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Report No: PAD5338

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

PROJECT APPRAISAL DOCUMENT

ON

PROPOSED GRANTS

IN THE AMOUNT OF SDR 45.2 MILLION (US$60.0 MILLION EQUIVALENT)
TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
IN THE AMOUNT OF SDR 79.0 MILLION (US$105.0 MILLION EQUIVALENT)
TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD
IN THE AMOUNT OF SDR 15.1 MILLION (US$20.0 MILLION EQUIVALENT)
TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY

ON PROPOSED CREDIT

IN THE AMOUNT OF EUR 96.9 MILLION (US$105.0 MILLION EQUIVALENT)
OF WHICH EUR 89.1 MILLION (US$96.6 MILLION) ON IDA
REGULAR CREDIT TERMS AND EUR 7.8 MILLION (US$8.4 MILLION EQUIVALENT)
ON SHORTER MATURITY LOAN TERMS
TO THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

FOR A

HARMONIZING AND IMPROVING STATISTICS IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
SERIES OF PROJECTS – TWO (HISWACA – SOP 2)

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

{Poverty and Equity Global Practice}
{Western and Central Africa Region}

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CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

Exchange Rate Effective as of June 30, 2023

US$1.00	=	SDR 0.75
US$1.00	=	EUR 0.92
US$1.00	=	FCFA 604

Currency Units:

Central African CFA franc (FCFA)	Cameroon
Central African CFA franc (FCFA)	Central African Republic
Central African CFA franc (FCFA)	Chad
United States Dollar (US$)	CEMAC

FISCAL YEAR

January 1 – December 31
(for Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, and Central African Economic and Monetary Community)

Regional Vice President:	Ousmane Diagana
Country Director:	Boutheina Guermazi
Regional Director:	Abebe Adugna Dadi
Practice Manager:	Johan A. Mistiaen
Task Team Leaders:	Aboudrahyme Savadogo, Clarence Tsimpo Nkengne, Gervais Chamberlin Yama, Mervy Ever Viboudoulou Vilpoux

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADM	Accountability and Decision Making
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFRISTAT	Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (*Observatoire Economique et Statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne*)
AFRITAC	Africa Regional Technical Assistance Center
AM	Accountability Mechanism
AU	African Union
AUF	The Francophone University Agency (*Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie),* Québec
AWP&B	Annual Work Plan and Budget
BEAC	Bank of Central African States (*Banque des États de l'Afrique Centrale*), Yaoundé
BoP	Balance of Payments
BUCREP	Central Bureau of Censuses and Population Studies Building (*Bureau Central des Recensements et des Etudes de Population*), Yaoundé
BUNEC	National Bureau of Civil Status (*Bureau National de l'Etat Civil*), Yaoundé
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interview
CDR	Call Detailed Record
CEMAC	Central African Economic and Monetary Community (*Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale*)
CEMAC-SCS	CEMAC Specialized Committee on Statistics
COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose
CPF	Country Partnership Framework
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
D4P	Data for Policy
DA	Designated Account
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DSF	Statistical and Tax Declaration (*Déclaration Statistique et Fiscale*)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDGE	Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies
E-GDDS	Enhanced General Data Dissemination System
EHCVM	Harmonised Household Living Standard Survey (*Enquête Harmonisée sur le Conditions de Vie des Ménages*)
ENSAE Paris	National School for Statistics and Economics Analysis (*École Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Économique Paris*)
ENSAI Rennes	Graduate School for Statistics and Data Science (*École nationale de la statistique et de l'analyse de l'information*), Rennes
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework

ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCV	Fragility, Conflict, and Violence
FM	Financial Management
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFS	Government Finance Statistics
GFSM	Government Finance Statistics Manual
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GRS	Grievance Redress Service
GWP	Global Warming Potential
HFPS	High Frequency Phone Survey
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HISWACA	Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa
HLSS	Household Living Standard Survey
ICASEES	Central African Institute for Statistics and Economic and Social Studies (*Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales*), Bangui
ICF	Inner City Fund
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFR	Interim Financial Report
IGF	General Inspectorate of Finance (*Inspection Générale des Finances*)
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INC	National Insitute of Cartography (*Institut National de la Cartographie)*
INS	National Institute of Statistics (*Institut National de la Statistique*)
INSEE	The French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (*Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques*), Paris
INSEED	National Institute for Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (*Institut National de la Statistique, des Études Économiques et Démographiques*), N'Djamena
IP/SSAHUTLCs	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

IPF	Investment Project Financing
ISSEA	Sub-Regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (*Institut Sous-régional de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée*), Yaoundé
IT	Information Technology
LFS	Labor Force Survey
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MRV	Measurement, Reporting, and Verification
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NPF	New Procurement Framework
NSO	National Statistics Office
NSS	National Statistical System
ODIN	Open Data Inventory
PASEC	Program for the Analysis of Educational Systems of Conference of Ministers of Education in Francophone Countries (*Programme d'Analyse des Systèmes Éducatifs de la Conférence des Ministres de l'Education*)
PBF	Performance-Based Financing
PDO	Project Development Objective
PDST	Chad Statistical Development
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PME	Production Methods and the Environment
POM	Project Operations Manual
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PPSD	Project Procurement Strategy for Development
PRAMS	Procurement Risk Assessment and Management System
REC	Regional Economic Community
RICAS	Regional Integration and Cooperation Assistance Strategy
RPCC	Regional Project Coordination Committee
RTAC	Regional Technical Assistance Center
SCD	Systematic Country Diagnostic
SCI	Statistical Capacity Indicator
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment
SGS	Strengthening Gender Statistics
SHaSA2	Second Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa
SML	Shorter Maturity Loan
SMP	Security Management Plan
SNA	System of National Accounts
SNDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (*Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique*)
SOP	Series of Projects
SPD	Standard Procurement Document
SPI	Statistical Performance Indicator
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
STATAFRIC	African Union Institute for Statistics
STEP	Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference
U-ESMF	Umbrella Environmental and Social Management Framework
U-LMF	Umbrella Labor Management Framework
UN	United Nations
UN IGME	United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation
UNDB	United Nations Development Business
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
U-SEF	Umbrella Stakeholder Engagement Framework
WAEMU	West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (also known in French as *Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine*)
WCA	World Program for the Census of Agriculture
WDI	World Development Indicators
WDR	World Development Report

