

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND



MULTINATIONAL

STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR MANAGING FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS – SECOND ANNUAL WORK PLAN

APPRAISAL REPORT

ESTA DEPARTMENT

September 2015

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CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(As of April 2015)

UA 1 = US\$ 1.38

Fiscal Year

January 1 – December 31

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
ADF	African Development Fund
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFMI	African Financial Markets Initiative
AFRISTAT	Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa
AIDI	Africa Infrastructure Development Index
AIH	Africa Information Highway
AIKP	Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
ASSD	African Symposium for Statistical Development
AUC	African Union Commission
BAPS	Busan Action Plan for Statistics
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
COMESA	Community of Eastern and Southern Africa
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSI	Core Sector Indicator
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
EAC	East African Community
EASTC	East African Statistical Training Center
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ENSAE	École Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique (Senegal)
ENSEA	École Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (Côte d'Ivoire)
ICP	International Comparison Program
IHSN	International Household Survey Network
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISAE	Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (Uganda)
ISSEA	Institut Sous-régional de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (Cameroon)
KOAFEC	Korea Africa Economic Cooperation (Korea Trust Fund)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICs	Middle Income Countries
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSS	National Statistical System
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RMC	Regional Member Country
RPGs	Regional Public Goods
RRSF	Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCB	Statistical Capacity Building
SHaSA	Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa
SNA	System of National Accounts
SRO	Sub-regional Organization
STC	Statistical Training Center
TSF	Transition Support Facility
TYS	Ten-Year Strategy
UEMOA	Economic Community of West African States
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WHO	World Health Organization

GRANT INFORMATION

This proposal for UA 10 million is to support the second work plan of the Statistical Capacity Building (SCB) program for the period 2014-2016. The program was initially designed for UA 20 million, however the urgent need to divert ADF RPG resources in response to the Ebola epidemic resulted in Management's decision to divide the program's funds into two tranches. Subsequently, the ADF Board approved UA 10 million on 26 November 2014 to support the first year SCB work program. The present proposal targets the balance of UA 10 million for the 2015-2016 period, which will continue and compliment the work program already approved by the Board in 2014.

Client information

GRANT RECIPIENTS: Eligible RMCs, SROs, and STCs

EXECUTING AGENCY: Bank Executed Program with ESTA coordinating at the Regional level, Sub-regional Organizations (SROs), Statistical Training Centers (STCs) and Population Study Centers at the sub-regional level, and National Statistics Offices (NSOs) at the national level.

Financing Plan

Source	Amount ¹ (UA million)	Instrument
ADF (for ADF-eligible RMCs only)	10.00	Grant Allocation for Regional Public Goods Operations
AfDB (in-kind) *	5.00	Administrative budget
Transition Support Facility (TSF) **	2.86	Grant
Operations**	30.00	Loans/Grants
Middle Income Countries (MIC) Trust Fund	11.00	Grant
RMCs	1.00	National budgets
KOAFEC***	1.00	Grant
DFID-UK****	4.50	Grant
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)****	5.50	Grant
European Union****	6.49	Grant
Total cost	77.29	

* Represents in-kind contribution such as estimated staff time of ESTA and other Bank units, as well as office expenses, staff missions and some consultancies on the administrative budget.

** Resources expected to be mobilized through country programs and projects in RMCs.

*** Resources already mobilized and earmarked for GDP rebasing work and civil registration and vital statistics.

**** Resources already mobilized and being applied to support agricultural & rural statistics.

AfDB's key financing information Not Applicable

Grant currency UA

Timeframe – Indicative Milestones

Concept Note approval	April 2014
Program Appraisal Report approval (by Regional Team)	August 2014
Board approval of Grant – First Year Work Plan	November 2014
Disbursement of Grant – First Year Work Plan	April 2015
Board approval of Grant – 2nd Year Work Plan	September 2015
Disbursement of Grant – 2nd Year Work Plan	December 2015
Completion	December 2016

¹ All non-ADF funds will be utilized over a two-year period within 2014-2016.

Program Management Timeframe

Milestones	2015				2016			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Board approval								
Grant protocol signature								
Agreements with SROs signed								
Satisfaction of conditions for effectiveness and first disbursement								
Disbursement of funds to SROs								
Submission of implementation plans								
Quarterly and annual implementation and disbursement reports								
Bank's supervision missions								
Audit								
Implementation completion report								

Program Summary

Program Overview

- **Name and scope:** The program (“Multinational Statistical Capacity Building Program for Managing for Development Results” (MfDR)) will cover RPG-eligible countries, selected SROs, STCs and Population Studies Centers. The resources requested for the 2015/2016 work plan will finance selected RPG activities, particularly for emerging areas related to SDGs as well as for the Bank’s new priority initiatives. The program will build on and consolidate the first year program activities already approved by the ADF Board in November 2014. It will contribute towards developing more effective statistical systems that respond to the data needs for national development in RMCs, to inform the SDG agenda and facilitate greater effectiveness of Bank operations in RMCs.
- **Project Cost:** The overall cost of the program is estimated at over UA 77.35 million, of which the direct ADF contribution is UA 10 million over 2015-2016.
- **Timeframe:** The program will run from December 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016.
- **Beneficiaries:** The beneficiaries will be all the producers and users of statistics, including: national statistical agencies; national policymakers; businesses and investors; researchers and analysts; citizens of RMCs; SROs; and development institutions at national and regional levels, including the Bank.
- **Impact on direct beneficiaries:** Availability of better statistics for improved policy and program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation that facilitate more effective decision-making and good governance for better development outcomes, including poverty reduction. The open data system created will unlock a plethora of economic benefits.
- **Participation mode:** The design and preparation of the program was carried out in a highly participatory manner with RMCs and development partners providing inputs at each stage. The implementation and coordination of the program will be at three levels: national, sub-regional and regional, using existing mechanisms. National statistical agencies will be responsible for coordinating activities at the country level; SROs, STCs and population centers at the sub-regional level among their member countries, while the Bank (ESTA) will be responsible for overall program coordination at the regional level. Additional support will be provided to RMCs and SROs by Bank staff posted at the Regional Resource Centers and country offices. It is envisaged that the program will reinforce the capacity at the sub-regional and national levels in cases where deficiencies are evident. Special attention will be given to fragile states, agriculture and food security, and gender issues.

The Bank will be selective in its interventions, providing leadership in areas where it has demonstrated comparative advantage (e.g. Coordination of assistance and program management, Data management and dissemination, ICP, National Accounts, Harmonized CPI, NSDS, Agricultural Statistics, Labor statistics, and Infrastructure statistics) while collaborating with other development partners in other areas.

Needs Assessment

- The program is needed to address the current weaknesses in national statistical systems, which are critical for informing the development, implementation and evaluation of development policies and programs in RMCs. This is necessary for meeting the data needs of the Africa 2063 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The program is also needed to meet the statistical needs of Bank Group operations and to achieve development effectiveness.
- Improved and better statistics are critical for evidence-based decision-making and for promoting good governance and accountability in RMCs, and this project is the most appropriate solution to achieving this goal.

The Bank’s Added Value

- The value added of the Bank is its leadership in Africa in coordinating statistical development activities and in playing a critical catalytic role in resource mobilization and advocacy for statistical development at the national, regional, and international levels. RMCs will benefit from the vast experience the Bank has accumulated in strengthening statistical capacity across Africa.
- The Bank will facilitate cross-fertilization through the sharing of best practices and experiences; and by helping RMCs to adapt international standards and practices in data collection, management, and dissemination. In doing this, the Bank will leverage its large network of active partners at the regional, sub-regional, and country levels.

Knowledge Management

- The Bank will capture the knowledge from this program through its function as repository of the data generated from national statistical systems and agencies and relevant documents produced. This is intended to make it the knowledge hub on Africa and will be achieved through the Bank’s enhancement of the Africa Information Highway initiative to significantly improve the generation, management and dissemination of development data on RMCs.
- The Bank will also produce analytical products on RMCs and SROs/RECs using the improved data.

Results-based Logical Framework

Country and program name:		MULTINATIONAL: Program for Statistical Capacity Building for Management for Development Results (MfDR)				
Purpose of the program:		Improved availability, coverage, and quality of statistics on the economic, social, and environmental situation of people and societies in Africa, in line with international and regional standards, supporting the use of statistics to promote development and poverty reduction				
RESULTS CHAIN		PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RISKS/MITIGATION MEASURES
		Indicator (including CSI)	Baseline (Sept 2012)	Target (Dec 2016)		
IMPACT	Contribution to generation of statistics to support more effective economic management, poverty monitoring, inclusive growth monitoring, better informed policy making and design of programs and projects	UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) welfare of households indicator	HDI = 0.434 in 2012	HDI = 0.470 in 2016	UNDP HDI Report	

OUTCOMES	<p>Outcome 1: Improved quality of economic and social statistics at national level.</p>	<p>Proportion of countries able to report on key development indicators including national accounts, price indices, poverty, education, infant and maternal health, other health outcomes, gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>Number of visits to country data portals and websites after 6 months, then at yearly intervals</p>	65%	75%	Updated country data portals; UN databases.	<p><i>Risks:</i> RMCs may be unwilling to give priority to financing the ongoing costs of statistical systems to sustain improvements in performance</p> <p><i>Mitigation:</i> ADB in partnership with other agencies continues to advocate for RMCs to give priority to financing statistical activities in line with regional and global initiatives</p> <p><i>Risk:</i> Operations Task managers failing to make provisions for statistical support in projects' M&E.</p> <p><i>Mitigation:</i> ESTA will work closely with Bank Operations to raise awareness of task managers to include statistical components in the M&E design of their projects.</p> <p><i>Risk:</i> Countries being unable to populate the open data systems with reliable and timely data.</p> <p><i>Mitigation:</i> ESTA will work closely with the countries to advocate for more resources to sustain the open data systems.</p>
	<p>Outcome 2: Increased availability of data required for (i) Bank Operations including M&E.</p>	% of Bank Operations/Projects with M&E with provision for statistical support to generate data at country level.	20%	30%	Country Statistical Profiles (CStPs);	
	<p>(ii) Improved Management of country development plans including M&E.</p>	Number of countries that have open data systems	26	35	Supervision missions and regular reviews. ²	
KEY ACTIVITIES	COMPONENTS				INPUTS	
	<p>Component 1 – Improving Economic and Social Statistics, and Africa Information Highway</p> <p>Component 2 – Strategic Planning, Systems Development, Coordination and Training</p>				<p>Components 1 & 2</p> <p>Standards and methodological guides Technical assistance Financial resources – UA 15 million</p> <p>Training South-South cooperation and peer reviews Regional and subregional workshops</p>	

² ESTA will continue to supervise the 4 subregional organizations (SROs) through which the SCB program is implemented and SROs in turn will supervise the RMCs. SROs like COMESA and AFRISTAT have demonstrated effective implementation of the Program in RMCs, but more support will be required for SADC and ECOWAS.

