, and dissemination through innovative technology Knowledge sharing on technological, technical and data innovations in statistics	
Geographical Location	Regional	

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects	
Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	
During Project Implementation	

Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	Under the TA, the following experts will be engaged: (i) International Consultant to develop a customized software application to digitize CAPI/CATI/CAWI (ii) International Consultant for SDMX (iii) Economists or Statisticians (iv) Research Assistants
Procurement	The TA requires both micro and macro data. The datasets will be procured from DMC agencies as well as other research institutions. Equipment such as laptop computers and software may also be procured for the TA where needed. Procurement of data, equipment, and software will be in accordance with ADB's Procurement Guidelines (2017, as amended from time to time). For the equipment, a certificate of equipment turnover or disposal will be submitted at the end of the TA implementation.

Responsible ADB Officer	Mariasingham, Mahinthan Joseph
Responsible ADB Department	Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department
Responsible ADB Division	EROD-SDI
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	29 Oct 2020
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	03 Nov 2020

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/54350-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54350-001
Date Generated	05 November 2020

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