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DATASHEET

BASIC INFORMATION

Country(ies)	Project Name
Central Africa, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad	Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa - Series of Projects Two (HISWACA - SOP 2)

Project ID	Financing Instrument	Environmental and Social Risk Classification
P180085	Investment Project Financing	Moderate

Financing & Implementation Modalities

[ ] Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA)	[ ] Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC)
[✓] Series of Projects (SOP)	[✓] Fragile State(s)
[ ] Performance-Based Conditions (PBCs)	[ ] Small State(s)
[ ] Financial Intermediaries (FI)	[ ] Fragile within a non-fragile Country
[ ] Project-Based Guarantee	[✓] Conflict
[ ] Deferred Drawdown	[ ] Responding to Natural or Man-made Disaster
[ ] Alternate Procurement Arrangements (APA)	[ ] Hands-on Enhanced Implementation Support (HEIS)

Expected Approval Date	Expected Closing Date
28-Sep-2023	31-Dec-2029

Bank/IFC Collaboration

No

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective is to improve country statistical performance, regional harmonization, data access and use, and to enhance modernization of the statistical system in participating countries.

Components

Component Name	Cost (US$, millions)
Component 1: Harmonization and Production of Core Statistics using International Data Quality Standards	194.50
Component 2: Statistical Modernization, Institutional Reform, Human Capital, Data Accessibility and Use	30.50
Component 3: Construction, Upgrading and Modernization of Physical Infrastructure	48.80
Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation	16.20

Organizations

Borrower:	Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) The Central African Republic The Republic of Cameroon The Republic of Chad
Implementing Agency:	Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) Commission Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales (ICASEES) | CAR Institut National de la Statistique (INS) | Rep. of Cameroon Institut National de la Statistique, des Études Économiques et Démographiques (INSEED) | Rep.of Chad

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	290.00
Total Financing	290.00
of which IBRD/IDA	290.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	290.00
IDA Credit	96.60

IDA Grant	185.00
IDA Shorter Maturity Loan (SML)	8.40

IDA Resources (in US$, Millions)

	Credit Amount	Grant Amount	SML Amount	Guarantee Amount	Total Amount
Central African Republic	0.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	60.00
National Performance-Based Allocations (PBA)	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Regional	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	40.00
Cameroon	96.60	0.00	8.40	0.00	105.00
National Performance-Based Allocations (PBA)	26.60	0.00	8.40	0.00	35.00
Regional	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.00
Chad	0.00	105.00	0.00	0.00	105.00
National Performance-Based Allocations (PBA)	0.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	35.00
Regional	0.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	70.00
Central Africa	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Regional	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Total	**96.60**	**185.00**	**8.40**	**0.00**	**290.00**

Expected Disbursements (in US$, Millions)

WB Fiscal Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Annual	30.30	41.30	34.30	36.00	61.20	61.00	25.90
Cumulative	30.30	71.60	105.90	141.90	203.10	264.10	290.00

INSTITUTIONAL DATA

Practice Area (Lead) **Contributing Practice Areas**

Poverty and Equity

Climate Change and Disaster Screening

This operation has been screened for short and long-term climate change and disaster risks

SYSTEMATIC OPERATIONS RISK-RATING TOOL (SORT)

Risk Category	Rating
1. Political and Governance	High
2. Macroeconomic	Low
3. Sector Strategies and Policies	Low
4. Technical Design of Project or Program	Substantial
5. Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	Substantial
6. Fiduciary	Substantial
7. Environment and Social	Moderate
8. Stakeholders	Low
9. Other	
10. Overall	Substantial

COMPLIANCE

Policy

Does the project depart from the CPF in content or in other significant respects?

[ ] Yes [✓] No

Does the project require any waivers of Bank policies?

[ ] Yes [✓] No

Environmental and Social Standards Relevance Given its Context at the Time of Appraisal

E & S Standards	Relevance
Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant
Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
Labor and Working Conditions	Relevant
Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Relevant
Community Health and Safety	Relevant
Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Currently Relevant
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Currently Relevant
Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Relevant
Cultural Heritage	Relevant
Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant

NOTE: For further information regarding the World Bank's due diligence assessment of the Project's potential environmental and social risks and impacts, please refer to the Project's Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS).

Legal Covenants

Sections and Description

Cameroon: Section I.A.3 of Schedule 2 to the Cameroon Financing Agreement and I.A.3 of the Schedule to the Project Agreement: Without prejudice to and for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 above and the ESCP, the Recipient shall, and shall cause the PIE to: (a) no later than one (1) month after the Effective Date, conduct a market analysis for high-value or high-risk contracts in accordance with the Project Operations Manual and in terms satisfactory to the Association.

