

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
APPRAISAL STAGE**

Report No.: PIDA36620

Project Name	West Africa Survey Harmonization Project (P153702)
Region	AFRICA
Country	Africa
Sector(s)	Public administration- Information and communications (55%), General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (20%), General education sector (10%), Health (10%), General energy sector (5%)
Theme(s)	Economic statistics, modeling and forecasting (100%)
Lending Instrument	Investment Project Financing
Project ID	P153702
Borrower(s)	West African Economic and Monetary Union
Implementing Agency	West African Economic and Monetary Union
Environmental Category	C-Not Required
Date PID Prepared/Updated	11-Jan-2016
Date PID Approved/Disclosed	21-Jan-2016
Estimated Date of Appraisal Completion	22-Jan-2016
Estimated Date of Board Approval	29-Mar-2016
Appraisal Review Decision (from Decision Note)	Team has been authorized for appraisal and negotiations

I. Project Context

Country Context

The eight member states of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) are addressing some of the most pressing and intractable development challenges. The WAEMU is a regional organization established in 1994 to deepen economic integration in West Africa. Its member states are Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. All WAEMU nations except Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire (which are lower middle income countries) belong to the group of low income economies. Per capita GDP varies from \$ 415 (current US\$) in Niger to four times as much (\$ 1,529) in Côte d'Ivoire. Three members (Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger) are located in the Sahel; four countries are classified as fragile (Côte d'Ivoire; Guinea-Bissau; Mali and Togo); two were affected by a conflict or coup d'état in the past three years (Mali; Burkina Faso), there is continued insecurity in Mali and all face serious challenges reducing poverty. With a total population in 2014 of 106 million, 43 million live below the extreme poverty line. Not only are levels of poverty high on average, within countries there are large variations. The coastal WAEMU members (Benin, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal) are affected by patterns of development that are very unequal, with growth occurring at

the coast and with pockets of deep poverty away from the sea; the Sahelian countries face their own diversity with large sub-populations that are nomadic or semi-nomadic and hard to reach for public service delivery.

Reducing poverty in a setting with so many challenges requires informed policy making; limited budgets make it even more critical that the correct policies are selected and that their implementation is effectively monitored. Reliable statistics are instrumental to this. They describe the reality of people's everyday lives and tell where the poor are, why they are poor and what their lives are like. They highlight where resources are most needed, and provide the means to track progress and assess the impact of different policies. Statistics are essential to manage the effective delivery of basic services: how else to know where to build the next school or whether girls are as successful at school as boys? Good statistics improve the transparency and accountability of policy making, both of which are essential for good governance, by enabling electorates to judge the success of government policies and to hold their government to account for those policies

The importance of statistics –as well as the need to be efficient and cost-effective when it comes to collecting data, is recognized in the region and by the WAEMU Commission. All WAEMU members subscribe to the GDDS and have prepared National Statistical Development Strategies that are being implemented. At the regional level, statistical harmonization efforts are coordinated by the WAEMU Commission. To facilitate regional economic integration work has been ongoing to make GDP comparable, to harmonize price indices, to unify the reporting of financial and budgetary statistics and to improve social statistics. These efforts are paying off. Not only is statistical capacity in the zone higher than in sub-Saharan Africa on average, since 2010 there has been a notable improvement in the statistical capacity indicators of most WAEMU member countries.

Despite significant efforts to improve statistical capacity, many areas of statistics remain weak, including living conditions surveys. Well-designed surveys are critical to any statistical system. As national and regional economic policies and complex interactions among various sectors of the economy make it imperative to build up macroeconomic planning models, living conditions surveys provide much of the statistical information needed (consumption; labor supply; non-agricultural household enterprises; input parameters for agricultural production). For the monitoring of inflation, information is needed on the composition of consumption, information that is collected by living conditions surveys. Living conditions surveys are also critical in offering social statistics: statistics on education; health indicators; population characteristics; sanitation and water supply indicators; and poverty statistics all come from well-designed living conditions surveys.