OUTPUTS	Component 1					
	<u>Output 1.1</u> Household surveys conducted and rebasing of GDP undertaken.	Percentage of RMCs that are conducting regular household surveys;	10%	13%	IHSN	<i>Risks:</i> RMCs may not give priority and hence unable to provide sustainable resources to undertake statistical activities.
		Percentage of RMCs that are rebasing;	10%	20%	AfDB Database	<i>Mitigation:</i> AfDB in partnership with other Development Partners will continue to advocate for RMCs to give priority to statistics.
	<u>Output 1.2</u> Administrative data systems for key sectors developed in RMCs.	Percentage of RMCs that maintain administrative data systems such as Civil Registration and Vital Events (CRVS),	15%	25%	WHO/Health Metric Network (HMN) Assessments; UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO	<i>Risk:</i> Statistical support may be fragmented and coordination may suffer as a result of the many different organizations involved in the project.
		Employment Information, Education Management Information Systems, Health Information Systems, etc.	50%	65%	AfDB Database (AIKP)	<i>Mitigation:</i> This will be addressed by the adoption of the NSDS as the common implementation and coordination framework at the country level.
	Component 2					
	<u>Output 2.1</u> Data made available on infrastructure statistics	Percentage of RMCs with infrastructure databases.	58%	65%	FAO	
			54%	65%	PARIS21 Database on NSDSs	
	<u>Output 2.2</u> Data made available on agriculture and food security.	Percentage of RMCs carrying out agriculture censuses, and annual agriculture surveys.	60%	75%	UNSD	

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE AFDB GROUP TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A PROPOSED GRANT FOR A MULTINATIONAL STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR MANAGING FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS – SECOND ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Preamble

Management submits the following Report and recommendation for a proposed ADF grant of UA 10.00 million to finance the second annual work plan of the *Multinational Statistical Capacity Building Program for Managing for Development Results* for 2015/2016. The program will cover all African countries that are eligible to receive ADF Regional Public Goods (RPG) funding.

This proposal for UA 10 million is to support the second work plan of the Statistical Capacity Building (SCB) program for the period 2014-2016. The program was initially designed for UA 20 million, however the urgent need to divert ADF RPG resources in response to the Ebola epidemic resulted in Management's decision to divide the program's funds into two tranches. Subsequently, the ADF Board approved UA 10 million on 26 November 2014 to support the first year SCB work program. The present proposal targets the balance of UA 10 million for the 2015-2016 period, which will continue and compliment the work program already approved by the Board in 2014.

I. STRATEGIC THRUST AND RATIONALE

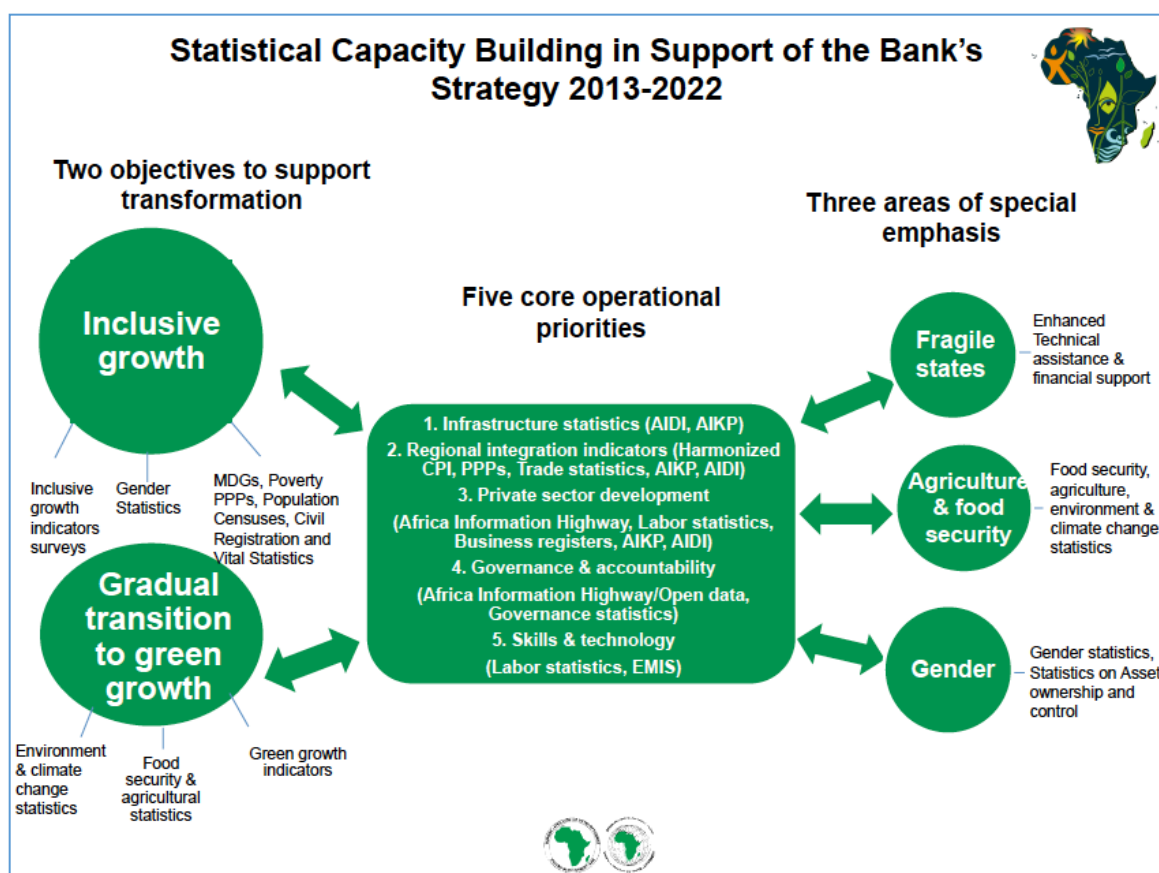
1.1 Program linkages with country and regional strategies and objectives

1.1.1. The proposed Program is anchored on the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy (TYS), 2013-2022 and responds to the ever-increasing demand for good statistics to facilitate the design of effective policies and programs and for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of development results geared towards fostering more inclusive and greener growth in Africa (see Appendix I). In this context, the focus of this program supports the data needs of the Bank, other development partners, and RMCs in the core priority areas of infrastructure development, regional integration, private sector development, governance and accountability as well as skills and technology development. Special emphasis will be placed on gender statistics as well as data to inform sustainable agricultural and food security activities. More targeted and customized support will be provided for building statistical capacity in post-conflict and fragile states. To this end, the program is fully aligned to the Bank's country, sector, and regional strategies, objectives and implementation plans. This second part of the program to be undertaken over 2015/2016 will build on and consolidate implementation of the first year work plan approved by the ADF Board in November 2014. The program also responds to the call at the international level for a Data Revolution to catalyze development going forward. It helps to fulfill the aspirations set out in the African Union's "Africa 2063" Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda. Additionally, the program facilitates greater effectiveness of bank operations in RMCs and is in line with the TYS 2012-2022.

1.2 Rationale for the Bank's involvement

1.2.1 Consonant with its Ten-Year Strategy (2013–2022) (see diagram below), the Bank is committed to the Global Agenda on Managing for Development Results (MfDR). This calls for considerable efforts to strengthen capacity within the Bank and in regional member countries (RMCs) to monitor and report on development results that reflect country priorities. This has necessitated a new and more robust monitoring framework anchored on reliable statistics to measure results and address emerging issues such as inclusive and green growth.

1.2.2 While other development agencies lend support mainly at the country level, the Bank has gained recognition for statistical development support coordinated at the sub-regional and regional levels. In particular, the Bank has gained peer recognition among RMCs as well as development partners as the leading provider of technical assistance and financial support for regional public goods (RPGs) activities. These activities include developing methodological approaches, assisting RMCs to adapt international standards and practices in data collection, management and dissemination, as well as training RMC officials. The AfDB is also the lead convener of RMCs and development partners on statistical development issues in Africa. In the case of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census, for instance, this resulted in the highest participation rate ever by RMCs in the history of population census taking, with 50 countries participating, as opposed to 38 countries in the 2000 round. The Bank's key recent statistical initiatives include: the Africa Information Highway (AIH), the Open Data initiative, as well as its ongoing assistance to RMCs to formulate and implement their National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). (See also Appendix II for key achievements under SCB Phases 1 to 3). Through the AIH and other programs, the Bank publishes a



vast array of data in real time, to meet the needs of all stakeholders, including: UN and international development agencies; sub-regional organizations (SROs); RMCs, including line ministries and central banks; the private sector and institutional investors; academic researchers; the media; and the public at large. The Bank has also been the lead agency, in collaboration with the African Union and ECA, in the preparation and implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) and the African Charter for Statistics, both of which were endorsed by all stakeholders including the African Heads of State Summit in 2012 and upon which this program is anchored. This proposed fourth phase of the SCB program will maintain the Bank's position at the forefront of statistical development on the continent and to reinforce its status as the premier knowledge institution on the continent.

1.2.3 The Bank has established partnerships at global, regional, and sub-regional levels and has assumed a leadership role in technical and financial coordination, advocacy, and statistical development in Africa. The proposed statistical capacity-building program will sustain and strengthen the Bank's leadership role and commitment to support statistical development efforts in RMCs. As

articulated at various international forums, more and better data are badly needed for monitoring progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the post 2015 Development Agenda, as well as the effectiveness of Bank programs and projects aligned its Ten-Year Strategy (TYS). SCB.4 also plays a catalytic role in mobilizing resources from development partners and RMCs. Indeed, the resources approved by the Boards for the various phases of SCB have leveraged contributions from other donors and RMCs resulting in total funding many times the size of the Bank's own commitments. It is expected that the current proposal for an ADF grant of UA 10 million will generate over double this amount in contributions from development partners and regional member countries.

1.3 Donor coordination

1.3.1 In implementing the program, the Bank will continue to leverage its large network of partnerships both within the region and at the international level. *At the regional level*, the coordination of development partners is organized under the aegis of the annual African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD), comprising Heads of national statistical agencies in RMCs, sub-regional organizations and development partners. The ASSD offers all partners a forum to discuss challenges to statistical development, best practices in how to address them, and to scale up progress going forward. The Africa Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) – co-chaired by AfDB and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) – meets biannually to discuss progress on joint activities in RMCs within the context of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF). *At the country level*, coordination units within the framework of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) have been established, with the support of the Bank, as the mechanism for coordination between the government and its development partners.

1.3.2 *At the international level*, the coordination organs include the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) as the highest entity for the global statistical systems, of which the Bank is a statutory member and participant in all official meetings. The UNSC, which meets every year in February/March, is responsible for setting statistical standards and guidelines, developing concepts and methods, and ensuring their implementation at the national and international levels. Other coordination mechanisms at the international level include the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) comprising the Heads of UN agencies as well as key international and regional institutions engaged in the development of statistics in developing countries. Table 1 below details commitments from other key international donors to statistical development in Africa.

Table 1: Key donors actively supporting statistical development in Africa

Donor	Total Commitments 2013 (%)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	6.0
European Commission / EUROSTAT	9.0
World Bank	56.0
African Development Bank	9.0
United Kingdom (DFID)	9.0
Others	11.0
Total	100

Source: PARIS21 and PRESS (Partner Report on Support to Statistics) 2013.