Sections and Description

Cameroon: Section I.A.3 of Schedule 2 to the Cameroon Financing Agreement and I.A.3 of the Schedule to the Project Agreement: Without prejudice to and for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 above and the ESCP, the Recipient shall, and shall cause the PIE to: (b) no later than three (3) months after the Effective Date, purchase, install and configure the accounting software to take into account the specificity of Project activities in terms

satisfactory to the Association.

Sections and Description

Cameroon: Section I.A.3 of Schedule 2 to the Cameroon Financing Agreement and I.A.3 of the Schedule to the Project Agreement: Without prejudice to and for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 above and the ESCP, the Recipient shall, and shall cause the PIE to: (c) no later than six (6) months after the Effective Date, (A) recruit or appoint and thereafter maintain, at all times during the implementation of the Project: (i) an external auditor, (ii) a financial management specialist; (iii) an accountant, and (iv) an assistant procurement specialist; all with terms of reference, qualifications, and experience and under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association; and (B) develop a contract management plan for the Project, in form and substance satisfactory to the Association.

Sections and Description

Cameroon: Section 1.1 of Cameroon ESCP: Hire or appoint the environmental specialist, a social specialist with experience on indigenous people, a gender-based violence specialist, and a security risk consultant no later than (3) three months after the Effective Date, and thereafter maintain these positions throughout the Project implementation.

Sections and Description

Central African Republic: Section I.A.3 of Schedule 2 to the CAR Financing Agreement and Section I.A.3 of the Schedule to the Project Agreement: Without prejudice to and for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 above and the ESCP, the Recipient shall, and shall cause the PIE to: (a) no later than three (3) months after the Effective Date, recruit or appoint (i) an operations officer, and (ii) a financial management specialist for the Project, with terms of reference, experience, and qualifications satisfactory to the Association.

Sections and Description

Central African Republic: Section I.A.3 of Schedule 2 to the CAR Financing Agreement and Section I.A.3 of the Schedule to the Project Agreement: Without prejudice to and for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 above and the ESCP, the Recipient shall, and shall cause the PIE to: (b) no later than three (3) months after the Effective Date, customize the accounting software to take into account the specificity of Project activities, with specifications and under modalities acceptable to the Association; and

Sections and Description

Central African Republic: Section I.A.3 of Schedule 2 to the CAR Financing Agreement and Section I.A.3 of the Schedule to the Project Agreement: Without prejudice to and for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 above and the ESCP, the Recipient shall, and shall cause the PIE to: (c) no later than six (6) months after the Effective Date, recruit or appoint and thereafter maintain, at all times during the implementation of the Project, under terms and conditions approved by the Association, an internal auditor and an external auditor; all with terms of reference, qualifications and experience and under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association.

Sections and Description

Central African Republic: Section 1.1 of CAR ESCP: Hire or appoint the environmental specialist, social specialist, and gender-based violence specialist, a security risk consultant, and an Indigenous Peoples' consultant no later than three (3) months after Effective Date, and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.

Sections and Description

Chad: Section I.A.3 of Schedule 2 to the Chad Financing Agreement and Section I.A.3 of the Schedule to the Project Agreement: Without prejudice to and for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 above and the ESCP, the Recipient shall, and shall cause the PIE to: (a) no later than three (3) months after the Effective Date, (i) recruit and maintain, at all times during the implementation of the Project, an internal auditor, a senior procurement specialist, and a junior procurement specialist, with terms of reference, qualifications, and experience and under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association and (ii) customize the accounting software to take into account the specificity of Project activities under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association; and

Sections and Description

Chad: Section I.A.3 of Schedule 2 to the Chad Financing Agreement and Section I.A.3 of the Schedule to the Project Agreement: Without prejudice to and for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 above and the ESCP, the Recipient shall, and shall cause the PIE to: (b) no later than six (6) months after the Effective Date, recruit and thereafter maintain at all times during the implementation of the Project an external auditor; all with terms of reference, qualifications and experience and under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association.

Sections and Description

Chad: Section 1.1 of Chad ESCP. Hire or appoint the environmental specialist, a social specialist with experience in traditional pastoralist communities, gender-based violence specialist, and a security risk consultant, no later than (3) three months after Effective Date, and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.

Sections and Description

Chad: Section I.A.4 of Schedule 2 to the Chad Financing Agreement and Section I.A.4 of the Schedule to the Project Agreement: No later than three (3) months from the Effective Date, the Recipient shall cause the PIE to establish and maintain throughout Project implementation a high-level steering committee (“Project Steering Committee”) under terms of reference and with qualified and experienced members in adequate number, all satisfactory to the Association, for the purposes of: (a) overseeing and assisting the Project implementation; (b) facilitating the Project monitoring and evaluation, and (c) approving the Annual Work Plan and Budget.

Sections and Description

CEMAC: Section I.A.1(d) of Schedule 2 of the CEMAC Financing Agreement: No later than three (3) months after the Effective Date, the Recipient shall purchase, install, configure, and thereafter maintain and use, an accounting software with parameters that take into consideration the specificity of the Project, under specifications and modalities satisfactory to the Association.

Sections and Description

CEMAC: Section I.A.1(e) of Schedule 2 of the CEMAC Financing Agreement: Notwithstanding the requirements of the ESCP, the Recipient, through the CEMAC Commission, shall no later than six (6) months after the Effective Date, recruit or appoint an external auditor and an internal auditor; all with terms of reference, qualifications, and experience satisfactory to the Association, and said positions shall be thereafter maintained throughout Project implementation.

Sections and Description
CEMAC: Section 1.1 of the CEMAC ESCP. Hire or appoint the environmental specialist, social specialist, gender-based violence consultant, and security risk consultant, no later than three (3) months after Effective Date, and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.

