



Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 28-Feb-2018 | Report No: PIDC148540



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental Assessment Category	Project Name
P166814		C - Not Required	Support to the Preparation of Egypt's First National Strategy for Development of Statistics
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	Egypt, Arab Republic of	28-Feb-2018	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	Initiation Note Review Decision
Investment Project Financing	Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

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Financing (in USD Million)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	0.00
Total Financing	0.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. Over the last few years, Egypt has been implementing its political transition roadmap to ensure stability and economic growth. A new constitution was adopted in a public referendum in 2013, followed by presidential and parliamentary elections in 2014 and 2015, respectively.



2. The Government of Egypt (GoE) is undertaking a comprehensive and bold economic reform program to address long-standing structural macroeconomic imbalances, address social inclusion priorities and achieve high, sustainable and well-diversified growth. Despite the significant progress to address social and economic issues, certain challenges still persist, notably the high poverty rates (27.8 percent in 2015), high youth unemployment (26.1 percent), striking inflation (core at 30.8 percent), and lack of quality public social services. A set of social protection measures were announced in October 2016 and in mid-2017 to mitigate the impact of the economic reforms on the most disadvantaged population through measures such as: (i) expansion of the new cash transfer programs (Takaful and Karama); (ii) improving the food subsidies system; (iii) extending the provision of school meals in public schools; and (iv) raising the minimum level of pensions.
3. The World Bank is supporting Egypt's economic and social reforms through a number of lending operations and Analytical and Advisory (ASA) activities. The economic reform agenda and the adoption of the national Sustainable Development Strategy, "Egypt 2030," aiming to achieve "sustainable and inclusive growth" has heightened the importance of a fully coordinated statistical system. The World Bank is working with Government of Egypt (GoE) on several fronts to support better data collection and monitoring. One such areas is poverty monitoring where the Bank is building the capacity of staff of Central Agency of Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), the principle statistical agency of the GoE, on welfare and poverty calculation methods aligned with the international best practice standards. Another area of collaboration is support to GoE for the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sectoral and Institutional Context

1. The 2015 National Statistical System Assessment (NSS Assessment) for Egypt[1] noted the extensive use of statistics in policymaking in Egypt. One example is the use of poverty statistics. Poverty monitoring by CAPMAS has shown the persistently high poverty rate in Upper Egypt. Accordingly, the GoE has prioritized public investments in Upper Egypt. Small area estimates of poverty (poverty map) are also being used for geographic targeting of public expenditure and programs.
2. Despite the widespread use of statistics, Egypt does not have a strategic document that guides the collection and dissemination of statistics. Such a strategic approach can ensure that the statistical system is coordinated, well-resourced, and prepared to collect and disseminate the data needed to design, implement, and monitor national development policies and programs. One of the recommendations of the 2015 NSS Assessment was that CAPMAS should coordinate the production of a National Strategy for Development Statistics (NSDS). The NSS Assessment focused on the legislative and regulatory framework for national statistics in Egypt. It also analyzed the institutional and organizational structure and the processes followed in production, management and use of statistics. The NSS Assessment identified several strengths related to functioning of CAPMAS and the funding and planning of key statistical activities. Notable challenges relate to coordination within the national statistical system. The findings of the 2015 NSS Assessment thus provides a good starting point for developing an NSDS. The African Development Bank, one of the partners supporting the NSS Assessment, has been providing technical assistance towards the preparation of the NSDS.



3. The rising needs for statistical information resulting from the country’s development vision “Egypt 2030” and the implementation of the economic reform agenda further reinforce the crucial need for a fully coordinated and strong statistical system responsible for producing statistics that are timely, deep, and respond to emerging statistical needs. Such a system can only be achieved under a comprehensive strategy for statistics in the country, which would allow Egypt to gain from the many benefits of the strategic planning. The GoE and CAPMAS are also committed to bringing the national statistical system closer to international best practice standards. Accordingly, CAPMAS has sought the support of the African Development Bank, PARIS21, UN Economic Commission for Africa and UNESCWA, and the World Bank to initiate the preparation of an NSDS.