1.3.3 **MDBs–UN Statistical Cooperation:** In 2013, the UN Secretary General and the Heads of Multilateral Development Banks signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen cooperation for country-level statistical support. To this end, a coordination mechanism involving Heads of Statistical Units in the MDBs and the UN was established to discuss and agree on strategies and agendas. Regional Contact Groups were established to enhance collaboration among the partners

on their various statistical activities. The Africa Contact Group is chaired by the AfDB, and includes the World Bank, IMF, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). The Group focuses on enhancing data management and dissemination in RMCs for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

II PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

2.1. Program components

2.1.1 As indicated in paragraph 1.1.1, the strategic thrust of the proposed program is anchored on the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy, 2013–2022 (see also Appendix I). It responds to the increasing data needs for measuring development results, including those relating to the green and inclusive growth agenda. The program aims to drive forward the Data Revolution as the engine of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The overall program focuses mainly on activities with regional public goods (RPGs) characteristics. These activities include: (i) *organizational and methodological work* to promote statistical infrastructure development using an approach that fits the African environment; (ii) *alignment of statistical frameworks and activities* with the NSDS; (iii) *development of sector statistical programs*, such as Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and other data recording systems; (iv) *adaptation of international statistical standards* to suit local conditions in RMCs and the conduct of training workshops on these standards; (v) *harmonization of data generation and dissemination practices and standards* to ensure comparability of data across RMCs and with the rest of the world; (vi) *training of RMC and SRO officials* to strengthen statistical capacity; and (vii) *promotion of technological innovations* for data generation, management and dissemination to support the data revolution.

2.1.2 The program consists of five separate but closely integrated components (see Table 2). While the various components are to be implemented over the program's two-year cycle (2014-2016), the costs provided in Table 2 correspond to the work plan for 2015/2016, financed with ADF resources. This will comprise of priority activities selected from the various components below, as well as those which complement the 2014/2015 program activities approved by the Board in November 2014.

Table 2: Program components and costs

Component Title	Cost (UA millions)	Component Description
Improving Economic Statistics	2.75	This includes support for improving statistics related to the TYS core operational priority areas and anchored on fostering inclusive growth and transitioning to green growth, with special emphasis in the areas of gender, fragile states, and agriculture and food security. Gender will be mainstreamed in all statistical processes in order to generate more gender-disaggregated data. Specifically, the program will aim to improve national accounts, especially the exercise in rebasing of GDP in RMCs, ³ and price statistics (including harmonized Consumer Price Index (CPI), purchasing power parity (PPP) statistics to facilitate cross-country comparisons and analysis), infrastructure, agriculture and food security, environment and climate change, regional integration and trade statistics, business registers and labor statistics.
Improving Social Statistics	2.25	Activities under this component are anchored on the TYS objectives of fostering inclusive and green growth, including

³ GDP has been rebased recently with the AfDB's support in collaboration with the World Bank and IMF in Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Further requests for support have been received from Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, and Sudan.

Component Title	Cost (UA millions)	Component Description
		statistics related to population and housing censuses; household surveys; poverty analysis; gender statistics; civil registration and vital statistics; monitoring of poverty reduction strategies/ National Development Plans with special emphasis on fragile and post-conflict states. Furthermore under this component, light surveys will be conducted in RMCs to generate indicators for monitoring inclusiveness of growth in RMCs through crowd-sourcing approaches.
Improving Data Generation, Management and Dissemination – Africa Information Highway (AIH)	2.50	This component will include support for the implementation of the Africa Information Highway (AIH). The overall objective is to significantly increase public access to statistics and information on Africa, while at the same time support RMCs to improve data quality, management, and dissemination. The AIH will promote access to development data on RMCs and also foster transparency; good governance and accountability (see Appendix IV). This component will also support generation of high-frequency data such as weekly food prices, weather data, as well as agricultural yield data, soil types etc., through crowd-sourcing techniques.
Strategic Planning, Systems Development, Coordination, and Training	1.25	This component aims at enhancing the capacity of national statistical systems to respond to the development data needs of national priorities. It includes support for the formulation and implementation of national and sector statistical strategies, for coordination and advocacy for statistical development as a strategic objective in the national development agenda, and ensuring adequate budgetary provisions. It will also support activities of Statistical Training Centers (STCs) and Population Study Centers in Africa.
Program Implementation Management	0.50	This component supports program management and coordination at regional, sub-regional and country levels. Activities include program management, covering procurement, disbursement and auditing issues as well as Technical Assistance (TA) services.
<i>Total base cost</i>	9.25	
Physical contingency	0.13	This reflects expected increases in the base cost estimate due to changes in quantities and methods of implementation. Contingency is estimated at 1.32% based on past experience and the negligible impact of changes in expected quantities, even when occasioned by changes in methods.
<i>Total Base Cost + Physical Contingency</i>	9.38	
Price contingency	0.62	This reflects expected increases in the base cost plus physical contingencies for the program and the recent forecast of the African Economic Outlook, which is estimated at about 5.9%.
Total cost	10.00	

2.1.3 Selectivity: The Bank will be selective in its interventions, providing leadership in areas where it has demonstrated comparative advantage (e.g. Open data management and dissemination, ICP, National Accounts, Harmonized CPI, NSDS, Agricultural Statistics, Labor statistics, and Infrastructure statistics) while collaborating with other development partners in other areas.

2.1.4 The Bank will continue to spearhead an expanded program for such activities as data management and dissemination through the Africa Information Highway, national accounts, price statistics including harmonized CPIs, purchasing power parity (PPP) statistics, improved NSDS design with sector statistical strategies as the building blocks, infrastructure statistics, agricultural

statistics, and MDG monitoring. These are all areas where the Bank has established comparative advantage and earned the recognition of peers and stakeholders. It will play a supportive and catalytic role in the other program activities, still working closely with partners. Key specific activities will include AfDB support to RMCs on the GDP rebasing exercise, in collaboration with the World Bank and the IMF, to provide better measurement of overall economic activities. This support takes into account international standard practice requiring countries to undertake a rebasing GDP exercise at least once every 5 years. The rebasing exercise is essential to reflect the evolution and transformational shifts of economies and the availability of more information due to new developments including (i) complete and comprehensive reporting from existing data sources; (ii) new data sources capturing new phenomena or existing ones that were not being captured; (iii) improvement in capacity to capture and utilize information from data sources; (iv) innovations in methodology; and (v) better coverage of the informal sector.

2.1.5 Recently the AfDB, in collaboration with the World Bank and IMF, has provided support for rebasing of GDP in Comoros, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The experience gained and the lessons learned from the successful outcomes in these countries will be used to extend support to the other RMCs that are due to rebase their GDP. The proposed program will also focus on building country-level capacity to sustain the GDP rebasing exercise within the internationally recommended period of every 5 years. Priority will be given to extending support to the over 30 African countries that have not rebased their GDP for 5 or more years.

2.1.6 Another key activity will be the continued support to improve data generation, management, and dissemination in RMCs under the African Information Highway (AIH) (see Appendix IV). This aims at promoting open data systems that significantly increase public access to development and other data, to support evidence-based policy decision-making in RMCs and in Bank operations, and to foster transparency and accountability in public affairs across Africa. Through this initiative, Africa has become the first continent to have a fully integrated data management and dissemination system. In recognition of this, the IMF has decided to use the AIH for its own data collection and dissemination in Africa. The IMF is also working closely with the AfDB in implementing the data exchange component of the AIH initiative across Africa. This also involves providing joint technical assistance to countries to improve the data content for the AIH. Following the cooperation with the IMF, many development partners, including WHO, ILO, UNSD, and AUC have indicated an interest in partnering with the AfDB to implement this initiative across the continent and to use the AIH for their specific statistical areas of interest. These partnerships will go a long way in the drive to harmonize the collection and dissemination of statistics across the continent. Furthermore, this approach will significantly reduce the reporting burden on the part of RMCs as well as saving time and costs, as all partners will utilize one system for their data needs.

2.1.7 Another key development with the AIH initiative is its contribution to the open data system. Based on the findings of the McKinsey Research Institute (October 2013), “open-data” systems unlock innovation and performance and create tremendous potential to enhance economic growth and poverty reduction (see paragraph 2.5.2 for a detailed discussion). It therefore is evident that Africa can capture some of this additional value by embracing open-data systems. The AIH sub-component of the proposed SCB program provides RMCs with a good springboard for rapidly embracing open-data principles to foster inclusive growth and poverty reduction.

2.1.8 The AIH initiative also involves building the necessary capacity at the country level to generate high-frequency data such as weekly food prices and weather data in RMCs, as well as agricultural yield data, soil types, etc. through crowd-sourcing techniques. Since these are in the public domain, they will contribute toward enhancing the open-data system.

2.2. Technical solutions retained and alternatives explored

2.2.1 The technical approach aims to tackle common statistical challenges facing RMCs. The activities are founded on the international and regional initiatives such as the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS), the Africa Charter for Statistics, the Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), the Reference Regional Framework for Statistics (RRSF), and the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS). The proposed program will operate under the country-owned NSDS, which is a mechanism for developing statistical capacity across the entire National Statistical System (NSS). It thus provides a framework for mobilizing, harvesting, and leveraging resources. Under the program, the NSDS will be improved by giving more emphasis to development of sector statistical systems and administrative records as building blocks. In this regard, the NSDS will become an effective and results-oriented management instrument of the national development strategy. The new NSDS will generate the benchmarks for planning and monitoring development outcomes.

2.2.2 The SCB.4 program will be implemented at the country level in the context of the NSDS, which is aligned to national priorities outlined in the national development strategies. This approach ensures national ownership and effective coordination of statistical development activities among stakeholders. To this end, the program also responds to the post 2015 Data Revolution agenda to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the post 2015 development agenda proposed by the UN High Level Panel. It is also in conformity with the MOU signed by the Heads of MDBs, the IMF, and UN in 2013 (see also Appendix III). The technical approach therefore calls for strengthened collaboration among stakeholders to ensure more effective and focused support to RMCs, especially in post-conflict and fragile states. This is crucial as statistical challenges in Africa remain immense and require the collaborative support of the development partners.

2.2.3 The program envisages enhanced collaboration and involvement of the Bank's country operations complexes to mobilize additional resources for statistical capacity-building activities. These include allocations for project monitoring and evaluation (M&E), which can be used for statistical development in relevant sectors to generate indicators. The statistical capacity required for the results measurement of the Bank's engagements could also be financed from country program allocations under the CSP, special funds such as the TSF, MIC Trust Fund and other Trust Funds and/or from part of the resources from policy-based operations such as budget support.

2.2.4 No alternative approaches were explored since it is generally agreed that good statistics play a key role in evidence-based policy-making and are crucial in providing robust evidence to benchmark the design and monitoring of policies, projects, and programs. The absence of reliable and timely statistics would result in significant inefficiencies in the allocation of resources, thus exacerbating wastage of scarce development resources.

2.3. Program type

2.3.1 This program represents a grant for addressing regional public goods (RPGs). The increased focus of the international community on statistics underscores their importance as global public goods transcending national boundaries with multifarious strategic purposes that can have national, regional, and global impacts. This provides the rationale for ensuring international cooperation and uniform standards in data production and management to facilitate regional and global comparisons.

2.4. Program cost and financing arrangements

2.4.1 The estimated overall cost of the program is UA 77.35 million. A parallel financing arrangement is proposed for the program, with the ADF, AfDB (in-kind), Transition Support Facility

(TSF), Operations, Middle-Income Countries (MIC) Trust Fund, and RMCs covering UA 10.0 million, UA 5.0 million, UA 2.86 million, UA 30.0 million, UA 11.0 million, and UA 1.0 million respectively. The balance will come from a consortium of other development partners and the beneficiary countries' contributions.⁴ As indicated in paragraph 1.2.3, based on the experience of the past phases, the program is expected to catalyze the mobilization of resources from other development partners and RMCs, resulting in total combined resources many times the size of the Bank's commitments. In this regard, major co-financiers include the European Union, DFID, Korea (KOAFEC), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). US\$ 16 million has already been contributed by DFID and BMGF, and the EU has recently contributed an additional US\$ 10 million for agricultural statistics. Similarly, the KOAFEC has contributed US\$ 686,722 for civil registration and vital statistics and for GDP rebasing support. In addition, the Bank has entered into implementation cooperation arrangements with various specialized agencies and institutions including the ILO, FAO, UNSD, EU, the IMF, and the World Bank to pool technical assistance support to RMCs. The Bank also intends to open discussions with other potential contributors on similar collaborative arrangements.