Sections and Description
CEMAC: Section I.A.2 of Schedule 2 of the CEMAC Financing Agreement: No later than six (6) months after the Effective Date, the Recipient shall establish, and thereafter hold the secretariat for and maintain throughout Project implementation, a Regional Project Coordination Committee (RPCC), under terms of reference and with qualified and experienced members in adequate number, all satisfactory to the Association and as further set out in the Project Operations Manual.

Conditions

Type	Financing source	Description
Effectiveness	IBRD/IDA	Cameroon: Section 5.01 of the Cameroon Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (a) The Subsidiary Agreement has been duly executed on behalf of the Recipient and the PIE under terms and conditions acceptable to the Association.
Effectiveness	IBRD/IDA	Cameroon: Section 5.01 of the Cameroon Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (b) The Recipient, through the PIE, shall have adopted the Project Operations Manual under terms and conditions acceptable to the Association, and in accordance with Section I.C of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
Effectiveness	IBRD/IDA	Cameroon: Section 5.01 of the Cameroon Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (c) The Recipient, through the PIE, has recruited a procurement specialist for the PIU, with terms of reference, qualifications and experience and under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association.
Effectiveness	IBRD/IDA	Cameroon: Section 5.01 of the Cameroon Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (d) The Recipient, through the PIE, shall have prepared, disclosed, consulted upon and adopted: (i) the Umbrella Environmental and

		Social Management Framework (U-ESMF); (ii) the Umbrella Labor Management Procedures Framework (U-LMPF); and (iii) the Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF); all in accordance with the ESCP and in form and substance satisfactory to the Association.
Type Effectiveness	Financing source IBRD/IDA	Description Central African Republic: Section 5.01 of the CAR Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (a) The Subsidiary Agreement has been duly executed on behalf of the Recipient and the PIE under terms and conditions acceptable to the Association.
Type Effectiveness	Financing source IBRD/IDA	Description Central African Republic: Section 5.01 of the CAR Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (b) The Recipient, through the PIE, has adopted the Project Manuals under terms and conditions acceptable to the Association, and in accordance with Section I.C. of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
Type Effectiveness	Financing source IBRD/IDA	Description Central African Republic: Section 5.01 of the CAR Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (c) The Recipient shall have recruited a procurement assistant for the Project, under terms of reference, qualifications and experience satisfactory to the Association.
Type Effectiveness	Financing source IBRD/IDA	Description Central African Republic: Section 5.01 of the CAR Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (d) The Recipient has prepared, disclosed, consulted upon and adopted: (i) the Umbrella Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); (ii) the Umbrella Labor Management Procedure Framework; and (iii) the Stakeholder Engagement Framework; all in accordance with the ESCP and in form and substance satisfactory to the Association.
Type Effectiveness	Financing source IBRD/IDA	Description Chad: Section 5.01 of the Chad Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (a)The Subsidiary Agreement has been duly executed on behalf of the Recipient and the PIE under terms and conditions acceptable to the Association.

Type	Financing source	Description
Effectiveness	IBRD/IDA	Chad: Section 5.01 of the Chad Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (b) The Recipient, through the PIE, has adopted the Project Operations Manual under terms and conditions acceptable to the Association, and in accordance with Section I.B of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
Type	Financing source	Description
Effectiveness	IBRD/IDA	Chad: Section 5.01 of the Chad Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (c) The Recipient has established the Project Implementation Unit ("PIU") in accordance with Section I.A. of Schedule 2 to this Agreement, including the recruitment of: (i) a senior financial management specialist, (ii) an accountant, and (iii) a procurement specialist; all with terms of reference, qualifications and experience satisfactory to the Association; and
Type	Financing source	Description
Effectiveness	IBRD/IDA	Chad: Section 5.01 of the Chad Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (d) The Recipient has prepared, disclosed, consulted upon and adopted: (i) the Umbrella Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); (ii) the Umbrella Labor Management Procedure Framework; and (iii) the Stakeholder Engagement Framework; all in accordance with the ESCP and in form and substance satisfactory to the Association.
Type	Financing source	Description
Effectiveness	IBRD/IDA	CEMAC: Section 5.01 of CEMAC Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (a) The Recipient has adopted the Project Operations Manual under terms and conditions acceptable to the Association, and in accordance with Section I.B. of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
Type	Financing source	Description
Effectiveness	IBRD/IDA	CEMAC: Section 5.01 of CEMAC Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (b) The Recipient has established the Project Implementation Unit ("PIU") in accordance with Section I.A.1 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement, including: (i) the hiring or appointment of a Project coordinator, and (ii) the recruitment of (A) a procurement specialist, (B) a financial management specialist, and (C) an

