

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC19844

Project Name	Benin Statistical Capacity Building
Region	AFRICA
Country	Benin
Sector(s)	General public administration sector (40%), Information technology (30%), Vocational training (30%)
Theme(s)	Analysis of economic growth (20%), Economic statistics, modeling and forecasting (40%), Other economic management (10%), Other public sector governance (10%), Managing for development results (20%)
Lending Instrument	Lending Instrument
Project ID	P154314
Borrower Name	Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique (INSAE)
Implementing Agency	Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique
Environment Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	17-Mar-2015
Estimated Date of Approval	31-May-2015
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Benin is a small sub-Saharan African democracy of ten million people. National legislative and presidential elections are scheduled for 2015 and 2016, respectively. The country's third round of municipal elections, which was expected to be held in March 2013, has been postponed to 2015.

Benin has made substantial progress over the past decade in reinforcing macroeconomic stability, which has laid the foundation for modest but accelerating growth. After averaging less than 3.7 percent from 2007-2011, GDP growth rose to 5.4 percent in 2012 and reached 5.6 percent in 2013. Growth is expected to remain strong at 5.5 percent in 2014, and 5.0 percent forecast in 2015.

Benin's enhanced growth performance has been supported by ongoing efficiency improvements at the Port of Cotonou, a vital regional trade hub, which have boosted traffic and cut marginal shipping costs. These developments have been complemented by stronger cotton and non-cotton agricultural production, which have been bolstered by favorable weather conditions and relatively effective management of recent cotton campaigns.

Unfortunately, recent economic growth has been insufficient to meaningfully reduce poverty due to a combination of distributional inequality and a rapidly expanding population. While Benin's poorest households have experienced marginal welfare improvements, including reductions in both

the depth and severity of extreme poverty, recent growth has had little impact on poverty rates.

The national poverty headcount rate fell only slightly from 37.5 percent in 2006 to 36.2 percent in 2011, while poverty measured by the international standard of US\$1.25 per day remains pervasive at 50.9 percent. Asset-based poverty, by contrast, has experienced a protracted decline. Poverty is most prevalent in rural areas, and while households headed by women tend to be less poor than those headed by men, they also appear more vulnerable to falling into poverty.

The weak link between macroeconomic growth and poverty reduction arises largely from the very modest growth of per capita income. In addition, the highly informal nature of the economy, low and declining productivity, particularly in agriculture, and a lack of economic diversification all contribute to the persistence of poverty in Benin.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Benin has completed a series of integrated household survey on living standards (EMICoV), which is a multi-purpose survey eighteen thousands households that allowed an up-date of poverty figures since 2006. A new survey is under preparation, and field work started in February 2015. Benin also completed its 4th General Population and Housing Census in May 2013. According to preliminary results, the population is estimated at 10 million. The Bank, through the PRSC 8, provided an additional \$6 million to the National Statistical Office (NSO) for census related expenses. Benin has also completed and approved its second generation National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS II).

A new Statistics Act, the final version of which has benefited from the expertise of the Bank, PARIS 21 and AFRISTAT, was sent to the Supreme Court for advice after its adoption in February 2013 by the National Statistical Council. Following Supreme Court review and observations it will be sent to the National Assembly for passage.

The Benin Trust for Statistical Capacity Building (Benin TFSCB) will support the NSO in completing activities related to the analysis of these structural surveys, and to undertake key priority activities of the NSDS which require funding in support of modernization of the National statistics system.

With regard to data access, progress is being made. INSAE agreed to provide databases of the past censuses (1979, 1992 and 2002) free of charge to researchers, academics, etc. The Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique (INSAE), the Benin NSO, is now engaged in the NADA initiative, with recent accomplishments including the training of staff and first datasets being archived.