2.4.2 The UA 10 million from the ADF grant and the RMCs' contribution will support a stand-alone priority program of activities and the breakdown of costs, as shown in Tables 3 to 6. As additional resources from other co-financiers are mobilized, the scope and coverage of the program will be expanded accordingly (e.g. survey coverage could be expanded to allow for subnational and sub-regional level analysis, etc.) in line with the objectives of the whole program. The estimated contribution from RMCs reflects only regular direct budgetary allocation for statistical activities and does not include provisions for periodic activities such as surveys. Only ADF countries will receive direct funding from the project; but all 54 countries will participate in the RPG activities at the regional and sub-regional levels respectively. The MIC Trust Fund will be used to facilitate the participation of MIC countries.

2.4.3 The following breakdown of costs (Tables 3 to 6) relates only to those activities that will be covered by the ADF grant and by the contribution from RMC governments.

Table 3: Summary costs by component (UA millions)

Component	Foreign Costs (ADF)	Local Costs (RMCs)	Total Costs	Foreign Costs as % of Total Costs
1 Improving Economic Statistics	2.75	0.20	2.95	93.22%
2 Improving Social Statistics	2.25	0.40	2.65	84.91%
3 Improving Data Management and Dissemination – Africa Information Highway	2.50	0.20	2.70	92.59%
4 Strategic Planning, Systems Development, Coordination and Training	1.25	0.10	1.35	92.59%
5 Program Implementation Management	0.50	0.10	0.60	83.33%
Total Base Cost	9.25	1.00	10.25	90.24%
Physical Contingency	0.13	-	0.13	100
Price Contingency	0.62	-	0.62	100
Total Program Cost	10.00	1.00	11.00	90.90

Table 4: Sources of finance (UA millions)

Sources	Foreign Costs	Local Costs (RMCs)	Total	% of Total
ADF	10.0	-	10.0	90.9
Governments	-	1.0	1.0	9.1

⁴ As noted on page iv, all non-ADF funds will be utilized over a two-year period.

Total	10.0	1.0	11.0	100
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Table 5: Summary cost by category of expenditure (UA millions)

Expenditure Category	Foreign Currency Costs	Local Currency Costs (RMCs)	Total Costs
Goods	0.92	0.15	1.07
Non-Consulting Services	0.33	0.15	0.48
Consulting Services	2.67	0.10	2.77
Training	2.00	0.20	2.20
Operating Costs	3.33	0.40	3.73
Total Base Cost	9.25	1.00	10.25
Physical Contingency	0.13	-	0.13
Price Contingency	0.62	-	0.62
Total Program Cost	10.00	1.00	11.00

Table 6: Expenditure schedule by component (UA millions) – ADF + RMC Base Costs (excludes contingencies)

Component	Total (Nov. 2014-2015)
1 Improving Economic Statistics	2.95
2 Improving Social Statistics	2.65
3 Improving Data Management and Dissemination –Africa Information Highway	2.70
4 Strategic Planning, Systems Development, Coordination and Training	1.35
5 Program Implementation Management	0.60
Total Base Cost	10.25

2.5. Program's target area and population

2.5.1 The main beneficiaries of this program will be all the producers and users of official statistics in RMCs and other stakeholders. The producers include national statistical agencies in RMCs, sub-regional organizations (SROs),⁵ regional Statistical Training Centers (STCs) and Population Studies Centers.⁶ The principal outcomes will be improved official statistics in RMCs and increased capacity of national statistical systems in the region to operate more effectively. Building the capacity of national statistical systems will ensure that these improvements can be sustained in the long term. The users of the statistical products include (i) the government for the formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of development strategies; and economic and policy management. The improvements in the quality of data will facilitate better decision-making, good governance and accountability; (ii) development partners for designing, implementing, and monitoring the performance of the country and regional strategies to ensure development effectiveness; (iii) the private sector to make better decisions on investments and market risks; (iv) researchers and academic institutions; and (v) the general public and civil society who will have greater access to information, allowing them not only to participate in the general discussions regarding strategic policies but also to hold their governments, development partners, and other stakeholders accountable for their commitments and outcomes of their programs.

2.5.2 The African Information Highway (AIH) launched under the program will be reinforced. The initiative focuses on increasing public access to official statistics and open data systems in Africa (see Appendix IV). Under the program, Data Portals (a form of open official data system) with common IT platforms were developed and installed in all 54 African countries and 16 African sub-regional and regional organizations. This will create tremendous economic benefits for governments, the private

⁵ The SROs are COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, and SADC, including AFRISTAT.

⁶ The STCs are ENEA in Côte d'Ivoire; ENSAE in Senegal; EASTC in Tanzania; SSP in Uganda; and ISSEA in Cameroon. There are also the Population Studies Centers, which include IFORD in Cameroon and RIPS (Regional Institute for Population Studies) in Ghana.

sector, and individual citizens based on better information and decision-making that will unlock innovations, efficiency, and better performance. The McKinsey Research Institute has established the dimension and scope of the benefits of the open data system. In 2013 it assessed the *economic value that can be created by open data globally in seven sectors* (education, transportation, consumer products, electricity, oil and gas, health care, and consumer finance). The study confirmed that making data more open, widely available, and in shareable formats has the potential to unlock large amounts of economic value, by: (i) improving the efficiency and effectiveness of existing processes; (ii) making possible new products, services, and markets; and (iii) creating value for individual consumers and citizens. Among others, the major findings of the study are as follows:

- An estimated US\$3 trillion in annual economic potential could be unlocked globally across the seven sectors cited above;
- These benefits include increased efficiency, development of new products and services, and consumer surplus (cost savings, convenience, better-quality products); and
- Estimates of distribution of the potential value by region are divided roughly between the United States (US\$1.1 trillion), Europe (US\$900 billion), and the rest of the world (US\$1.7 trillion).

2.5.3 The program will also reinforce the African Financial Markets Initiative (AFMI) launched by the Bank in 2008. Through this initiative, the AfDB seeks to strengthen African economies by reducing their dependency on foreign currency denominated debt. It also seeks to increase the financing options open to the African corporate sector and to act as a catalyst for regional market integration. The AFMI has two complementary pillars: (i) the African Domestic Bond Fund and (ii) The African Financial Markets Database (AFMD). A robust sovereign bond market forms the backbone of any fixed income market and the African Domestic Bond Fund aims to accelerate the development of such markets. The AFMD is a comprehensive database to provide updated, reliable and complete information on African domestic bond markets. This is achieved by: (i) improving the availability and transparency of African fixed income markets-related data; (ii) reconciling and standardizing data produced by several institutions and (iii) ensuring the sustainability of the development of such data.

2.5.4 The program will further enhance the Bank's status as the primary source of economic development data on African RMCs. Such data include: purchasing power parity (PPP) statistics, detailed monthly prices, price level indices, GDP by expenditure and consumption, and biannual estimates and projections on national accounts, balance of payments, government finance statistics, inflation rates, and detailed sector data. The Bank also maintains comprehensive databases on other socio-economic data. Consequently, other institutions including the World Bank and IMF rely on the Bank's databases for more comprehensive data on GDP, prices, and key social indicators on Africa.

2.6. *Participatory process for program identification, design and implementation, including the active participation of the private sector and civil society*

2.6.1 The program identification and design were undertaken in close consultation with the heads and experts of NSOs and other government agencies, SROs, and STCs. In addition, other partners were consulted with the objective of coordinating efforts and hence minimizing overlaps and duplication in order to maximize synergies. These partners include the World Bank, ILO, FAO, UNSD, IMF, DFID, BMGF, USDA, and the Korea Trust Fund (KOAFEC).

2.6.2 National and external stakeholders were consulted on the program at various forums, including several African Symposia for Statistical Development, sub-regional meetings, and other specialist meetings such as the Ministerial and Experts group meetings on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, ICP meetings discussing the work program under SCB.3, agricultural statistics conferences, UNSC meetings, and meetings of RMCs for the Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program (AIKP). The ensuing statistical capacity-building program was then presented, discussed, and eventually endorsed

by the directors of national statistical offices in Africa (STATCOM-AFRICA) and the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV), respectively.

2.7. Bank Group experiences and lessons learned, reflected in program design

2.7.1 Independent evaluations commissioned by the Bank on SCB phases 1-3 established firstly that the program had generated considerable interest and demand from governments and other stakeholders for the Bank's continued leadership role in coordinating support for statistical capacity building in Africa. Secondly, that the Bank's financial and technical leadership had been instrumental in engaging other development partners and sustaining the momentum and effectiveness achieved for coordinated assistance for the development of statistical systems in the region. Thirdly, the evaluations also confirmed that the global and regional collaboration arrangements with other donors in phases 1-3 provided an efficient and cost-effective framework that sustained the success of the program. This has also advanced the progressive harmonization of procedures of country statistical systems to international standards and the generation of comparative statistics. The key lessons learnt from previous phases have informed the formulation of the current program and the design and preparation of the action plan and work programs and include:

- i. The need for a *programmatic approach in coordinating statistical capacity-building support* to countries under the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) which is aligned to the programs of the national development strategy or plan, including the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems. The priorities outlined in the NSDS should serve as the main instrument for the coordination of statistical development activities and for harnessing resources from the government, development partners, and other stakeholders. In this regard, the work programs under the NSDS should be based on a comprehensive diagnosis of the statistical systems to identify the challenges and should first and foremost serve the needs of the national development strategies, priorities, and results measurement frameworks.
- ii. The importance of *giving more emphasis to sector administrative data* generation, management, and dissemination to promote the availability of timely statistics and facilitate better decision-making. This calls for more support for the development of sector management information systems (SMIS) in order to generate real-time data through administrative records that best serve the needs of M&E and tracking development outcomes. The emphasis on sector statistics is crucial, since sector programs are critical for achieving the objectives of the national development strategies. Moreover, most of the support of development partners is at the sector level;
- iii. The need for *closer alignment of the SCB work plan with the Bank's TYS, country and regional assistance strategies, and work plan*. This will then (a) exploit the synergies and mainstream statistical support for development results measurement and M&E systems in the Bank's operational engagements and portfolio management and (b) assist in the mobilization of additional resources for the program.
- iv. Countries should be assisted to *formulate a comprehensive statistical work agenda for generating benchmark indicators and targets*. This will help to establish the readiness of all stakeholders to engage in programs/projects and will set best fiduciary practices;
- v. The program should *strengthen the technical capacity of SROs* to assist countries and also serve to coordinate regional integration statistics. The current level of assistance is perceived to be inadequate.
- vi. The program should *provide more assistance to meet the training needs of national statistical systems (NSSs) and sub-regional organizations (SROs)*. The objective is to build country capacity for statistical training relating to specific sectors within local institutions.
- vii. There is a need for greater advocacy for *governments to give greater priority and higher budgetary allocations to statistical development*. The allocations for statistical activities from the national budget are generally inadequate in most African countries. This puts the

- achievement and sustenance of the objectives of national development strategies at risk.
- viii. *Increasing the level of technical and other assistance to countries in specific areas* (such as re-basing the GDP) is necessary. Recent assessments suggest that about 41 RMCs need to rebase their GDP, as their current base-years lag more than 5 years.
 - ix. More assistance should be programmed for *strengthening country capacity for systematic analysis, dissemination, and use of results through open access to available data*. Open data systems can create enormous economic benefits for governments, businesses and individuals. In many countries, surveys are undertaken but the analysis and dissemination suffer from long delays.