		accountant; all with terms of reference, qualifications and experience satisfactory to the Association.
Type Effectiveness	Financing source IBRD/IDA	Description CEMAC: Section 5.01 of CEMAC Financing Agreement: The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following: (c) The Recipient has prepared, disclosed, consulted upon and adopted: (i) the Umbrella Environmental and Social Management Framework (U-ESMF); (ii) the Umbrella Labor Management Procedure Framework; and (iii) the Stakeholder Engagement Framework; all in accordance with the ESCP and in form and substance satisfactory to the Association.
Type Disbursement	Financing source IBRD/IDA	Description Cameroon: Section III.B of Schedule 2 to the Cameroon Financing Agreement: Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A of this Section, no withdrawal shall be made: (a) for payments made prior to the Signature Date, except that withdrawals up to an aggregate amount not to exceed EUR 9,000,000 may be made for payments made prior to this date but on or after July 21, 2023, for Eligible Expenditures; or (b) under Category 2 until and unless the Association has received satisfactory evidence, for purposes of implementation of census enumeration under Part 1.2.1(c), (d), (e) and (f) of the Project of: (i) a successful implementation of the census cartographic mapping; and (ii) a detailed dated program of census enumeration activities; all in accordance with the Project Operations Manual.
Type Disbursement	Financing source IBRD/IDA	Description Central African Republic: Section III.B.1 of Schedule 2 of the CAR Financing Agreement: Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A of this Section, no withdrawal shall be made: (a) for payments made prior to the Signature Date, and (b) under Category (2), until and unless the Association has received satisfactory evidence, for purposes of implementation of census enumeration under Part. 1.2.1(c), (d), (e) and (f) of the Project a detailed dated program of census enumeration activities; all in accordance with the Project Operations Manual.
Type Disbursement	Financing source IBRD/IDA	Description Chad: Section III.B.1 of Schedule 2 to the Chad Financing Agreement: Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A of this

		Section, no withdrawal shall be made: (a) for payments made prior to the Signature Date; or (b) under Category 2 until and unless the Association has received satisfactory evidence, for purposes of implementation of census enumeration under Part 1.2.1(c), (d), (e) and (f) of the Project of: (i) a successful implementation of the census cartographic mapping; and (ii) a detailed dated program of census enumeration activities; all in accordance with the Project Operations Manual.
Type Disbursement	Financing source IBRD/IDA	Description CEMAC: Section III.B.1 of Schedule 2 to the CEMAC Financing Agreement: Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A above, no withdrawal shall be made: (a) for payments made prior to the Signature Date; (b)under Category (2), unless and until the Recipient has entered into the ISSEA Agreement, in a manner and substance satisfactory to the Association.

I. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

A. Country Context

1. **The COVID-19 pandemic-triggered recession in 2020 was followed by a partial recovery in 2021, but growth in Sub-Saharan Africa slowed again in 2022 as the region faced new economic challenges, with further slowdown projected for 2023.** In 2020, for the first time in 27 years, the region recorded a negative real economic growth rate of −2 percent.[1] The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global supply chains, commodity prices, and transport and the implementation of stringent control measures by governments across the world led to a global economic slowdown. Following the introduction of vaccines and the lifting of restrictions in many countries, gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Sub-Saharan Africa recovered to 4.1 percent in 2021, but with significant variation across countries.[2] However, growth is estimated to have declined to 3.6 percent in 2022[3] driven by several short-term headwinds including a global economic slowdown, continued impacts of the pandemic including supply disruptions, high inflation, and increased financial risks owing to high public debts. In 2023, notwithstanding recent improvements, growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to decelerate to 3.1 percent. There are significant downside risks to the economic outlook for the region due to persistent sluggishness of the global economy, high inflation, and challenging global and domestic financial conditions amid high levels of debt. Growth is projected to be 3.4 percent for Western and Central Africa, with relatively robust growth projected for West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)[4] countries and non-resource-rich countries, continuing a pattern seen in 2022.

2. **The modest economic performance in the region translates into a slower path of poverty reduction and inclusive growth.** The economic slowdown and the COVID-19 pandemic increased poverty incidence in 2020 and set back progress made in Western and Central Africa by almost half a decade. Following a decade of steady poverty reduction, the extreme poverty rate of the region increased by nearly 0.9 percentage points in 2020, pushing an additional 7.4 million people into poverty.[5] The slow recovery of the per capita income growth rate, projected at 1.2 percent in 2024 and 1.4 percent in 2025, falls short of putting the continent back on the pre-pandemic path of poverty reduction. Recovery in the region is further hampered by low vaccination rates, fiscal constraints to continue providing financial assistance to vulnerable households and firms, and the continuing threat to food security. There is wide variation in the incidence of poverty across the countries in the subregion. More than half of the extreme poor population of the region lives in Nigeria, while one-fifth are in the Sahel countries. The extreme poverty rate in the subregion for 2030 is projected to be about 1 percent higher than the pre-COVID-19 projections. With just 7 percent of the global population, at the current projected economic growth trajectory, nearly 24 percent of the global extreme poor population will live in the Western and Central Africa region in 2030.

1 World Bank, Africa Pulse, April 2023.
2 World Bank, Africa Pulse, April 2023.
3 World Bank, Africa Pulse, April 2023.
4 Also known in French as the *Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine*.
5 Using the recently updated International Poverty Line of US$2.15 per person per day at 2017 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).

3. **Sustaining equitable growth and poverty reduction during a global crisis of development is challenging, especially in Western and Central Africa which is disproportionally affected by pandemic risks, climate change, and rising fragility and conflict.** Disasters triggered by natural hazard events have increased in occurrence and severity in the region, particularly the Sahelian zone, in the last three decades.[6] The majority of loss of life and economic losses in the region are caused by hydrometeorological events.[7] Desertification and climatic and disaster hazards are projected to worsen and risk undermining subregional food production through land degradation and declines in oceanic productivity, with negative repercussions for food security, human health, and employment.[8] The subregion also continues to experience political and security challenges, leading to fragility and violence in several countries. Presently, 11 countries (home to 73 percent of the population in the region) are experiencing some level of fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV). Of these, six countries have more than 20 percent of their poor population living in conflict areas. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) reached over 5 million in 2019, representing a 30 percent increase over a 12-month period. This upward trend was mainly due to the rapidly deteriorating situation in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, and the situation has worsened further since. By October 2022, the UNHCR reported 12.9 million persons of concern across 21 countries in the subregion—an 8 percent increase from the previous year.[9]