The Regional Statistical Program (PSR 2015 – 2020) identifies social statistics and information on household living conditions and sources of income as one of the two areas in which statistical information in the WAEMU region needs to be improved. The program was adopted by the WAEMU member states in July 2015.

Sectoral and institutional Context

Founded in 1994, the eight WAEMU countries share a common currency, the West African CFA Franc, monetary policies and French as official language, except for Guinea Bissau which is a Portuguese speaking country. The objective of the Union is to promote regional economic integration and particularly greater economic competitiveness; the convergence of macro-economic

policies and indicators; the creation of a common market; the coordination of sectoral policies and the harmonization of fiscal policies. Amongst its achievements, the Commission has successfully implemented macro-economic convergence criteria and an effective surveillance mechanism. It has adopted a customs union with a common external tariff and has combined indirect taxation regulations, in addition to initiating regional structural and sectoral policies.

To strengthen its statistical agenda, the WAEMU Commission has created, in 2013, a Regional Statistical Committee. This Committee oversees the exchange of statistical information across its member states. The Committee is facilitated by a Statistics Unit housed at the WAEMU headquarters in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Its work program is guided by the Regional Statistical Program (PSR 2015-2020) adopted in July 2015 by the various member states.

Despite numerous country-level efforts by governments and the international community, living conditions surveys are not implemented regularly; nor are they comparable over time or across countries. Moreover, many of the latest developments in survey design (modular, multi topic questionnaires) and implementation (use of CAPI and GPS) are not being implemented systematically. For instance the typical living conditions survey in the WAEMU member states collect welfare correlates (consumption, health, education) but collect limited information explaining how income is generated (labor income; self-employment in non-agricultural sectors; agriculture). When consumption information is collected, it is often not comparable over time, because consumption questions are asked in a different manner (dairy versus recall), because the reference period changes, because the survey is implemented at a different time during the year or because questions are asked about different items. In addition, Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) software is not used systematically, limiting opportunities for supervision and increasing non-sampling errors in data collection.

Realizing the critical nature of living conditions surveys to their statistical systems and in view of the mandate and capacity of the WAEMU Commission to coordinate and oversee harmonized approaches to data collection, member states through their National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) have asked the Commission to initiate a program leading to the modernization of living conditions surveys. The WAEMU Commission subsequently requested the World Bank (as the international guardian of living conditions surveys) to support an initiative to improve the approach to living conditions surveys. A coordinated regional approach is attractive as it will allow setting a common methodological standard and prescribing a minimum periodicity that needs to be attained. The objectives of this program – reflected in the Regional Statistical Program - are to enhance efficiency, comparability (over time and across countries) and regularity of living conditions surveys, as well as to enhance timeliness and data access while collecting data that are critical to monitoring poverty and its key determinants (education, agriculture, the informal economy; labor supply; household consumption).

Improved welfare data will be used to facilitate regional economic integration; to monitor key social indicators; to expand the coverage of the CPI to rural areas; to update the supply and use tables that underlie national accounts and to collect high quality, comparable, data on the informal sector and agriculture. The project will introduce the latest standards in survey methodology: modular approaches that allow for flexibility; questions that allow for gender disaggregation; standardization that ensures comparability; the preparation of sample frames to enable high frequency follow-up data collection using mobile phones. The project will also introduce the latest technologies for data capture including in-field data entry using CAPI; the use of global positioning

systems and real-time consistency checks. Not only will the project modernize the approach to living conditions surveys, it will build capacity in data collection, analysis and dissemination and seek ways to secure long-term funding so as to create a system that will be sustained once the project has been completed.

II. Proposed Development Objectives

The PDO is to support the WAEMU Commission at strengthening the capacity of its member countries to conduct living conditions surveys that meet harmonized, regional standards and to make the collected micro-data publicly accessible.

