



Project Information Document/ Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet (PID/ISDS)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 11-Nov-2019 | Report No: PIDISDSC25841



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country Western Africa	Project ID P169265	Parent Project ID (if any)	Project Name Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa (P169265)
Region AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date Dec 16, 2019	Estimated Board Date Mar 26, 2020	Practice Area (Lead) Poverty and Equity
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Ministry of Finance - Sierra Leone, Ministry of Finance - Ghana, Ministry of Finance & Development Planning - Liberia, Ministry of Economy and Finance - Cote d'Ivoire, Ministry of Economy and Finance - Togo, Economic Community of West African States, Ministry of Economy and Finance - Burkina Faso, Ministry of Finance - Cabo Verde, African Union Commission	Implementing Agency Ghana Statistical Service, Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), Statistics Sierra Leone (Stats SL), Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques et Démographiques (INSEED), L'Institut national de la statistique (INS), Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INSD), Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE)	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

Strengthen the statistical system of participating countries and regional bodies in Africa to produce, disseminate and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics.

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	326.05
Total Financing	326.05
of which IBRD/IDA	323.00
Financing Gap	0.00



DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	323.00
IDA Credit	235.00
IDA Grant	88.00

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	3.05
Miscellaneous 1	3.05

Environmental Assessment Category

B - Partial Assessment

Concept Review Decision

Track II-The review did authorize the preparation to continue

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

I. Regional and Country Context

1. Africa has made significant progress in the past decades, however, substantial challenges remain. The poverty rate declined from 54 percent in 1990 to 41 percent in 2015, but due to rapid population growth, the number of people living in poverty increased to 413 million in 2015 from 278 million in 1990 (World Bank, 2019). The region has struggled to improve shared prosperity. Natural disasters, conflict and displacement continue to ravage large fractions of the population. Good economic performances in many African countries are still driven by high commodity prices of oil, mineral and agriculture. Economic diversification remains a necessary condition for inclusive growth and poverty reduction, but the region faces many challenges in diversifying their economies, including low levels to infrastructure, human capital and governance. Access to energy is the lowest in the world.

2. These regional trends are also seen in the seven initial countries targeted by this project. All of these countries have seen a significant decrease in poverty since 2000, but four of them have seen an increase in the number of poor. In all of these countries, poverty rates are higher in rural areas, and agriculture accounts for a significant share of GDP and a larger share of the labor force. Most of these countries rely



on a few key commodities for export earnings (cotton and gold in Burkina Faso, iron and rubber in Liberia, cocoa in Cote d'Ivoire, oil, gold and cocoa Ghana, iron in Sierra Leone, and oil in Togo). Cabo Verde is heavily dependent on tourism. Sierra Leone and Liberia were hard hit by the Ebola epidemic of 2014/2015. High inflation and low growth plague both Sierra Leone and Liberia. Burkina Faso faces a challenging security situation with increasing terrorist attacks. Cote d'Ivoire is experiencing political tensions ahead of planned elections in 2020.

3. Good data is essential to tackle the challenges facing the region in general, and the seven countries in this project in particular. Good statistics can inform policy making and enable the efficient allocation of scarce resources by governments facing numerous challenges, they are also necessary to track progress and assess the impact of different policies. Good statistics improve the transparency and accountability of policymaking, both of which are essential for good governance. Quality and harmonized statistics can also support closer regional integration, such as the adoption of a single currency by the English-speaking states of ECOWAS, as a means to tackle some of the challenges facing countries in the region. The availability of more disaggregated data will also improve the understanding of the exclusion of specific groups to support formulation of inclusive policies and development interventions.

II. Sectoral and Institutional Context

4. There has been progress in the production of statistics during the last 20 years in Africa. From the early 2000s, strategic planning through National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) has been adopted, with most African countries implementing one or more by 2015. These have helped countries improve their legal framework with new statistical laws and the status of their National Statistical Office (NSO). Since 2015, the World Bank has committed to improving the statistical capacity of low-income countries given the multiple challenges in terms of the statistics to monitor the twin goals. Initially, it targeted household surveys: supporting low income countries to conduct at least one household survey every 3-5 years. There has been significant improvement in the availability of household level data since 2015. Between 2016 and 2018, 44 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have conducted a household survey.

