

## TC Document

### I. Basic Information for TC

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL
▪ TC Name:	Consolidating advances on the statistical use of administrative records: lessons learned and best practices
▪ TC Number:	RG-T4438
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Mejia-Guerra, Jose Antonio (IFD/ICS) Team Leader; Muenta Kunigami, Arturo (IFD/ICS) Alternate Team Leader; Centeno Lappas, Monica Clara Angelica (LEG/SGO); Hyekyung Kim (IFD/ICS); Maximiliano Marichal (IFD/ICS); Martinez, Ynty Koyllor (IFD/ICS); Diaz Gill Virginia Maria (LEG/SGO)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Operation Supported by the TC:	.
▪ Date of TC Abstract authorization:	26 Jan 2024.
▪ Beneficiary:	National statistical offices of Argentina, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay.
▪ Executing Agency and contact name:	Inter-American Development Bank
▪ Donors providing funding:	Public Capacity Building Korea Fund for Economic Development(KPC)
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	US\$500,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	US\$0
▪ Disbursement period (which includes Execution period):	36 months
▪ Required start date:	June, 2024
▪ Types of consultants:	Individual, Firm
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/ICS-Innovation in Citizen Services Division
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD/ICS-Innovation in Citizen Services Division
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2024-2030:	Afro-descendants; Diversity; Gender equality; Indigenous People; Institutional capacity and rule of law; LGBTQ+; Persons with Disabilities; Social inclusion and equality

### II. Objectives and Justification

2.1 **Objectives.** The general objective of the Technical Cooperation (TC) is to provide knowledge and technical assistance to national statistical offices (NSOs) across Latin America and the Caribbean (ALC) to foster best practices on the statistical use of administrative records.

2.2 The specific objectives are: (i) to provide tailored and innovative solutions on the use of administrative records for statistical purposes to NSOs based on their current degree of development; (ii) to develop a pilot target model for an integrated

administrative records management system and (iii) to support the organization of regional training courses and a regional event to promote dialogue and exchange of knowledge and best practices on the use of administrative records for statistical purposes from NSOs. The experience of Statistics Korea (KOSTAT)<sup>1</sup> will be the basis for the technical assistance provided in the context of this project.

- 2.3 **Justification.** Up-to-date and high-quality official statistics play a crucial role in shaping, implementing, and assessing public policies within a country. They serve as vital tools for tracking progress towards internationally agreed development objectives, particularly within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which emphasize the importance of timely and accurate statistical data to measure progress towards each goal's indicators. Additionally, the 2030 Development Agenda's principle of "leave no one behind" underscores the necessity of granular data that enables geographic and demographic disaggregation.
- 2.4 Traditionally, official statistics in the region have relied heavily on censuses and sample surveys. While these methods remain prevalent, they come with significant costs and logistical challenges, especially during emergencies like pandemics or natural disasters, which can disrupt or render field data collection infeasible.
- 2.5 The extended COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the challenges associated with traditional face-to-face surveys, prompting statistical agencies worldwide to postpone or suspend the 2020 census round.<sup>2</sup> With many countries opting to reconsider traditional census methods, there is a growing imperative to transition to non-traditional statistical production methods, leveraging administrative records to replace or complement field survey results.
- 2.6 The Republic of Korea (Korea), through KOSTAT, stands out as a global leader in utilizing administrative records for censuses, as demonstrated by its successful implementation of the "2020 Population and Housing Census" using register-based methods<sup>3</sup>. KOSTAT's approach, which involves integrating and securing 27 different administrative records—ranging from residency and building registries to school records—has garnered international attention, with numerous institutions and universities adopting similar strategies to enhance data timeliness and reduce collection costs.
- 2.7 Recent years have witnessed progress in the adoption of administrative records for statistical purposes across Latin America and the Caribbean, albeit with variations reflecting differences in national statistical offices (NSOs) capabilities and administrative record maturity. Despite these advancements, administrative records remain underutilized in many LAC countries, with nations still relying on traditional face-to-face interviews for census data collection.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, there is growing interest among LAC countries in learning from KOSTAT's experiences and technologies.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) aims at prompting services of overall planning and coordination of national statistics, establishment of statistical standards, production & distribution of various economic and social statistics, processing & management of statistical information and provision of various statistical data.

<sup>2</sup> UNSD (2020): Report on the results of the UNSD survey on 2020 round population and housing censuses

<sup>3</sup> [2025 Population and Housing Census of Korea.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [UNFPA, Census Methods.](#)