III. Project Description

Component Name

Component 1. Capacity Building and Survey Harmonization and Modernization through Data Collection and Dissemination

Comments (optional)

The project aims to strengthen regional integration in West Africa by harmonizing living conditions information and by strengthening the ability of national statistical agencies of all WAEMU member states to regularly produce and to publicly disseminate high quality, living conditions information that are comparable over time and across countries. To this end, the INSEs in the WAEMU member states will need to regularly generate and make publicly available, high quality welfare data that can be used for regional and national planning purposes. To achieve this the project invests in collecting harmonized data and capacity building. Data collection will be supported by funding two surveys in each WAEMU member state. The precise timing depends on country specific circumstances (agricultural ca

Component Name

Component 2. Quality Control and Coordination

Comments (optional)

Under this component the various aspects pertaining to quality control and regional coordination fall. This includes offering technical assistance to WAEMU, including for the preparation of a legal text which will mandate a harmonized approach across the member states, as well as technical assistance to coordinate donor support (possibly through a pooled fund).

IV. Financing (*in USD Million*)

Total Project Cost:	40.50	Total Bank Financing:	40.50
Financing Gap:	0.00		
For Loans/Credits/Others			Amount
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			0.00
IDA Grant			40.50
Total			40.50

V. Implementation

The WAEMU Commission is the main implementing agent, which in accordance with the Operations Manual, will facilitate the implementation of capacity building and finance survey activities in the eight WAEMU member states. Project coordination will be integrated within the WAEMU Commission and managed out of the Centre Statistique in which a Project Implementation

Unit (PIU) will be housed tasked with day-to-day project management. The PIU which will be led by a staff appointed by the WAEMU Commission and will comprise a survey statistician, a data analyst, a CAPI/IT/data quality expert, a FM/procurement specialist, and support staff.

External financial and quality audits will be undertaken by firms or agencies acceptable to the World Bank.

The NSIs will enter into service contracts with the WAEMU Commission to implement the various living conditions surveys. NSI's deliver cleaned, anonymized data sets and statistical abstracts to the project coordinator who, upon verification of whether the set standards have been met endorses the final payment and publishes the micro data and statistical abstract on the WAEMU website. NSIs are encouraged to publicly disseminate the survey's results and to make the data and statistical abstract publicly available through their own websites.

Selected training, technical assistance and survey activities may be contracted out to private-sector or public-sector actors (e.g. other countries' National Statistical Institutes). Technical assistance will be provided to support project implementation, since WAEMU has limited experience with large survey projects.

A Project Advisory Committee (PAC) comprising of the Director Generals of the eight NSIs, donor representatives and AFRISTAT offers advice to the project coordinator and facilitates project monitoring and evaluating progress. The PAC is headed by the chair of the "Comité Régional de la Statistique" established 22 March 2013 to offer a context for the exchange of statistical information within the WAEMU. The project coordinator is the secretary to the PAC. The PAC (i) advises on annual objectives in terms of data collection, analysis and dissemination and review and (ii) recommends the associated work plans and budgets to the WAEMU Commission. The PAC (iii) reviews progress against the project's objectives and discuss the findings of the various (independent) data quality assessments. Informed by this, the PAC (iv) makes recommendations to the project coordinator and the respective NSI representatives on the removal of any obstacles and (v) identifies potential topics for the regional capacity building program. Finally, the PAC (vi) reviews (ex post) whether the published anonymized data sets and statistical abstract meet the agreed standards.

Technical Committees will be created on an ad-hoc basis. Technical Committees operate under the auspices of the Project Advisory Committee and occupy themselves with the methodological aspects of survey design, implementation, analysis and dissemination. Depending on the nature of the task – questionnaire design, sampling methodology, CAPI programming, the composition of the Technical Committee will vary. Typically those invited to a particular regional capacity building workshop are –de facto, members of the Technical Committee.

VI. Safeguard Policies (including public consultation)

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x
Pest Management OP 4.09		x
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x

Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x

Comments (optional)

VII. Contact point

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