5. The increase of the World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI)¹ confirms the overall progress in statistical capacity building in Africa, but the continent is still lagging behind other regions. The Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI) grades all countries in the world on the quality, frequency and timeliness of core economic and social statistics. The SCI for Africa increased from 55 in 2004 to 62.4 in 2018. There have been improvements in all the three dimensions of the SCI: timeliness, public availability, and methodology. Despite the progress registered, the SCI for Africa is still the lowest among developing regions. Data deprivation, data quality, comparability over time and among countries, data accessibility and the limited use of data to inform policy are among the weaknesses of statistical systems in Africa, although there is considerable variation across countries within Africa.

6. Statistics in Africa suffers from Institutional weaknesses and inconsistency financing. The National Statistical Offices (NSOs) do not always have the autonomy needed to recruit staff, or to design their

¹ The World Bank's SCI is a composite score assessing a country's statistical system based on a diagnostic framework assessing the following areas: methodology; data sources; and periodicity and timeliness. Countries are scored on 25 criteria in these areas, using publicly available information and/or country input. The overall SCI score is calculated as the average of all three areas scores on a scale of 0 to 100.



incentives. The administrative and technical coordination of the NSOs might be inadequate or even nonexistent. Financing mechanisms of NSOs are unreliable and inadequate in many African countries, leading to infrequent data collection and inadequate human resources. As a consequence, there are still important data gaps in many areas of statistics and data standards are outdated and access to data is weak.

7. The continent has recently pushed effort to harmonize and benchmark country statistics through the African Union's Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA2) 2017-2026. This is a continent-wide initiative, adopted by the African Heads of State, which aims to address the constraints facing the African Statistical Systems identified above and promote the regional integration agenda. SHaSA2 is anchored in four strategic themes: (1) production of better-quality statistics through harmonization of statistical standards and methods (2) strengthening cooperation among institutions within the African statistical system, establishing effective coordination mechanisms, and setting statistical priorities to support the integration agenda (3) building sustainable institutional capacity through the reform of national statistical systems and establishing an effective technological environment for dissemination and use of data (4) promoting a culture of quality decision making.

8. The World Bank is promoting a core set of economic, social and administrative statistics (Data for Policy Package – D4P) which meet international standards and are harmonized for all African countries. It aims at improving five core statistical systems: (1) household-based surveys (and support to population censuses), (2) firm-based surveys (and support to establishment censuses and a sufficiently complete and maintained establishment register), (3) agricultural data, (4) price data, and (5) administrative data (with a focus on health, education, and environmental sustainability). The D4P package will help countries identify vulnerable groups and improve the availability of sex-disaggregated statistics towards more targeted interventions.

9. The regional project will use a modular approach to introduce the D4P package; each country will introduce statistical products according to its national priorities and capacity of absorption and the interventions of other donors, avoiding overburdening low-capacity NSOs or overlapping efforts. The project's timeline will consider sequencing needs and have a phased roll-out such that the workload on institutions is distributed over time. A regional approach facilitates the introduction and scaling up of innovations, peer-to-peer reviewing and learning. Implementation of the regional program will be co-led by the project coordinating team at the AU Statistics Unit of the Commission for Economic Affairs at the AU, and the regional coordinating unit (RCU) located within the statistics unit of the Directorate of Macroeconomic Policy and Economic Research of ECOWAS. Under the continent wide and sub-regional coordination levels, Governments of the seven participating countries will implement country-level tasks.

III. Relationship to CPF

10. The regional approach of the project is aligned with the African Union's Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA2). SHaSA2 is one of the core commitments of the Heads of State for the Minimum Integration Program. For that reason, all African regional organizations, regional integration communities, as well as regional development organizations such as UNECA and AfDB which support statistical development in Africa are guided by its principles.