2.7.2 The performance of the past SCB program was satisfactory, although there were delays in disbursement and procurement in some of the SROs. These difficulties have since been resolved.

2.8. Program's performance indicators

2.8.1 The key performance indicators are presented in the results-based logical framework at the beginning of this report. Progress will be measured on a regular basis through a variety of means including: regular Bank supervision missions, submission of quarterly progress reports from SROs and RMCs, and a midterm review of the minutes of NSDS steering committee at the country level. Also, the reports from development partners, the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) and Country Reports on Support to Statistics (CRESS) generated by PARIS21 will all be used to garner relevant complementary information.

III PROGRAM FEASIBILITY

3.1. Economic and financial performance

3.1.1 The program is not amenable to a cost-benefit analysis as the benefits are not directly quantifiable in monetary terms. However, improvements in statistical systems in RMCs will lead to higher-quality and timelier data, which, in turn, will support better policy formulation, program design and implementation, and the evaluation of results. Better economic policies based on reliable statistics will contribute to better outcomes of the inclusive economic and green growth development agenda, as well as poverty reduction.

3.2. Environmental and social impacts

3.2.1 The program will help to improve the availability, quality, and timeliness of environmental and climate change statistics, which in turn will lead to better policy formulation and decision-making on related issues. It will have no adverse impact on the environment or climate change, rather it will promote better policies in the relevant areas. The project has been confirmed as Category 3, under the Environmental and Social Scoping Safeguards, meaning that no specific safeguard requirements will be imposed on the project.

3.2.2 The program will also increase the generation of gender-responsive statistics and analytical products to inform policy decisions on gender issues in RMCs, in line with regional and international agreements and standards. This will facilitate the design and implementation of programs and projects geared to improve economic and social prospects from a gender perspective. Special focus will also be given to the generation of data in emerging areas such as financial inclusiveness, empowerment, asset ownership and control, and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.

3.2.3 The program will facilitate the generation of reliable and timely social statistics for planning, implementation, and monitoring of social programs in areas such as education and health and for monitoring the MDGs. Better data will help governments to design targeted poverty reduction and

other social programs and to track their effectiveness.

3.2.4 There will be no resettlements (voluntary or involuntary) occasioned by the program.

IV IMPLEMENTATION

4.1. Implementation arrangements

4.1.1. Similar to previous phases of the SCB Program, this will be a Bank-executed program, with the Bank acting in its capacity as administrator, of the Program. The Bank, through its Statistics Department (ESTA), will receive the grant and disburse it to the selected SROs and ADF-eligible RMCs upon fulfillment of certain pre-agreed conditions. ESTA will also retain part of the grant to be utilized for selected regional public good activities. The SROs and STCs will, in turn, retain a part for sub-regional RPG activities and disburse a part of the grant, where applicable, to the RMCs to support activities at the national level. Amounts to be disbursed from one level to the next will be contingent on agreed work programs and fulfillment by each entity of a set of preconditions.

4.1.2 The implementation and coordination of the program will be at the above three levels using existing mechanisms: national, sub-regional, and regional. The national statistical agencies will be responsible for country level activities; the SROs will assume responsibility at the sub-regional level among their member countries, while the Bank (ESTA, in conjunction with EADI regarding the structuring and development of training sessions and manuals) will be responsible for overseeing activities at the regional level. Additional support will be provided to RMCs and SROs by Bank staff in the Regional Resource Centers and Country Offices. It is envisaged that the program will reinforce capacity at the sub-regional and national levels where statistical deficiencies are clearly identified. Special attention will be given to statistics to meet the needs of fragile states; and gender will be mainstreamed in all statistical issues.

4.1.3 **Disbursements:** Disbursements under the program would be made in accordance with the Bank's rules and procedures, as laid out in the Disbursement Handbook. The disbursement modalities of grant proceeds will be based on program characteristics, the categories of expenditures to be financed, and the capacity of the RMC and SRO to manage program resources. There will be a Program Implementation Manual that will guide ESTA, the SROs and RMCs in executing the program.

4.1.4. **Procurement:** All procurement of goods and acquisition of consulting services financed by the Bank will be in accordance with the Bank's Rules and Procedures; i.e. "*Rules and Procedures for the Procurement of Goods and Works*," dated May 2008, as revised in July 2012, and "*Rules and Procedures for the Use of Consultants*" also dated May 2008 as revised in July 2012. Procurement activities (data processing equipment and software, price survey equipment, consulting and non-consulting services, training workshops, etc.) for Phase 4 will be similar to those of Phases 1-3. Procurement responsibilities will be carried out by ESTA as Executing Agency at the regional level, SROs and STCs at the sub-regional level and NSOs at the national level. Due to a lack of capacity at the SADC Secretariat, ESTA will also be responsible for overseeing procurement activities for SADC countries. For countries and sub-regional organizations that have signed Letters of Agreement for the use of national procurement procedures, these shall apply as agreed with the Bank and shall be reflected in the relevant legal agreements to be signed for Phase 4 of the SCB Program.

4.1.5. **Financial Management and Audit:** Financial management responsibilities of this program will be assured at the country level by national statistical agencies, then at the sub-regional level by SROs (AFRISTAT, COMESA, ECCAS, AMU, ECOWAS, and SADC), Population Studies Centers and STCs, and finally at the regional level by the Bank (ESTA). A desk review was conducted to assess the financial management capacity of these implementing organizations (except for the ECCAS and AMU Secretariats, which are participating for the first time in an SRO capacity) at the three

different levels, but the review was limited due to the documentation available. The SADC Secretariat continues to show supervisory weaknesses with regard to payment procedures and financial reconciliations. AFRISTAT encountered difficulties in cash management, and submitted their budgets, interim financial reports and supporting documents with delays. The lack of a critical mass of staff at the level of NSOs in some RMCs was noted. Insufficient internal controls were detected in the STCs of EASTC in Tanzania and ISAE in Uganda. In general, the financial information proved reliable for all the implementing organizations but it was submitted to the Bank with delays through audit reports. For the regional level (the Bank) and COMESA, the information was presented in the form of special purpose financial statements, which were not intended to be in conformity with a recognized accounting framework, such as the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). On the basis of above, the rating of the global fiduciary risk was deemed substantial. To address this, the following risk-mitigating measures will be implemented.

4.1.6 The financial management arrangements are as follows:

- i. Following an advance to commence activities, further disbursements will be triggered only when RMCs achieve agreed program milestones or targets, as in the previous phases. NSOs will justify disbursements by submitting quarterly financial statements to their SROs; in turn, the SROs will submit their own financial statements to the Bank;
- ii. Each NSO will designate a qualified accounting assistant to be a member of the program team as required;
- iii. The financial management procedures will be formalized and the accounting system will be computerized at the RMC level if need be;
- iv. The quarterly financial statements will include: sources and uses of funds, use of funds on program activities, procurement progress reporting, and a review of physical progress;
- v. The annual financial statements of the program will be prepared in accordance with internationally accepted accounting principles; and
- vi. Independent audit institutions (public or private) acceptable to the ADF will carry out annual audits of the program (at regional, sub-regional and national levels) in conformity with the Bank's Terms of Reference.

4.2. *Monitoring*

4.2.1 Given that this is a one year program, AfDB staff will be required to undertake at least one supervision mission to SROs and selected countries to assess progress. SRO experts, in turn, will be required to visit their member countries more frequently to supervise the implementation of the program and resolve any outstanding issues. The NSOs are expected to provide regular progress reports, including any challenges encountered. These reports will be distributed to stakeholders and discussed and analyzed by SROs and the Regional Office.

4.4.2 **Role of Partners:** The Bank, along with its development partners, is contributing to the development and implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). The partners include, but are not limited to, DFID, EU, World Bank, UN System (ILO, UNSD, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women), USAID, BMGF, and the Korea Trust Fund (KOAFEC). Contribution are generally made through parallel financing but reporting on progress is through the donor coordinating committees that have been set up in RMCs. Monitoring and supervision will be undertaken jointly where feasible. In addition, due reference will be made to the supervision reports prepared by these partners for components that they co-finance. There will be a midterm evaluation of the program to permit corrections if deemed necessary.

4.3. *Governance*

4.3.1. Within the Bank, the Knowledge Management Committee chaired by the Chief Economist & Vice President will oversee the implementation of the program. Its members include Directors from Operations Departments and FNVP complexes respectively. At the sub-regional level, SROs will manage and coordinate the program under the supervision of the Bank. They will assist their member

countries in the preparation and execution of program activities. In particular, they will ensure that countries meet the conditions precedent to first disbursement. At the national level, the Head of the national statistical agency will be responsible for the coordination of the program.

4.4. Sustainability

4.4.1 The program is part of the international engagement on statistical capacity building at the country and regional levels; and the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS) endorsed at the High-Level Forum on Development Effectiveness. The program also responds to the call for a data revolution to support the post-2015 development agenda, which has gained significant political support. At the country level, therefore, RMCs are using the NSDS framework for harnessing and mobilizing resources, and to guide implementation of activities on a systematic basis. Governments and development partners are committed under the BAPS to ensure adequate budgetary provisions and the sustainability of the program by contributing to the implementation of the NSDS. The recent rebasing of GDP in several countries has led to the generation of more realistic and timely statistics that provide a realistic perspective of the economies. This will enhance confidence in the national data for program planning and for better decision-making by the government, development partners, the private sector, and the general public. Confidence in national data provides the incentive for the government to increase the budgetary allocation for statistical activities and promotes the mobilization of resources from development partners and other stakeholders including the private sector.

4.5. Risk management

The six major risks and mitigation measures may be summarized as follows:

Stakeholder Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation measures
1. Governments and other users may not trust or use statistics to strengthen policy		This will be addressed by supporting RMCs and other statistical agencies to compile and disseminate statistics, in line with regional and international standards and recommendations.
2. Governments may be unwilling to give priority to financing statistical systems to sustain improvements in performance		This will be addressed by the adoption of the NSDS, which commits RMC governments to accord high priority to statistical development activities, including adequate budgetary provisions.
3. Governments may be unwilling or unable to implement plans for improvement owing to budgetary constraints		This will also be addressed by the NSDS, which covers training, the retention of staff, and which identifies feasible budgets. The program includes advocacy for governments to give high priority and comply with their international and regional commitments to statistical development.
4. Development partners may not deliver on the expected financing		Development partners have demonstrated a strong and continuing commitment to the results agenda, the Busan Action Plan for Statistics, and MDGs monitoring in RMCs.
5. Aid may be fragmented and coordination may suffer as a result of the many different organizations involved in the project		This will be addressed by ensuring adherence to the NSDS as the common implementation and coordination framework at the national level.