4. **To accelerate progress, development policies and programs aim to address the underlying constraints in Western and Central Africa including those related to demography, economic structure and productivity, institutions, gender, and human capital.** Despite steadily declining poverty rates to pre-COVID-19 levels, the share of the global poor living in the region rose from 8.5 percent in 2000 to 18.8 percent in 2019.[10] The population of 121.6 million living in extreme poverty in the region is projected to increase by an additional 18.7 million by 2030.[11] This is driven in part by rapid (projected) population growth that would have increased the poor population in 2030 even without COVID-19. The Western and Central African economies must grow both faster and more inclusively so that poverty reduction becomes more responsive to growth. Economic growth in many countries has been driven by high commodity prices for oil, minerals, and rain-fed agricultural products. Accelerating inclusive growth requires economic diversification and regional integration by addressing low levels of infrastructure, governance, and productivity in the agriculture sector that employs most of the population, particularly in rural areas. During a time of crisis, strategies, policies, and programs that place people first help safeguard hard-won gains and can catalyze the required transformation by building human capital and promoting equality of opportunities, including for women and girls. This requires improving basic services, including access to electricity, adequate sanitation, education, and health services (notably maternal care and early childhood development.

6 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2006.
7 Including floods, droughts, tropical cyclones and strong winds, storm surges, extreme temperatures, forest fires, sand and dust storms, and landslides (DARA https://daraint.org/).
8 Serdeczny, Olivia, et al. 2017. “Climate Change Impacts in Sub-Saharan Africa: From Physical Changes to Their Social Repercussions.” *Regional Environmental Change* 17: 1585–1600.
9 UNHCR Standing Committee, Update - West and Central Africa (February 24, 2020, and October 31, 2022).
10 World Bank, Africa Pulse, April 2023.
11 World Bank, Africa Pulse, April 2023.

5. **Central African Economic and Monetary Community (*Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale*, CEMAC) member countries and community institutions have made considerable efforts to curb the harmful effects of the various shocks that they face globally, in addition to the persistent security and humanitarian challenges in the subregion.** The coordinated and concerted implementation at the subregional level of recovery measures in the face of these shocks, within the framework of the CEMAC Economic and Financial Reform Program, has enabled the subregion to achieve a certain number of results including the resilience of its economy and the implementation of integration projects. This economic and financial reform program is based on a matrix of actions comprising five pillars: (a) fiscal policy; (b) monetary policy and the financial system; (c) structural reforms; (d) regional integration; and (e) international cooperation. The Heads of State prescribed the establishment of an efficient statistical system that generates reliable, harmonized statistical information, available on time, covering all dimensions of development and political, economic, social, environmental, and cultural integration of CEMAC.

6. **The availability of good-quality data and statistics in Western and Central Africa is critical for informing policies to support adaptation to and mitigation of risks and to foster sustainable and equitable economic growth.** Accurate, timely, and reliable data and statistics are instrumental for designing, implementing, and monitoring effective development policies and programs to accelerate poverty reduction, promote equitable growth, and address climate change. The National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in countries along with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are the primary producers of these core data and official statistics, which in a well-functioning Integrated National Data System are complemented with information produced by many stakeholders in the private sector—including satellite and remote sensing data or by-products such as Call Detailed Record (CDR) in the telecommunications sector—and by academia, civil society organizations, and citizens.

7. **The COVID-19 pandemic slowed progress in many statistical operations such as population and housing censuses (PHCs), economic censuses, and household surveys, but some progress has been made in the production of statistics.** Several countries are conducting PHCs in line with international recommendations and are making more frequent revisions to their National Accounts. The geographic coverage, timeliness, and base year of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) have also improved. External trade statistics are harmonized in many countries, and most of the countries use the same software, EUROTRACE.[12] With the World Bank's support, the number of countries conducting regular surveys that collect data to estimate poverty has increased. The quality (including timeliness) of social indicators has also improved with the support of donor-funded programs such as the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). Innovative approaches based on satellite data and High Frequency Phone Surveys (HFPS) are now incorporated in the statistics offices' tools.