- 2.8 The implementation of administrative records for official statistical purposes will allow for the collection of more and better data for decision-making in a more timely manner. Administrative records constitute a source of data that allows for obtaining varied, geographically disaggregated and, updated information. This quality of administrative records is substantial for obtaining information on diverse population groups (Afro-descendants, Indigenous people, LGBTQ+ population, and people with disabilities) that traditional data collection methods (e.g., sample surveys) cannot reach due to their design limitations and operating costs. They are also a valuable source of information for reporting on existing gender gaps in countries. By drawing on formal databases, it is possible to identify how far behind women are in the labor market or the income gaps between women and men. Consequently, the consolidation of a statistical system based on registers is relevant for generating data to report the existing gaps between the different population groups in a country.
- 2.9 To utilize administrative records for producing official statistics, establishing an integrated administrative records management system is needed, which will collect data from governmental agencies and link them to a single database. The transfer of KOSTAT's expertise and technology is crucial for establishing integrated administrative record management systems, necessitating both legal and institutional frameworks tailored to the diverse contexts of Latin American countries and technical solutions for database integration. Addressing these challenges will require collaboration and knowledge-sharing among NSOs, institutions, and experts across the region.
- 2.10 **Expected results.** Looking ahead, as TC concludes, the target countries in Latin America and the Caribbean will have participated in a regional seminar to share their knowledge and experiences. This seminar will provide a platform for all countries in the region to showcase their progress in the statistical use of administrative records and to share lessons learned and best practices. The event will also include contributions from academics and practitioners from other regions, particularly those who have made significant advances in this field.
- 2.11 **Bank's experience.** The Bank has a long experience supporting projects to strengthen statistical capacity in countries in the region. It currently has active loan operations on this topic in Argentina (4243/OC-AR), Bolivia (5514/OC-BO), El Salvador (5454/OC-ES), Honduras (5832/BL-HO), Paraguay (5224/OC-PR), and Suriname (5830/OC-SU). The IDB has also invested in the development of knowledge products and activities to foster a wider use of administrative records for statistical purposes.
- 2.12 This builds on previous support that the Bank has received from KOSTAT to promote statistical capacity building in LAC, including a high-level event held in Daejeon in 2013 (Regional Seminar on Strengthening National Statistical Systems) which hosted directors from NSO from the region. KOSTAT experts have provided technical assistance in e-learning and GIS to Ecuador and Peru, in strengthening the use of administrative records to Ecuador, and through the Korea Trust Fund to strengthen the population census in Belize.
- 2.13 With funds from Korea the Bank has also supported Colombia's NSO through ATN/KK-19101-CO<sup>5</sup> in the piloting of technical and methodological innovations for

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<sup>5</sup> This TC (Alternative Data Sources: An imperative in the Times of COVID-19) is scheduled for completion by the end of 2024.

remote data collection in the context of the restrictions imposed on field work operations by COVID-19, and to promote a more intensive statistical use of administrative records; and to explore the use of non-traditional data source to produce official statistics. This operation was complemented by a KOSTAT-IDB joint Project for Statistical Capacity Building in Colombia, initiated in 2022 for a two-year period. The project has had significant progress, including the development of an administrative data base integrated management system. Consultancy services regarding register-based census have also been implemented.

- 2.14 The TC continues the line of work of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2021 between the Bank and KOSTAT, aligning with the areas of cooperation: (i) improving the statistical use of administrative records and (ii) promoting the use of alternative methods of data collection.
- 2.15 **Strategic Alignment.** This TC is consistent with the IDB Group Institutional Strategy: Transforming for Scale and Impact (CA-631) and is aligned with the objective of: (i) reduce poverty and inequality by generating more and better data for decision-making related to poverty eradication. The TC is also aligned with the operational focus areas of: (i) gender equality and inclusion of diverse population groups; and (ii) institutional capacity, rule of law, and citizen security by: producing quality data to measure gender gaps and the different gaps between population groups; and promoting transparency and coordination among government actors to ensure quality data is produced, widely disseminated and openly accessible. The project can contribute to enhance citizens' trust in state institutions and improve service delivery for the population.
- 2.16 The TC is consistent with the Strategy for Strengthening and Use of Country Systems (GN-2538-31) as it will impact the capacity of the statistical system. The TC is aligned to the objectives of Korea Fund for Public Capacity Building and Economic Development (KPC) as it promotes the increase in the capacity of institutions to be more efficient, effective, and transparent. The TC will contribute to the target activities of the KPC in making policies related to national statistics.
- 2.17 The TC aligns with the IDB Group Strategy with Argentina (GN-2328-3) by providing inputs for Strengthening the institutional environment for better governance; with the Ecuador Strategy (GN-2680) in the priority area of Diversity, by promoting the use of alternative data sources to capture diverse groups; with the Peru Strategy (GN-2889) in the priority area of Institutional strengthening and provision of basic services, by generating basic inputs to improve data for decision-making; and with the Uruguay Strategy (GN-2626-2) by providing data that serve as inputs for Public management and finances.

### III. Description of activities/components and budget

- 3.1 **Component 1. Targeted support and technical assistance (US\$150,000).** This Component will support the initial assessment of the level of development and the needs of the participating countries<sup>6</sup>, this will allow to seize their status and the potential areas of work. It will include the following activities: (i) initial evaluation of current level of development on the statistical use of administrative records to determine country needs and discuss potential areas of support. To evaluate the

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<sup>6</sup> Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, and Uruguay, which have been identified based on the level of development of their work on using administrative records for statistical purposes.

current situation, a pre-feasibility study will be conducted. The results of the study should include an overview of the general status of the statistical institution, the current state of statistics, the status of major requested projects, and the development of a project implementation plan, among other elements; (ii) development of a preliminary report with proposed priority actions based on the assessment and with key recommendations based on country priorities and (iii) development of agreed activities action plan for KOSTAT support on prioritized activities. The design and implementation of the technical assistance will draw upon the experience of the support provided by KOSTAT to Colombia. The activities in this component will be undertaken by specialized individual consultants or firms under the technical guidance of KOSTAT.