Program Risk		
6. Delays in disbursement times and procurement procedures	Low	Training will be conducted on procurement, disbursement, and financial management. This will begin early in the program, immediately upon Board approval, and would be based on, for the most part, experiences from implementing past SCB phases.

4.6 *Exit Strategy*

4.6.1 This program focuses on providing RPGs for statistical capacity building in RMCs to address emerging challenges of development. However, as capacity is built, there will be a need to scale down technical support in those countries that have made good progress in their statistical systems. Nevertheless the program will maintain support to ensure harmonization of national standards and procedures in conformity with international norms in areas such as the International Comparison Program (ICP) and other RPG activities. Additionally, national and regional development strategies need to respond to emerging global and regional concerns and initiatives and this is best coordinated under regional and global frameworks. Consequently, exit strategies for countries and sub-regional entities from the SCB program is not envisaged at the moment, given the depth of the capacity-building needs in RMCs. In the medium term, they will continue to rely on the regionally coordinated support frameworks and on sharing best practices to strengthen the capacity of their statistical systems to better respond to the emerging challenges. It is anticipated that in-country support will reduce significantly as statistical capacity is developed; however at the sub-regional and regional levels, there will always be a need for statistical capacity-building coordination to promote and support harmonization and comparability.

4.7 *Knowledge Building*

4.7.1 The program will build knowledge and develop skills within the program areas, which in turn will help to generate quality, timely, and reliable data through the strengthening of statistical systems in RMCs. Improved data systems will lead to a better understanding of development challenges in RMCs, which, in turn, will lead to improved policy and strategy design, results measurement and reporting, as well as MDGs monitoring. The program will also contribute to better supervision and monitoring of Bank operations.

4.7.2 Through the support provided, it is expected that RMCs will be able to produce a wide range of statistical and knowledge products that will facilitate expert analysis and enhance knowledge on socioeconomic issues. Support will range from building skills and capacity to developing higher-quality and larger numbers of standard, as well as specialized, reports. The various manuals, training plans and materials developed will also contribute to continuous knowledge building and development within RMCs.

4.7.3 The knowledge generated will be disseminated through the Africa Information Highway (AIH), which is a “one-stop” common platform for reliable and timely development data on African countries for all stakeholders, including RMCs, SROs, RECs, development agencies, businesses, and the general public. The Bank will also disseminate data through its flagship publications and other socioeconomic and sector specific studies, which are increasingly provided in electronic format. In line with the recommendations of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics, all beneficiaries will be encouraged to follow open-data principles when compiling and disseminating statistical information.

V LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND AUTHORITY

5.1. Legal instrument

5.1.1 The proposed intervention instrument for the Program will be a grant from the ADF-13 Allocation for Regional Public Goods. A contribution agreement will be entered into between ADF and ADB, acting in its capacity as the administrator of the SCB Program. Thereafter Protocols of Agreements will be entered into between ADB and the selected SROs and ADF-eligible RMCs/STCs.

5.2. Conditions associated with the Bank's intervention

5.2.1 *Entry into force of the Contribution Agreement and the Protocols of Agreement:* These agreements shall enter into force on the date of their respective signatures.

5.2.2 *Conditions Precedent to making disbursements to the respective SROs and eligible RMCs/STCs:* In order to best meet the objectives of the SCB program, each SRO will receive funds to support its own capacity building, as well as funds specifically designated for administrative and RMC coordination activities to complement AfDB's direct support. However, resources for activities in RMCs will only be routed through SROs that are deemed to have enough capacity to administer the resources efficiently within the program's implementation timeframe. The obligation of the Bank to make disbursements to the SROs or RMCs/STCs (each the "Recipient" or collectively the "Recipients") shall be conditional upon the fulfillment by the Recipient(s), to the satisfaction of the Fund, of the following conditions:

- a) The entry into force of a Protocol of Agreement between the Bank and the Recipient(s);
- b) Evidence of a special account in the name of the Recipient (s) at a bank acceptable to the Fund, to receive the Grant proceeds;
- c) Submission by the Recipient(s), for prior approval by the Bank, of a work program and an annual budget for program implementation;
- d) Evidence of the creation of an SCB Program committee, including the designation of a coordinator of SCB Program activities, whose qualifications and experience are acceptable to the Bank and who will be responsible for the implementation of SCB Program activities at the sub-regional or country level; and
- e) A draft operational manual for the SCB deemed acceptable by the Bank.

5.2.3 *Other Conditions:* The Recipient(s) shall submit:

- (i) comprehensive progress reports every six months;
- (ii) quarterly financial statements and
- (iii) audited reports annually.

5.3. Compliance with Bank policies

5.3.1 This program complies with all applicable Bank policies including the eligibility criteria of a Regional Public Good of non-rivalry and non-exclusivity.

VI RECOMMENDATION

Management recommends that the Board of Directors approve the proposed ADF grant of UA 10.00 million, to be awarded to the Bank in its capacity as the administrator of the Program, for the purpose of implementing the program as described in this report and subject to the conditions stipulated therein.

Appendix I : Statistical Capacity Building in Support of the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy 2013-2022

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Bank, through its Statistical Capacity Building (SCB) program managed by ESTA, provides both financial and technical support to all 54 RMCs, 10 Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and 6 Statistical Training Centers aimed at strengthening their respective and joint capacity to provide better statistics for MDG monitoring & results measurement. In the context of ADF13 (2014-2016) and the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy 2013–2022, the focus of the Bank's statistical activities will be on providing support for monitoring the inclusiveness of growth and the greening of the African economy. In addition, statistical activities will continue to support the Bank and RMCs in the core priority areas of infrastructure development, regional integration, private sector development, governance & accountability, as well as skills & technology development. Special emphasis will be placed on supporting fragile states, sustainable agricultural and food security activities, as well as gender issues. The analysis below analyzes the specific activities of the Statistics Department (ESTA) in support of the Bank's strategy 2013–2022:

2. INCLUSIVE GROWTH

2.1 ***Inclusive growth surveys:*** ESTA is in the process of conducting surveys in RMCs to generate indicators for monitoring inclusive growth in African countries through crowd-sourcing approaches. The first series of surveys in a number of RMCs was carried out in 2014-15.

2.2 ***Monitoring of MDGs and the post 2015 Development Agenda:*** ESTA strengthens the capacity of RMCs to improve and harmonize statistics in several key areas, including (a) Population and Housing Censuses (PHCs); (b) Education and health statistics; and (c) Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS). As a result of AfDB support, the latest 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses resulted in the highest participation of RMCs ever in the history of census taking in Africa.

2.3 ***Poverty Analysis:*** Under its International Comparison Program (ICP), the Bank generates purchasing power parity (PPP) statistics which are used for benchmarking poverty measurement. Under the current round, ESTA is carrying out research aimed at generating PPPs based on a specific consumption basket of the poor. This is intended to assist in determining more appropriate poverty thresholds.

2.4 ***Promotion of Gender-responsive Statistics:*** ESTA advocates for the mainstreaming of gender-responsive statistics in national statistical systems and promotes their timely and accurate generation. This is crucial to track progress toward achieving gender equality policies and commitments.

3. TRANSITION TO GREEN GROWTH

3.1 ***Agriculture, Environment, and Climate Change Statistics:*** In 2011, the Bank launched the Action Plan for Africa (2011–2015) aimed at strengthening RMCs' capacity to generate improved statistics for food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development. This is being implemented in partnership with DFID, FAO, ECA, and the BMGF, with the AfDB acting as the lead agency.

4. CORE OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

4.1 Under the five core operational priorities of the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy, the Statistics Department (ESTA) takes a two-pronged approach (i) supporting regional and operations departments to meet their data needs, and (ii) supporting RMCs to build statistical capacity to monitor MDGs and for results measurement:

- (i) **Infrastructure development:** The Bank, through its Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program (AIKP), assists RMCs to improve the quality and quantity of sector infrastructure statistics, as well as to monitor the fiscal management of infrastructure. The resulting data serve as crucial input for infrastructure development on the continent. ESTA has also developed the Africa Infrastructure Development Index (AIDI) to monitor the status and progress of infrastructure development across the continent. The current AIDI covers the period 2000–2010 and has four major components: (i) transportation, (ii) electricity, (iii) ICT, and (iv) water & sanitation.
- (ii) **Regional Integration:** ESTA compiles data on intraregional trade, which is critical in assessing the level of regional integration. ESTA continues to support the work on harmonizing the consumer price index in RMCs. The Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI) is one of the key macroeconomic convergence criteria for monitoring RMCs' economic performance and to support policies fostering regional integration. The International Comparison Program (ICP) provides a common benchmark for comparability of prices of similar consumer products and cost of living standards across countries, and within sub-regions. The Bank's AIDI will also continue to enhance the monitoring of infrastructure development that fosters regional integration on the continent. Furthermore, ESTA and ONRI have developed a set of regional integration indicators, which will be used to monitor regional integration on the continent.
- (iii) **Private sector development:** The Bank's Africa Information Highway (AIH) managed by ESTA provides data on critical indicators for private sector development and foreign direct investment. The AIH enables open access to timely data such as domestic lending rates, inflation rates, ratings of ease of doing business, and information on many other socioeconomic indicators in RMCs. ESTA has also scaled up its support to RMCs to develop and/or to improve Statistical Business Registers through which information on all registered enterprises, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), can be obtained. The Bank also provides support to RMCs to generate labor market information and statistics to further facilitate private sector development by providing information on the size and composition of the labor force, wages for various categories of employment, employment trends, skills mix, and labor productivity in RMCs.
- (iv) **Governance and accountability:** The Open Data/Data Portals and Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) indicators provided by AfDB to RMCs through the Bank's Africa Information Highway initiative, will improve transparency and accountability of governments and private sector alike. Among other things, the Africa Information Highway aims to support RMCs to monitor national budgetary allocations, government revenue, government debt, etc. Through this system, CSOs, national think-tanks, the media, and citizens in general are better equipped to hold governments to account on resource distribution, and investments in various areas including social programs. In collaboration with UNDP and AUC, ESTA plans to develop a harmonized set of data collection instruments and indicators for periodic monitoring in the area of governance, peace and security through National Statistical Offices (NSOs) across the continent.
- (v) **Skills and technology:** The labor force data being collected from RMCs makes it possible to identify skills gaps, thereby allowing governments and the private sector to tailor education and training to high-demand skills areas, such as science and technology. ESTA is also assisting RMCs to develop dynamic Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) that provide real-time data on training gaps, educational outcomes, and educational returns.

5. LONG-TERM STRATEGY (LTS) AREAS OF SPECIAL EMPHASIS

5.1 The Statistics Department has aligned the five core operational priorities to the three areas of special emphasis, namely fragile states, agriculture and food security, and gender.

- (i) **Fragile States:** ESTA provides targeted technical statistical support and enhanced financial

assistance to fragile states in order to reduce the large capacity needs in national statistical systems.

- (ii) **Agriculture and Food Security:** The Bank's "*Action Plan for Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development*" will enhance information on food security in individual RMCs and at the RECs and regional levels. Through the African Infrastructure Knowledge Program, ESTA has created an improved knowledge base for farmers and other actors along the food chain. Through the AIKP, they can keep up to date on the latest prices for agricultural commodities, in both national and regional markets. The AIKP also helps support improvements in transportation, exportation, and storage of food products.
- (iii) **Gender Equality:** In collaboration with UNSD and other partners (MDBs, OECD, Statistics Canada, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), etc.), ESTA began a series of surveys in RMCs from 2013 to 2015 to measure individual asset ownership and control. Data obtained from this and other studies will be highly valuable to the Bank's work toward addressing women's economic empowerment, legal and property rights issues in RMCs.