[1] Conducted by multi-agency assessment team comprised of PARIS21, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Relationship to CPF

1. The CPF (FY15-19) approved by the Board on December 17, 2015 is built around three areas of engagement: (i) improved governance, (ii) improved opportunities for private sector job creation, and (iii) social inclusion.
2. The support to the preparation of Egypt’s first NSDS is aligned with two pillars of the CPF, notably improved governance and social inclusion, as it will help CAPMAS establish a sound statistical strategy; build the capacity of their staff; improve the quality of data collection and monitoring of national development programs; and enhance the dissemination of statistics to stakeholders and policymakers.

C. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The objective of this activity is to support the national statistical agency in designing the NSDS.

Key Results

Key results from the project will be:

1. Completion and dissemination of NSDS strategy
2. Completion and dissemination of diagnostics of sectoral statistics
3. Staff trained in preparing statistical assessments and strategies



D. Preliminary Description

Activities/Components

1. The project will support CAPMAS in preparing and designing an NSDS with a focus on certain sectors relevant to the economic development of Egypt as outlined in the Egypt 2030. It will identify the challenges and constraints to statistics development through sectorial and national diagnostics.

2. A Concept Note has been prepared that outlines the bottom-up or sectoral approach that will be used to design the Egypt NSDS (available as a good practice note <http://nsdsguidelines.paris21.org/node/725>). Using this approach, a number of sectors will be selected in different waves. In each of these sectors, three things will be done. A high level and intensive advocacy will be undertaken to create awareness about the need for production of good quality statistics and the need for using them to support policy, planning and decision-making processes. Assessments of the state of statistics within sectors will include how the demand is determined (coordination between data producers and users), who produces statistics in the sector and how they are produced, managed and disseminated to users, and how statistics are used in the sector and beyond the sector. Sector Statistics Plan (SSP) will be designed to support further development and use of statistics in the sectors. The Sector Statistics Plans will then be used as building blocks for the design of overall and sector-inclusive NSDS.

3. The NSDS will align with global, national and sectoral development agendas. At the global level the NSDS will align with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and meet the needs for statistics arising from the need to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the national level, the NSDS will align with the Egypt Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) 2030. Finally, the NSDS will be designed to meet the statistical needs of sectoral development agendas.

4. As planned, the bottom-up approach to developing the NSDS is a time consuming and coordination intensive exercise. The concept note outlines activities taking place over 1.5 years.

5. A Supreme Council for NSDS will be established by a Decree from the Cabinet, and will outline the roadmap of the NSDS and monitor the design and progress of NSDS design team and Sector Statistics Committees. The responsibilities of this Council will include:
 - Communication, including at political and highest executive levels, about the NSDS and its processes thereby ensuring political commitment to NSDS
 - review and approval of the NSDS roadmap and design structures
 - determine the nature and schedule of meetings/workshops required during the process
 - adoption of the vision of the national strategy for the development of statistics
 - set benchmarks, review and discuss work in progress
 - propose modalities for feedback to sectors and agree on reporting mechanisms
 - review and consolidate sectoral outcomes, identify gaps and feed these back to sectors;
 - review planned outputs in line with international concepts, frameworks, standards, guidelines and experiences;
 - participate in consultative meetings for integrating data/information from sectors;



- approve Sector Statistics Plans and the overall NSDS

6.. NSDS Design Team comprises of high level officials from CAPMAS, Central Bank of Egypt, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Planning to design and execute the NSDS. The Under Secretary for Economic and Mobilization Studies at CAPMAS is the NSDS coordinator to ensure smooth implementation of the NSDS process. The responsibilities of the NSDS design team will include:

- identify the strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) of the National Statistical Strategy (NSS) in Egypt;
- propose for approval by the Inter-Agency Statistics Committee the vision for the NSDS for Egypt;
- formulate reasonable goals and objectives for attaining the proposed vision and submitting to the President for approval;
- prioritize statistical activities over the lifespan of the NSDS;
- spearhead the design of the NSDS following internationally agreed standards and best practices;
- mobilize and sensitize sectors about the strategic planning process for statistics;
- support sectors in undertaking statistical advocacy; identifying core products and data gaps; and doing quality assessment of existing data in sectors;
- support the integration of statistics from the different sources (censuses, surveys, and administrative sources) into a comprehensive database;
- review and ensure adherence to international standards and initiatives in the production of statistics;
- promote internal technical coordination in the production of statistical information and the building of team spirit;
- provide for the interface between data users and producers to agree on data priorities and timely production and use of relevant statistical products;
- support the review and formatting of sector plans according to agreed standards and identify areas with duplication of effort;
- identify existing capacity gaps in the sectors that call for technical backstopping by CAPMAS.

7. Sector Statistics Committees (SSC) will be set up. The NSDS will be sector-tailored in line with Egypt SDS 2030. Nine SSCs are envisioned to be created and these will cover the following entities: CAPMAS; Central Bank of Egypt; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Planning; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Local Development; Ministry of Environment; and Ministry of Agriculture. Each SSC will assess the statistical need of their sector and identify the gaps. Their responsibilities will include:

- advocate for statistics in the sector (with support from the NSDS design team);
- identify major data needs related to the sector – for informing sectoral policies, national development agenda and achievement of regional and international goals;
- prepare a formal inventory of the different data systems being operated by the different stakeholders in the sector;
- identify major offices in the sector currently collecting or compiling statistics;



- identify data gaps and priorities for addressing them in line with the sectoral policies, national and international goals;
- identify data collected, methodology and procedures used, coverage, availability and access, levels of disaggregation, data quality, frequency of updating and utility;
- work closely with the NSDS design team and consultants as per the work plan to:
 - conduct a stakeholder analysis;
 - identify the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of institutional statistical units/sections in line with those of the NSS;
 - develop vision, mission statements, and core values for statistical provision in sector; and
 - develop Sector Statistics Plans;
- Develop strategic actions: organizational development, human resource development, IT infrastructure development, data improvement and management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and budget development in the sector and any other issues as requested by the Inter-Agency Committee; and
- Present the plan at sectoral level to build consensus and prepare the final report to be submitted to the President of CAPMAS.

8. The NSDS preparation is estimated to cost USD 376,770. The TFSCB funds will cover USD 159,420 with the balance being covered by government or funds from other agencies (mainly African Development Bank).

TFSCB funds will finance four components:

1. Component 1 (US\$ 55,000): Sectoral Assessment. This component will include an initial diagnostic of 9 sectors and will include the preparation of Sectoral Assessments for areas that are critical for the role they play in Vision 2030 and monitoring of SDGs (such as those covered by Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, CAPMAS, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health.)
2. Component 2 (US\$ 60,000): Under this component the preparation and costing of the National Strategy will be conducted. This will be the lead responsibility of the NSDS design team. This component will also cover the publishing of communication materials. This component will also benefit from support by the African Development Bank.
3. Component 3 (US\$ 39,320): This component includes capacity building activities for core NSDS staff (NSDS Design Team and SSC). The component will cover the cost of workshops on: (i) NSDS concept and processes; (ii) effective assessment of statistics for specific sectors; (iii) strategic foundation (vision, mission, core values), and strategic directions (goals, objectives and initiatives); (iv) implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the strategy; and (v) study tour to countries (such as Uganda and Jordan) where sector-inclusive NSDS has been successfully designed to expose the team to firsthand experience on the how NSDS are designed and implemented on the ground.
4. Component 4: Project Implementation Support (US\$ 5,100). The project will finance the cost of technical assistance, external financial audits, project management, and communication.

**SAFEGUARDS****E. 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	

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