11. The project is also aligned with ECOWAS 2020 vision adopted in June 2007 and its upcoming regional



strategy 2019-2023 which is also aligned with SHaSA2. This sub-regional organization also has the harmonization of statistics as part its mandate and for this reason, can be used as a regional body for the implementation of this project. By harmonizing economic statistics, filling the gap on important data and producing harmonized Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) estimates, the project will be powerful mean to monitor the ECOWAS 2020 vision. The vision aims to mobilize the regional resources to improve human capital and create opportunities for a sustainable development, to promote peace and security and to strengthen the institutions of democratic governance using appropriate international standards. The overall goal is to raise the living standards of its member country populations. Timely and well-harmonized statistics will be needed to gauge the achievements of this goal.

12. The project reflects priorities emphasized in Bank country strategies for the countries. Invariably all Country Partnership Framework (CPF) and Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) identify weaknesses in statistics as a problem for the effective monitoring of Strategies of Development and SDGs.

13. The project will also help implement the World Bank Regional Integration Assistance Strategy for Sub-Saharan Africa (RIAS). The RIAS is organized around three main pillars: (a) regional infrastructure, (b) institutional cooperation for economic integration, and (c) coordinated interventions to provide regional public goods. This project contributes to attaining the second and third pillars by collecting data that help seven of the ECOWAS members' states in achieving its objective of strengthening regional economic integration. By generating data critical to national and regional level planning and monitoring, the project will also be instrumental to attain one of the additional objectives of the RIAS, namely, strengthening the connection between regional policy commitments and national planning.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

14. Strengthen the statistical system of participating countries and regional bodies in Africa to produce, disseminate and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics.

I. Key Results

15. The project aims to achieve the following outcomes i) increased comparability of core statistics; ii) improved availability of quality and up-to-date core social, economic and administrative statistics; iii) Improved quality of CPI, national accounts; iv) Improved accessibility to statistics and data; and v) improved institutional readiness and capacity for data production, dissemination, and usage.

D. Concept Description

16. The project has three components: (1) A regional component to produce harmonized tools, collect a core set of social, economic and administrative statistics while improving their quality; disseminate and facilitate use of data collected both nationally and regionally through a regional platform, (2) A country-specific component to address shortcomings that are not necessarily common to all countries but that will enable NSOs to leverage regional activities, for instance, through institutional building at management level and improving human resource capacity, infrastructure and software needs, and (3) A project management component to oversee and supervise activities 1-2. The World Bank's support is planned for five years (2020–2024).



17. The resources from the regional IDA window will support most of the activities covered in the regional component (component 1). The national IDA allocations will finance some of the activities of the regional component and the country-specific component (component 2), mainly infrastructure and country-specific capacity building needs.

Component 1: Harmonization, Data Collection, Quality Improvement, Dissemination and Use of Core Social and Economic Statistics

18. This component will finance or provide most of the funds required for the implementation of a program of activities designed to support; (a) the production of harmonized methodologies; (b) the production of key economic and social statistics, including national accounts and price statistics; (c) training on methodological improvements and supplementary data collection to improve the quality and timeliness of core statistics produced by NSOs; and (d) data dissemination.

Component 2: Country-Specific Component

19. This component identifies activities that are specific to the seven participating countries. The activities in this component have been designed looking at the constraints and needs facing each participating country NSO, and what interventions – in physical, technological and statistical infrastructure, in human capacity, or in the legal or regulatory frameworks – will be necessary for the NSO to successfully undertake the program of activities outlined in component 1. This component has following sub-components:

- **2.1. Burkina Faso: Accompany institutional reforms, modernize technological and statistical infrastructure, and strengthen capacity.** This sub-component will support: (i) the implementation of the revised legal framework of statistical activities and the preparation of a new organizational chart for INSD; (ii) the modernization of technological and statistical infrastructure in INSD at the headquarter and its decentralized directorates as well as the directions of statistics (DGESS) of two line ministries; (iii) the introduction of a Bachelor Degree program in statistics.
- **2.2. Cabo Verde: Improving Institutional Capacity, ICT Infrastructure and analytical capabilities.** This subcomponent aims to: (i) develop quality standards for administrative data, (ii) upgrade ICT infrastructure for data exchange platforms and data access, and (iii) promote better skills for data analysis.
- **2.3. Cote d'Ivoire: Support institutional reforms, modernize technological infrastructures, and improve in key statistics on specific issues.** This subcomponent aims to support institutional reforms and key statistics on specific issues through: (i) human resource reforms and management framework; (ii) physical infrastructure and equipment; and (iii) key statistics on migration.
- **2.4. Ghana: Modernize physical and statistical infrastructure; and enhance human capital.** Under this sub-component the project seeks to; i) modernize physical infrastructure and statistical infrastructure; ii) enhance human resource capacity by providing capacity-building trainings; and iii) strengthen statistical coordination and quality assurance.
- **2.5: Liberia: Improving Human Resource and Institutional Capacity.** This subcomponent aims to improve: (i) physical and statistical infrastructure within LISGIS; (ii) human resource capacity; and (iii) establish statistics degree program at the University of Liberia.
- **2.6: Sierra Leone: Rehabilitation of Stats SL's Physical Infrastructure. This activity triggers the Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01 and Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11.** The



Statistics Sierra Leone office was damaged during the war and never fully repaired; additional damage to the facility was sustained from flooding in August 2017. The new administration has addressed some of the most pressing infrastructure needs, but decades of insufficient maintenance due to funding constraints mean that the building is in need of a comprehensive rehabilitation. The project will support comprehensive renovation of the facilities, including replacing all the electrical wiring and providing systems for a smooth transition from mains power supply to back up generators, and installing a modern LAN. Combined with improved internet connectivity, this will support more efficient management of data internally and improved public dissemination of data. Essential repairs to the roof and windows will also be undertaken to provide a comfortable work environment and ensure the safe storage of IT equipment and statistical records. The project will also support the expansion of the facilities, on the existing footprint, in particular to provide space for planned internal and regional trainings and workshops. A dedicated classroom space will be constructed and equipped for ongoing trainings. The project will also provide well-equipped conference facilities to host international training workshops and conferences especially for NSOs in the Mano River Union (MRU) states of West Africa for which Stats SL will coordinate capacity building/strengthening activities. All physical works will incorporate disability designs and accessible features.

- **2.7. Togo: Support institutional and managerial reforms, building capacities and modernizing technological, statistical and physical infrastructures.** This subcomponent aims to boost the performances of the NSS through: (i) institutional reforms; (ii) capacity building; and (iii) physical infrastructure and equipment.

Component 3: Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

20. This component seeks to strengthen and develop the NSOs institutional capacity in project management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), including preparation of all project documentation. NSOs will be the main implementing agencies (IA) of the project in each country and will be responsible for its technical management and coordination. The project management team (PMT) in each country will coordinate project activities; manage reporting and auditing activities; and ensure compliance with fiduciary policies and procedures. This component would cover costs staff related to the project and the costs related to project coordination (steering committee), operating costs and other mandatory expenses to make the project successful.

SAFEGUARDS

A. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)



Only one part of the Sierra Leone country-specific component (building repairs and renovations of the Stats SL office in Freetown) triggers safeguard policies. The other components of the project relate to data collection, training and harmonization of methodologies and do not trigger any safeguards policies. The environmental impacts are limited in scope and can be managed through the implementation of environmental management plans. Potential impacts associated with demolitions, construction, resource utilization, health and safety of workers and community are envisaged to be temporary and limited only to the area of influence.

B. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

Sierra Leone has no safeguards capacity, but has appointed a focal person to oversee the preparation of the environmental assessment of the project.

C. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Fisseha Tessema Abissa, Environmental Specialist
Gloria Malia Mahama, Social Specialist

D. Policies that might apply

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	The policy is triggered because the project activities will involve civil works for the rehabilitation and expansion of the Sierra Leone Statistics office complex. The rehabilitation of the building will include replacing the windows and doors, improving internal supply of water and electricity, replacing old electricity and electronic cables, plumbing etc., while the expansion work includes the construction of three additional floors on top of the existing structure, adding reinforced concrete columns and/or installing adjustable steel columns, fixing of doors and windows, painting and tiling of the floor as well as fixing of air conditioners. The main negative impacts include the following: a) dumping of construction material including asbestos and spillage of machine oil, lubricants, etc. b) creation of nuisance in the form of dust and noise due to the construction activities; c) final disposal of excess material. The Project has been assigned the Environmental Category B - Partial Assessment, since it encompasses the construction of additional floors and rehabilitation of the Statistics Sierra Leone office building. All interventions are within the footprint of the current facility. The prevention and mitigation measures are known and easily implementable. An Environmental and Social



		Management Plan (ESMP) was developed by the Statistics Sierra Leone in order to ensure the compliance with the Bank’s environmental assessment policy (OP/BP 4.01). The ESMP specifies mitigation measures for various potential adverse impacts in the pre-construction, construction and operation phases of the project.
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	There is no private sector funding involved in the project financing .
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	The location of the project interventions is not expected to have any negative impacts on natural habitats, including critical or sensitive areas.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	Project activities do not involve forests
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	The project activities do not involve pest management
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	The Physical and Cultural Resources Policy (OP/BP 4.11) is triggered given Sierra Leon’s rich archaeological and cultural resources and the likelihood of the Project to support works requiring excavations especially the addition of reinforced columns. The ESMP includes Chance Find Procedures (CFP) as well as measures to screen for and manage potential impacts on cultural heritage or property that could be affected by neighborhood development plans.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	The project activities do not involve indigenous people
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	The project activities do not involve resettlement.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project activities do not involve Dams
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The project activities will not take place international water ways.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project activities will not occur in disputed areas.

E. Safeguard Preparation Plan

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage PID/ISDS

Feb 04, 2019

Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing should be specified in the Appraisal Stage PID/ISDS

The ESHIA is currently being undertaken as part of project preparations and will identify the risks and propose mitigation measures to be implemented during project implementation. The report will be consulted upon and disclosed prior to project appraisal and before the decision meeting.



CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Prosper R. Backiny-Yetna, Alejandro De la Fuente, Ayago Esmubancha Wambile, Franck M. Adoho
Senior Economist/Statistician

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Ministry of Finance - Sierra Leone

Ministry of Finance - Ghana

Ministry of Finance & Development Planning - Liberia

Ministry of Economy and Finance - Cote d'Ivoire

Ministry of Economy and Finance - Togo

Economic Community of West African States

Ministry of Economy and Finance - Burkina Faso



Ministry of Finance - Cabo Verde

African Union Commission

Implementing Agencies

Ghana Statistical Service

Prof. Samuel Kobina Annim

Government Statistician

samuel.annim@statsghana.gov.gh

Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)

Prof. Francis Wreh

Director General

ffwreh25@gmail.com

Statistics Sierra Leone (Stats SL)

Prof. Osman Sankoh

Director General

osman.sankoh@statistics.sl

Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques et Démographiques (INSEED)

Mr. Koame Kouassi

Director General

kokoame@yahoo.fr

L'Institut national de la statistique (INS)

Gabriel Doffou Nguessan

Director General

nguessangabriel@gmail.com

Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INSD)

Boureima Ouedraogo

Director General

boureimaoued@gmail.com

Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE)



Oswaldo Borges
Presidente
borges.osvaldo@ine.gov.cv

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Prosper R. Backiny-Yetna, Alejandro De la Fuente, Ayago Esmubancha Wambile, Franck M. Adoho
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Approved By

Safeguards Advisor:	Hanneke Van Tilburg	12-Nov-2019
Practice Manager/Manager:	Andrew L. Dabalen	12-Nov-2019
Country Director:	Deborah L. Wetzel	26-Nov-2019