6. THE AFRICA INFORMATION HIGHWAY

6.1 In November 2012, the AfDB launched an ambitious program to significantly improve data management and dissemination in Africa as part of its broader statistical capacity building program on the continent. The ultimate goal of the program is to facilitate wider public access to official statistics and to support countries in their efforts to improve data quality and dissemination for better policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation. The program involved the development and installation of common IT platforms in all 54 countries and 16 sub-regional and regional organizations in Africa. The AIH establishes live data links between the Bank and national statistics agencies, central banks, and line ministries in African countries, on the one hand, while also linking the countries with each other and with external development partners. This facilitates rapid data exchange, validation, analysis, and dissemination using common international standards and guidelines. This approach not only eases access to statistical data and metadata in African countries, it also helps to improve the quality of the country data by making it more internationally comparable, harmonized, meaningful, and ultimately more usable.

6.2 The IT platform being deployed in Africa also features a data submission tool for seamless transfer of country data to the AfDB's statistical portal. In this context, the AfDB Statistics Department teamed up with the IMF to help countries prepare National Summary Data Pages, as part of their preparation for subscribing to the enhanced IMF Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS-Plus). The Bank has also partnered with the European Union to provide easy access to agricultural data and to tools that can simulate various agricultural policy alternatives. The data submission facility will position the AfDB as the key depository for development data in Africa and as a prime hub for data-sharing with international development partners.

Appendix II: Achievements under SCB Phases 1-3 in Regional Member Countries and Sub-regional Organizations

INTRODUCTION

The Statistical Capacity Building (SCB) Program in RMCs and SROs is being implemented in phases: SCB-1 took place during 2005–2008 under ICP-Africa; SCB-2 during 2009–2011; and SCB-3 during 2012–2013. The financing approved periodically by the Bank's Boards in cycles of 2 to 3 years is supplemented with contributions from other development partners. The strategic thrusts and highlights of achievements in the various thematic areas are discussed below:

1. Statistical Leadership, Coordination, Partnerships, and Advocacy

1.1 The Bank has established partnership at the global, regional, and sub-regional levels. It has assumed leadership for technical and financial coordination, advocacy and statistical development in Africa, principally in the following areas:

- i. ***Catalyst for Mobilizing Resources from Development Partners:*** The resources approved by the Boards for the SCB program also serve to leverage contributions from other donors, thereby multiplying many times over the size of Bank's commitments. Over the years, other contributions to the SCB program have included the World Bank (US\$3 million); African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) (US\$1 million with a further US\$6.2 pledged); Japan (US\$0.655 million with about US\$2.5 million pledged); DFID-UK (US\$1m with US\$10 million pledged); and other donors (US\$10.3 million mostly in pledges at this stage);
- ii. ***Statistical Governance Framework:*** The Bank plays a leadership role in the various global, regional, and sub-regional statistical governance forums as Chair and/or Executive Committee member. The Bank has also facilitated the participation of RMCs' statistical authorities at these forums;
- iii. ***Statistical Advocacy and Partnership for Statistical Development in Africa:*** The Bank maintains close cooperation with development partners and governments of RMCs in formulating and implementing statistical initiatives and for coordinated statistical support to RMCs; and
- iv. ***Leadership in Coordinating NSDS Process:*** The Bank led the process for the formulation of the Regional Reference Framework for Statistics (RRFS), which provides the framework for RMCs' National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), as well as supporting its implementation.

2. Development of Methods and Guidelines

2.1 Methodological approaches and guidelines developed under the SCB program in areas of data generation, analysis, management and dissemination, diagnosis, and operations framework cover the following areas:

- i. ***Bank's lead role in strengthening price and national account statistics.*** This has led to significant improvements in (a) streamlining, improving the timeliness and the quality of country data to ensure the representativeness of the indicators; (c) integrating ICP/HCPi lists; (d) improving staff capabilities; and (e) supporting regional integration through the generation of Harmonized Consumer Price Indices (HCPIs) by regional economic groupings.

- ii. ***Country Statistical Profiles (CStPs)*** have been developed by the AfDB as a diagnostic, consultation and programming tool in support of RMCs' statistical systems. They help to establish the statistical needs of Bank operations and other users, as well as mainstreaming statistical support in Bank Group projects, evaluating statistical capacity-building needs in RMCs, and serving as an instrument of dialogue and advocacy with governments and development partners for coordinated statistical development.
- iii. ***Operational Framework Working Document*** provides guidelines on linkages among RMCs' medium-term development strategies, the assistance strategies of donors; Results Measurement Framework; agenda for M&E of development outcomes, and the role of national statistical systems as a common measurement platform for development outcomes for RMCs and donors.

2.2 ***Adaptation and Harmonization of Methods and Standards at Sub-regional Levels.*** Programs are being financed through SROs to harmonize methodologies, techniques and standards for the formulation and implementation of surveys and analysis in the preparation of price index and national accounts in UEMOA, ECOWAS, and SADC.

3. Development of Human Capital in RMCs

3.1 The development of human capital is a major strategic focus under the SCB, assisting RMCs to formulate their human resources development strategies through a regional approach by strengthening the capacity of Statistical Training Centers (STCs). The short-term needs of RMCs and SROs are being addressed with other donors through the provision of technical assistance, as well as by holding regular seminars and workshops in economic and social statistics for decision-makers, statistical authorities, and professional staff. Over the last nine years, more than 4,000 persons have received practical training in various areas of statistics.

4. Africa Information Highway (AIH)

4.1 The Bank has launched the African Information Highway with the strategic thrust of increasing public access to official statistics and fostering transparency and accountability in public policy. Under the program, data portals with common IT platforms have been developed and installed in all 54 African countries and 16 African sub-regional and regional organizations. The project positions AfDB as the hub for development data on African RMCs by establishing live data links between the Bank, National Statistical Agencies, central banks and line ministries, on the one hand, and between RMCs and development partners on the other. At the institutional level, ESTA already maintains a Data Portal (DP) and Open Data for Africa platform that provides Bank staff, RMCs, and other external users direct and easy online access to a wide range of development data from databases managed by the Bank and other organizations.

5. Data Generation, Analysis, Management, and Dissemination

5.1 ***Improving Data Generation and Analysis:*** 52 RMCs are being assisted in the generation and analysis of national accounts and prices data. Some RMCs (Burundi, Djibouti, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, and Zimbabwe) have been assisted to rebase their national accounts and CPI. Staff of NSOs have been trained on the adaptation of the UN System of National Accounts (SNA) to their needs, as well as on survey methods, data analysis and reporting. Based on the performance in this area, the World Bank, IMF, and other development partners depend on the AfDB as the source of the most reliable data on national accounts and price statistics for Africa. ESTA has launched a pilot program for collecting qualitative information through mobile phone surveys on youth employment in Tunisia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with plans to roll this out to Kenya and Tanzania in

future. There are also plans to assist RMCs to establish sector Management Information Systems for sustainable generation of reliable real-time administrative data.

6. Specific Data Development Activities

6.1 *Organizational Reforms and Coordination of the National Statistical System (NSS)*: The Bank has supported RMCs in formulating/revising the Statistics Act to provide the basis for the formulation and implementation of the NSDS. The Bank has played the leadership role in over 30 RMCs under the SCB in supporting the review and update of the Statistics Act, and in providing direct assistance for the preparation and updating of the NSDS. In addition, it has assessed the statistical systems of 17 RMCs as part of the preparation of the Country Statistical Profiles. This is with a view to providing further Bank support for reforms that will bolster the measurement of development results. Technical assistance has been provided to the Central Statistical Organizations (CSOs) in Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia. ESTA works closely with the Bank's operations teams on CSP and M&E of sector projects to assist RMCs in the formulation of sector statistical strategic plans.

6.2 *Data Development under Special Initiatives.* ESTA is currently implementing the following initiatives which are being co-financed with other development partners:

- i. ***Agricultural Statistics:*** The Bank launched the Action Plan for Africa (2011–2015) in partnership with DFID, FAO, ECA, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The goal is to strengthen the institutional and organizational basis to improve the scope, quality, and timeliness of agricultural statistics in RMCs. Under the Action Plan, an agricultural data management tool (DataM) has been installed in the Bank to facilitate data harmonization and comparability by collating agriculture data from main databases in RMCs and other countries worldwide;
- ii. ***Infrastructure Statistics:*** The Bank provides leadership on African infrastructure data and information systems under the African Infrastructure Knowledge Program (AIKP) Initiative. The objective is to increase the knowledge base on the state of infrastructure in Africa, the investment needs, and the efficiency of the infrastructure services such as access, utilization, satisfaction levels, etc. for different population groups. Activities under the AIKP are making major improvements in the country-level knowledge base of the infrastructure sector. The Bank has also organized three regional training workshops to build country capacity and improve the state of infrastructure statistics in RMCs.
- iii. ***Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS):*** ESTA, along with other donors, promotes the use of a balanced mix of administrative records, censuses, and sample surveys to enhance the capacity for the CRVS systems. Under the Initiative, RMCs are assisted to keep a continuous and complete record of births, deaths (by sex, age, cause, etc.), marriage and divorces and to monitor their incidence each year. CRVS is vital not only for monitoring progress of the MDGs but also to effectively plan and manage public policy relating to provisions for health, education, and housing services.
- iv. ***Data on MDG Monitoring:*** The Initiative aims at building the capacity of RMCs to generate and analyze data for monitoring and reporting progress on MDG targets to inform decision-making and policies. ESTA assists RMCs in strengthening their capacity to improve and harmonize their social statistics in several key areas, including: (a) Population and Housing Censuses, through high-level seminars and the provision of Census Advisers. This resulted in the highest participation by Africa in the 2010 Population Census, compared to any previous census round; (b) education and health statistics (c) Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (see previous paragraph).

7. Knowledge Generation: ESTA's Publications

7.1 In the context of the SCB Program, ESTA produces a number of knowledge products including flagship publications, strategic working papers and guidelines, sector and thematic papers. Many of the publications are produced in collaboration with other departments. The categories include:

- a. ***Strategic Working Papers and Guidelines:*** (i) Strategic Framework for the Implementation of Measurement for Development Results; (ii) Guidelines for the Preparation of the Country Statistical Profiles; (iii) Guidelines for Building Statistical Business Registers in Africa; (iv) Laying the Foundation for the Harmonization of Economic Statistics Programs;
- b. ***Country and Regional Statistical Profiles:*** (i) Country Statistical Profiles (17) and Regional Integration Statistical Profile (1) (Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Seychelles, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, and ECOWAS);
- c. ***ESTA's Flagship Publications:*** (i) Gender, Poverty and Environmental Indicators; (ii) The AfDB Statistics Pocket Book; (iii) ICP Results on Comparative Outputs, Incomes and Price Levels in African Countries; (iv) Compendium of Statistics on Bank Group Operations; (v) African Economic and Financial Briefs; and (vi) the African Statistical Journal;
- d. ***Publications with Other Departments and UN Agencies:*** (i) African Statistical Yearbook; (ii) African Economic Outlook (AEO); (iii) African Competitiveness Report; (iv) African Development Report; (v) Handbook on Infrastructure Statistics (vi) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Progress Report;
- e. ***Economic and Sector Works and Economic and Market Briefs:*** ESTA also publishes periodic ESWs on core priority areas of the Bank's TYS. Between 2010 and 2013, ESTA produced numerous ESWs and economic and market briefs on health, social protection, gender, fragile states, infrastructure, transport, trade, regional integration, tourism, and Africa's emerging middle class. Some of these publications are produced in collaboration with other departments in the Bank.