The support of the TFSCB , will also help to accelerate the implementation of data access initiatives through the development of more open statistical culture in Benin.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The World Bank recognizes the importance of frequent and reliable data collection and the use of high quality social and economic data in order to put in place effective and coordinated programs and policies to meet, first and most importantly, country needs and second, international obligations. That is why the Bank took an important step recently in creating the Statistics Unit with the vision to significantly improve the availability and use of statistics. There is a twofold challenge for the

development of statistical capacity in Africa. The first one, in the short to medium term, is to prioritize and move forward with key statistical projects. The second aspect, in the medium to long term, is to operationalize and maintain a fully functional regular system that produces and disseminates high quality data and supports evidence-based and effective policy making. Furthermore, countries should use technology to increase support on frequent household surveys as well as establishing a core of set surveys that can feed evidence-based policy.

Benin's CPS pillars derive from the country's Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction (GSPR). The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS-2) is also directly linked to the GSPR, and is its main source of production of indicators.

The activities in the proposed TFSCB project also benefit from close engagement across IFIs (UNICEF, UNDP, EUC, MCA, USAID, AfDB). More particularly, a commitment is expected from the Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact II to sustain the mobile phone surveys activity.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The objectives of the Benin TFSCB are the following:

- (i) support implementation of the new National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS-2);
- (ii) strengthen the socioeconomic modeling and forecast system by updating the Social Accounts Matrix (SAM) and by providing equipment and software to the Macroeconomic Modeling Unit;
- (iii) strengthen the capacity of statistical staff in line ministries to reinforce the quality of data production within the National Statistical System;
- (iv) reinforce the statistical culture in Benin;
- (v) strengthen implementation of modern data collection systems such the CAPI surveys and the mobile phone surveys.

Key Results

The TFSCB will enable the following outputs and outcomes:

- 40-50 statisticians are trained to enhance the functioning of the National Statistical system,
- Staff of the National statistical system received capacity building in modern data analysis, data collection and use of automated software to measure and analyze poverty,
- The quality of production of the NSO is improved in the fields of economics statistics with updated Social Accounts Matrix (SAM) for reliable macroeconomic modeling, and the Macroeconomic Modeling Unit is strengthened with equipment and adapted software,
- The statistical culture is further developed in Benin, from school students to adults through government members, journalists, NGOs, researchers and academics, etc.,
- A detailed Poverty Map is produced as well poverty profiles and notes,
- The mobile phone survey is implemented and reports are produced monthly and publicly disseminated,
- Android tablets are available for CAPI surveys.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

The project activities can be grouped into the following main components: Skills development and training; light data production activity; statistical culture development and dissemination activities and equipment and software purchase.

More particularly, the TFSCB will support the following activities:

- (i) Training activities, including: (a) Training of two statistician cohorts (20 to 25 students for each); and (b) training of staff within the National statistical system. This capacity building will assist them in strengthening their knowledge and skills in innovative fields such as Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (WBCAPI), Poverty measurement and analysis tools (ADePT), and Poverty mapping with PovMap.
- (ii) Strengthening of capacity in the Economic Modeling Unit in order to improve economic statistics production, including an update of the Social Account Matrix.
- (iii) Support to the development of a statistical culture in Benin, through dissemination of statistical products, training of journalists, outreach, and competitions for students.
- (iv) Comprehensive Poverty Mapping using the 2013 population census and 2014/15 Household and DHS surveys.
- (v) Mobile phone surveys using the Listen to Africa methodology to collect data on a sub-sample drawn from the 2014/15 household survey.

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
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	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	0.24332	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount
Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building			0.24332

VI. Contact point

World Bank

Contact: Felicien Donat Edgar Towenan Accrombessy

Title: Economist, Poverty

Tel: 5390+3914 /

Email: faccrombessy@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Name: Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique (INSAE)

Contact: Alexandre Biau

Title: General Manager

Tel: 22916392130

Email: alexandrebiaou@yahoo.com

Implementing Agencies

Name: Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique

Contact: Damien Mededji

Title: Technical Advisor

Tel: 0022995051619

Email: dam_mededji@yahoo.com

VII. For more information contact:

The InfoShop
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 458-4500
Fax: (202) 522-1500
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/infoshop>