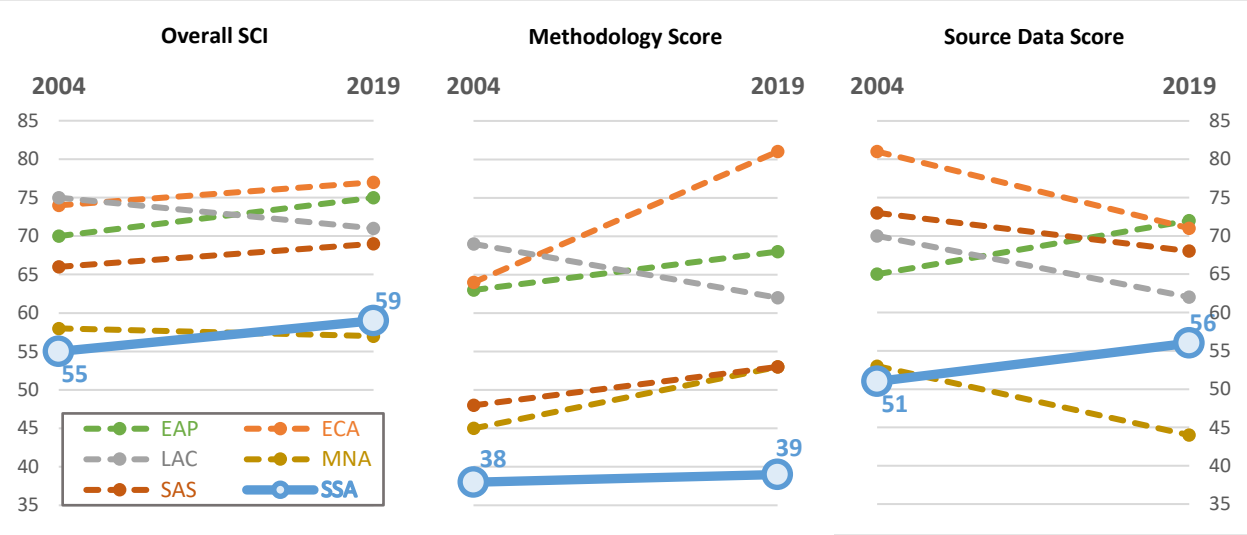
B. Sectoral and Institutional Context

8. **During the past two decades, considerable efforts and resources were deployed to help improve statistical capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa to close gaps in financing, source data production, periodicity, and timeliness.** Responding to the national and international policy demands for more and better-quality

[12] EUROTRACE is a data management and processing application for the collection, compilation, and dissemination of external trade data at the national and regional levels.

data, several initiatives were supported and undertaken to improve the statistical landscape, at the continental, regional, and country levels.[13] Results were achieved, and progress was made, albeit at a slow and uneven pace across countries (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI)[14] Trends (2004–2019) by Region and Selected Dimensions



Source: World Development Indicators (WDI).
Note: EAP = East Asia and Pacific; ECA = Europe and Central Asia; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; MNA = Middle East and North Africa; SAS = South Asia; SSA = Sub-Saharan Africa.

9. **The Sub-Saharan African region ranked the lowest in terms of the SCI score in 2004, but the progress made over the past 15 years outpaced other regions, and it overtook Middle East and North Africa.** The SCI was the first composite index developed by the World Bank to monitor a country's statistical capacity in terms of source data production, measurement methodologies, periodicity, and timeliness of core economic and social statistics. From 2004 until 2019, the SCI score for Sub-Saharan African countries increased by 7 percent—from 55.2 to 59.0 percent—on par with East Asia and Pacific, marginally outpacing South Asia and Europe and Central Asia and overtaking Middle East and North Africa in 2018 (Figure 1). The Sub-Saharan Africa region, along with East Asia and Pacific, recorded substantial improvements in source data production—bolstered by technical assistance (TA) support and

[13] Key initiatives supporting statistical development in Sub-Saharan Africa since 2004 include (2004) adoption of the Marrakesh Action Plan for Statistics, (2004) start of monitoring of the SCI, (2005) preparation of the first set of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (*Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique*, SNDS) and start of reforms by several countries to improve legislation on statistics, (2007) development of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa which was adopted by the Conference of African Ministers, (2009) adoption of the African Charter on Statistics, (2011) launch of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, (2017) launch of Second Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA2), (2020–23) IDA19 commitments to support the World Bank Data for Policy (D4P) Initiative, and (2021) launch of the Statistical Performance Indicator (SPI) Monitoring Framework.

[14] The World Bank's SCI is a composite index to assess a country's statistical system based on a diagnostic framework assessing methodology, data sources, periodicity, and timeliness. Countries are scored on 25 criteria in these areas using publicly available information and country input. The overall SCI score is calculated as the average of scores in all four areas on a scale of 0–100. The data presented exclude high-income countries. The SCI was introduced in 2004 but is currently being phased out and replaced with the new SPI for which data are available from 2016.

development partner financing, including from International Development Association (IDA) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)—contrary to all other regions which regressed over the past decade. However, additional source data gaps need to be filled for Sub-Saharan Africa to rise to the level of other regions. The region made the least progress on adopting and conforming to international statistical methodologies (including outdated national accounts) and continues to be at the bottom of the rankings in this dimension of the SCI.

10. **While the Sub-Saharan Africa region demonstrated it can improve and do so relatively quickly, an assessment based on a recently developed World Bank statistical capacity measurement and diagnostic tool—the SPI—indicates important gaps remain.** The SPI assesses the degree to which the NSS meets user needs for statistics and contributes to better decisions. The SPI has clear conceptual motivations, employs a strong mathematical foundation, and significantly expands the number of dimensions and indicators covered. It assesses NSSs on five pillars of statistical performance:

(a) **Data use.** Extent to which data produced by the NSS are used widely and frequently by different stakeholders;

(b) **Data services.** Extent to which services connect data users to producers through data releases, online access, and data access services such as secure microdata access;

(c) **Data products.** Availability and quality of key NSS data products to produce indicators needed to measure progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

(d) **Data sources.** The extent to which a country collects key data sources (for example, PHC, agricultural census, business establishment census, household survey to measure poverty, Labor Force Survey [LFS], health survey, vital registration system coverage, and geospatial data);

(e) **Data infrastructure.** Availability and quality of institutional infrastructure (legislation, governance, and standards) and the financial resources needed to deliver useful and widely used data products and services.