- 3.2 **Component 2. Pilot project design and developing a manual (US\$200,000).** This Component will provide the basic elements to establish the layout of the project pilot models to design a system to improve management of administrative records. The following activities will be part of this component: (i) based on the initial evaluations conducted as part of Component 1 participating countries will be asked to prepare proposals for a pilot project; and (ii) KOSTAT and the IDB will select two of those proposals to develop pilot models of an administrative records management system in the two selected countries. Countries will be selected based on various factors, including their interest in the project, the progress they have made in administrative data initiatives, their capacity to produce results, the relevance of TC-financed activities to operational priorities and dialogues between the IDB and each country, and the feasibility of institutional and budgetary arrangements to ensure the sustainability of the solutions proposed.
- 3.3 The two selected countries will potentially benefit from specific technical cooperation support in the form of new operations to establish an integrated administrative records management system. The work from the pilots will be fully documented to develop a manual that encompasses all the processes involved in the pilot projects. The technical support will be provided by KOSTAT directly or through a specialized firm/entity with experience in the design and implementation of utilization of administrative records.
- 3.4 **Component 3. Capacity building through the promotion and exchange of knowledge and best practices on the statistical use of administrative records in LAC (US\$150,000).** Under this Component activities to promote the exchange of best practices and lessons learned will be organized, as a way to further disseminate the knowledge developed in the operation. The activities to be financed will be: (i) develop a regional workshop for participating countries to teach and disseminate good practices and recommendations that could be adopted by countries with different levels of development in their NSOs' administrative records for statistical purposes experiences; and, (ii) organize a regional event to promote the exchange of lessons learned among worldwide NSOs that have implemented successful initiatives on the statistical use of administrative records in their countries. A regional workshop will be conducted at KOSTAT, providing participants with the opportunity to tour the facilities and experience the advanced systems firsthand.
- 3.5 The total amount of funding needed for this TC is US\$500,000 (non-reimbursable) to be financed with resources from the Korea Fund for Public Capacity Building and Economic Development (KPC/KTF). There will be no local counterpart financing. The disbursement period (which includes execution period) will be 36 months.

**Indicative Budget (US\$)**

<b>Activity/ Component</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total IDB Funding</b>
Component 1	Initial evaluation of targeted support and technical assistance	150,000
Component 2	Pilot project design and developing a manual	200,000
Component 3	Capacity building through the promotion and exchange of lessons learned	150,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>500,000</b>

**IV. Executing agency and execution structure**

- 4.1 This project will be executed directly by the Bank, through IFD/ICS, in coordination with the country offices of participating countries and the NSOs.
- 4.2 The Bank will be responsible for the selection and hiring of the consulting services. All activities to be executed under this TC have been included in the Procurement Plan (see Annex IV) and will be contracted in accordance with Bank regulations as follows: (i) individual consultants, as established in the document AM-650 - Complementary Workforce; and (ii) hiring of consulting firms for services of an intellectual nature and the contracting of logistics services and non-consulting services, according to GN-2303-33 and its associated Guidelines.
- 4.3 The TC will be executed by José Antonio Mejía (Sector Specialist in IFD/ICS) in coordination with the IFD/ICS Sector Specialist in the selected countries.
- 4.4 The Team Leader will ensure that Non-Objection Letters are formally received prior to the start of any activity in that country.
- 4.5 Any knowledge products generated within the framework of this technical cooperation will be the property of the Bank and may be made available to the public under a creative commons license. However, upon request of the beneficiary, the intellectual property of said products may also be licensed and/or transferred to the beneficiary through specific agreements.

**V. Major issues**

- 5.1 The main risk is linked to the low interest from countries to participate in the project. To mitigate it, the project will work closely with technical government counterparts, mainly from the NSOs, to develop an action plan that is compatible with the country's priorities and other related ongoing national strategies. There is also the risk that the activities implemented under the program are not sustainable. To mitigate this risk, the Bank will continue supporting the topic in the participating countries and in the rest of LAC.
- 5.2 The second risk is that the NSOs' interest is not matched by access to administrative records from the other organizations in government that own them. The way to mitigate the risk is to work with agencies with which the NSO has already partnered and has requested official records from and/or where there is a current legal framework supporting this exchange of information (for example, a Memorandum of Understanding).

**VI. Exceptions to Bank policy**

- 6.1 There are no exceptions to the Bank's policies.

**VII. Environmental and Social Aspects**

- 7.1 There are no expected environmental or social risks associated with the activities outlined in this operation. It is therefore anticipated that its environmental classification will be "C", according to the Environment and Safeguard Compliance Policy (OP-703).

**Required Annexes:**

[Results Matrix\\_66753.pdf](#)

[Terms of Reference\\_72240.pdf](#)

[Procurement Plan\\_16660.pdf](#)