Appendix III. Major International Statistical Initiatives

The Second Roundtable on Managing for Development Results (2004) recognized the need for a coordinated approach to improve national statistical systems. It endorsed the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) and created an international agenda for supporting statistics in developing countries. Under the Accra Agenda for Action (2008), donors and developing countries made broad commitments to strengthen national statistical systems; provide more data disaggregated by sex, region, and economic status; and invest in strengthening the national statistical capacity and information systems of developing countries. The Dakar Declaration on the Development of Statistics (2009) reaffirmed the need for concerted and coordinated actions to make more effective use of statistical data to support poverty reduction policies and programs and to strengthen the capacity of statistical systems on sustainable basis.

Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS). It is broadly recognized that most low-income countries have adopted national statistical plans over the last decade but that they face challenges of human and financial resources in their implementation, especially at sector levels. This received the attention of the 4th High Level Forum on Development Effectiveness in Busan (2011), which endorsed a new action plan: the *Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS)*. The Plan recommends an improved dialogue between statisticians and policymakers to address new and emerging issues related to national development priorities and rigorous monitoring of global initiatives. It stresses the role of statistics in increasing transparency and the accountability of governments. It calls for increased resources for national statistical systems and public access to statistics and underlines that robust and broad-based funding mechanisms are required to sustain the growth and improvement of national and international statistical systems.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the Heads of MDBs, the IMF, and the UN was signed in April 2013 and underscored the signatories' continuing commitment to jointly strengthen country-level statistical capacity. The MOU underscored inter-agency knowledge sharing in order to address the challenges confronting the post 2015 Data Revolution. The MOU sets out guiding principles, including: (i) Delivery of statistical capacity-building assistance in a harmonized and coordinated manner while respecting country ownership and leadership, based on realistic national statistical plans; (ii) Promoting greater use of statistical information, especially at the highest level of government; (iii) Encouraging the use of clear results frameworks with well-defined indicators for measuring improvements in statistical capacity; (iv) Sharing knowledge and access to data, development of tools, and promoting good practices in the management of statistical offices. As a way forward, the MOU called for the promotion of open and accessible data; innovative methods of gathering and disseminating statistics; enhanced dialogue between producers and users of statistics; and sustaining technical and financial support for effective capacity-building programs.

Africa Charter on Statistics. The African Charter on Statistics was adopted on February 3, 2009 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. The Charter serves as an advocacy tool for statistics development, aspiring to strengthen the coordination of statistical activities across the continent, promote adherence to international standards and professionalism in statistics, and ensure the production of quality data.

Reference Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics in Africa (RRSF) and the Strategy for the Harmonization of statistics in Africa (ShaSA). The AfDB, in collaboration with ECA, the World Bank, and PARIS21, led an international effort to develop the RRSF as a mechanism to coordinate all statistical capacity-building activities in Africa. The RRSF is founded on a detailed assessment of the current state of statistics in Africa, including the weaknesses and strengths of existing systems as well as the role of the main stakeholders. RMCs use the RRSF to guide their statistical development and strengthen their national statistical systems. The Framework was adopted on February 9, 2006 in Addis Ababa at the second Forum for African Statistical Development

(FASDEV) organized by the AfDB, ECA, the World Bank, and PARIS21. The Forum brought together all the stakeholders involved in statistical development work in Africa, namely UN agencies, multilateral and bilateral institutions, sub-regional organizations, statistical training centers, and directors of NSOs in African countries. The stakeholders assigned the AfDB the lead role, in collaboration with ECA, for overseeing the implementation of the RRSF.

Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA): The AfDB, AUC, and ECA jointly developed SHaSA, which was presented at the AU Summit in Kampala in July 2010. The SHaSA directly responds to the challenges of statistical development in Africa, as outlined in the RRSF. It is intended to support the African integration agenda, particularly the Minimum Integration Program (MIP), which was adopted by the Heads of State and Government in July 2009. The vision of the SHaSA is to generate timely, reliable, and harmonized statistical information, covering all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural integration for Africa. The vision is anchored on four strategic pillars: (i) to produce quality statistics for Africa; (ii) to coordinate the production of quality statistics for Africa; (iii) to build sustainable institutional capacity of the African Statistical System; and (iv) to promote a culture of evidence-based decision-making. Through the implementation of the SHaSA, it is expected that comparable statistics will be generated to facilitate improved program implementation and decision-making in support of the regional integration agenda. Key activities and products generated from the strategic focal areas include: the adoption of international standards and common methods adjusted to African realities; better coordination of statistical development efforts; and sustained production of harmonized statistics to inform policy decisions and facilitate the integration of Africa into the global economic system (by increasing intra-African trade flows, free movement of people and goods and services, harmonized monetary policies etc.).

Statistics as Global Public Goods. The focus on statistics by the international community underscores their importance as Global Public Goods that transcend national boundaries and which have various strategic purposes, with national, regional and global impacts. Official data are available to: (i) public sector entities for informed policy and decision making; (ii) development partners to enhance the quality of their assistance strategies and programs/projects for greater development effectiveness; (iii) the private sector, business community, service sector entities, foreign investors, and other users for better business decisions; (iv) public interest groups and citizens for informed evaluation of the performance and impact of government and donor programs and their outcomes to hold the providers accountable. Statistics are also critical for the engagement of countries in the international commodity and capital markets to identify prospects and potentials for their economies to benefit effectively from the opportunities of globalization. Statistics therefore serve as instruments to promote good governance and accountability at all levels. These provide the rationale for basing the production on international cooperation and uniform standards that ensure regional and global comparison.

Appendix IV. Enhancing Data Generation, Management and Dissemination: The Africa Information Highway

1. Background

1.1 ESTA launched the African Information Highway initiative in 2012 (www.afdb.org/statistics) with the objective of increasing public access to official statistics in Africa. Under the program, data portals/open data systems with common IT platforms were developed and installed in all 54 African countries and 16 African sub-regional and regional organizations. The initiative has positioned the AfDB as the hub for development data on RMCs by establishing live data links between AfDB, National Statistical Agencies, central banks and line ministries, on the one hand; and between RMCs and development partners, on the other. The system also incorporates a data submission tool that facilitates reporting of country data to the AfDB's statistical portal using SDMX standards. At the regional level, ESTA already maintains a web-based Data Portal (DP) and Open Data for Africa platform that provides Bank staff, RMCs, and other external users direct and easy online access to a wide range of development data from databases managed by the Bank and other organizations.

1.2 These AfDB-installed systems enable countries and institutions to be linked together using common international standards into a global network that facilitates rapid data exchange, validation, analysis, and dissemination. The ultimate goal is to facilitate broader public access to official statistics and to support countries in their efforts to improve data quality and dissemination for better policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation.

2. Project Objective

2.1 The objective of the project is to install an Integrated Data Management and Dissemination (IDMD) system similar to the one housed at the AfDB in all the countries of Africa, SROs, and STCs. This IDMD will be in the form of four key modules or data portals: Statistical Data Portal, SDG Data Portal, Open Data Portal, and A Data Uploading Module.

- 2.1.1 **Statistical Data Portal.** The main goal of the Statistical Data Portal is to allow statisticians of a National Statistical Organization (NSO) to disseminate statistical data with a wide range of functionalities.
- 2.1.2 **SDG Data Portal.** This module is identical to the Statistical Data Portal but will be developed to highlight exclusively only issues/methodologies related to UN Millennium Development Goals.
- 2.1.3 **Open Data Portal.** The Open Data Platform is used for sharing and disseminating information by all institutions and users. The data is managed in a central database by the AfDB. Submission of data to the platform is voluntary. Other institutions can access the data over the Open Data Platform free of charge. Institutions are provided exclusive login rights (login & password) for uploading the data they agree to share. The Open Data Portal allows researchers, students, analysts and other online users to upload, visualize, disseminate, and share their data and data-driven content.
- 2.1.4 **Data Uploading Module-** This module will allow the administrative user to load data into the data portal.

3. Some Key Features of the Africa Information Highway

- Users can extract data easily.
- Users can easily create and share their own customized reports.
- Users are able to visualize data across themes, sectors and countries in tables, charts and maps.
- Users can access a wide range of development data on African countries from multiple international and national official sources.
- The platform also facilitates the collection, analysis, and sharing of data among countries and with international development partners.
- The platform offers a unique opportunity for various users, such as policymakers, analysts, researchers, business leaders and investors around the world, to gain access to reliable and timely data on Africa.

4. Impact/benefits of the initiative for users and producers of statistics

- Ready access and availability of official statistics to policymakers, analysts, business leaders, researchers, students, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the general public. These diverse groups can now contribute effectively to decision-making, thus leading to more transparency, accountability, and improved governance.
- The initiative provides an opportunity for countries to implement international statistical standards for greater comparability at regional and international levels. Since the countries will be all linked to each other over a common platform, they will all benefit from seamlessly exchanging data and other information relevant to their development.
- There is a constant demand by international organizations for countries to submit data to them. At the same time, there has been an increase in demand for official statistics from the public. National statistical offices cannot respond to these demands in a timely fashion. The Open Data Platform helps to address this challenge in a very effective way. National statistical offices will now only need to upload data once into the Open Data Platform and this will be available to the various development partners and users at the same. This will significantly reduce the data-reporting burden for countries.

5. Implementation

5.1. Since implementation of this AfDB initiative began, ESTA has received a number of requests for collaboration from sister agencies such as the IMF, World Bank, European Union, WHO, FAO, IHME and others. As a first step, we have decided to collaborate with the IMF in view of the significant cooperation and reliance of AfDB's programming and operational activities on IMF data. In this context, ESTA and the IMF's Statistics Department have teamed up so that the IMF can also use the AfDB system as a platform for its own data collection needs in Africa. The framework was initially piloted in three African countries (Tunisia, Nigeria, and Rwanda) and was later extended to all RMCs.

5.2. The plan is to first upload IMF historical data on RMCs onto the AfDB Open Data system and then extend its use it for future data collection and updating. The AfDB Open Data will become the reference point and source for both the AfDB and IMF data on African countries. With this arrangement, data requirements for Bank programming and project documents which hitherto were obtained from the IMF will now be readily available in the AfDB's Open Data system.

6. Way forward

6.1. ESTA's approach is to work closely with AfDB operations and other departments. The aim is for all departments and divisions to fully utilize the AfDB Open Data system to garner data/specific indicators that serve the Bank's operational, policy, research and other needs. We believe that the AIH initiative provides a robust framework that will, to a large extent, successfully meet the Bank's programming, operational, and other data needs.

6.2. ESTA's objective is to make the AfDB's Africa Information Highway platform a "one-stop center" for development data on Africa. In this regard, the initiative provides an excellent framework for ESTA to collaborate more closely with operations and other departments of the Bank on their data needs.

6.3. In the coming months, ESTA will initiate periodic dialogue and consultations with various departments of the Bank to find out what other additional data is required beyond what is available, or would be made available through the collaboration with the IMF, and from other sources accessible in the AfDB's Open Data system.

Appendix V. Map of ProgramArea

ADF-Eligible Countries