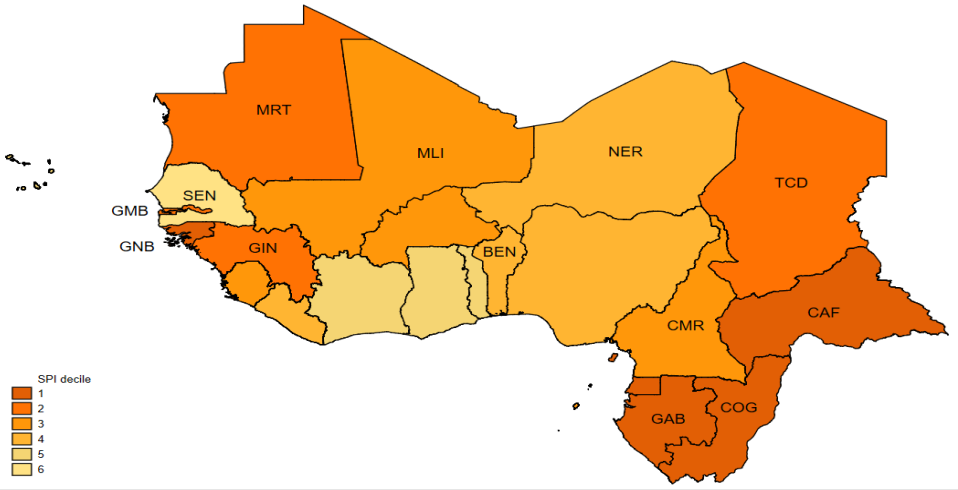
11. **Countries are currently scored against 51 indicators across 14 dimensions in these five pillars, using publicly available information.** The overall statistical performance score is then calculated as a simple average score of all five pillars on a scale of 0–100, to help measure countries' progress against the SPI framework.[15]

12. **Most Western and Central African countries currently rank among the bottom 40 percent globally in terms of their overall SCI score (Map 1).** In 2020, the SPI score for the region was 51.7 compared to the global average of 65.0, with only Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, and Togo not ranking

[15] For more information about the World Bank SPI, see *https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/statistical-performance-indicators/Framework*. *Dang, HA.H., Pullinger, J., Serajuddin, U., Stacy Brian (2021) "Policy Research Working Paper 9570 Statistical performance indicators and index—a new tool to measure country statistical capacity"* provide empirical evidence illustrating the strong correlation of the SPI with other commonly used development indicators of human capital, governance, poverty, and inequality.

among the bottom 40 percent globally and only Senegal (68.2) scoring higher than the global average. Except Cameroon, the SPI scores for CEMAC countries are below that of Sub-Saharan Africa.

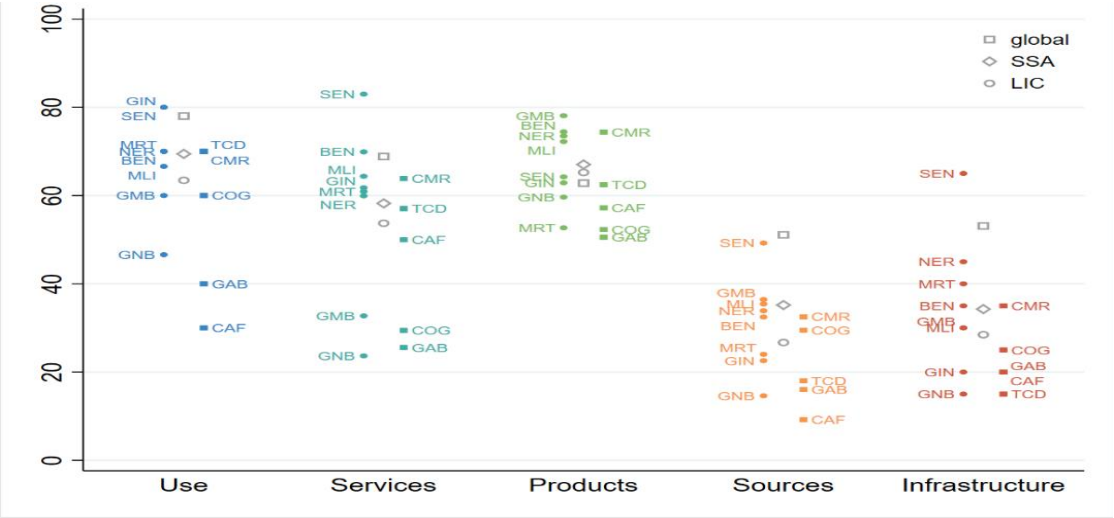
Map 1: Western and Central African Country SPI Scores (2020, Mapped to Global Deciles)



Source: WDI.

13. **Statistical performance varies considerably between Western and Central African countries and across the pillars of the SPI (Figure 2).** Most countries perform reasonably well on data products (availability of data to monitor indicators related to the SDGs), falling close to the median scores except on gender equality and climate statistics. There is a wide variation in the performance of countries in measures of data use (availability of key data in United Nations [UN] or other international databases) and data services (indicators related to openness and accessibility of data). The Western and Central Africa countries consistently perform poorly in terms of data sources and data infrastructure, though some do better than others.

Figure 2: SPI Scores by Pillar (2020)



Source: WDI.

14. **Overall SPI scores increased by about 6 points (0–100 scale) for countries in the Western and Central Africa region between 2016 and 2020, but data sources (Pillar 4) scores have not seen any improvement, and data infrastructure (Pillar 5) lags many other regions (Figure 3).** For data sources (implementation of censuses and surveys), countries do particularly poorly on enterprise censuses and surveys, civil registration, agriculture censuses and surveys, and data disaggregation at the first and second administrative units. For data infrastructure (use of international standards for data classification and compilation), the countries do poorly in rebasing of national accounts and CPI, employment classification, compilation of Central Government accounting status to noncash recording basis, and establishment of Government Finance Statistics (GFS) based on the 2014 Government Finance Statistics Manual (GFSM).

Figure 3: SPI Disaggregation by Indicators in Pillar 4 (Data Sources) and Pillar 5 (Data Infrastructure)

Source: WDI.

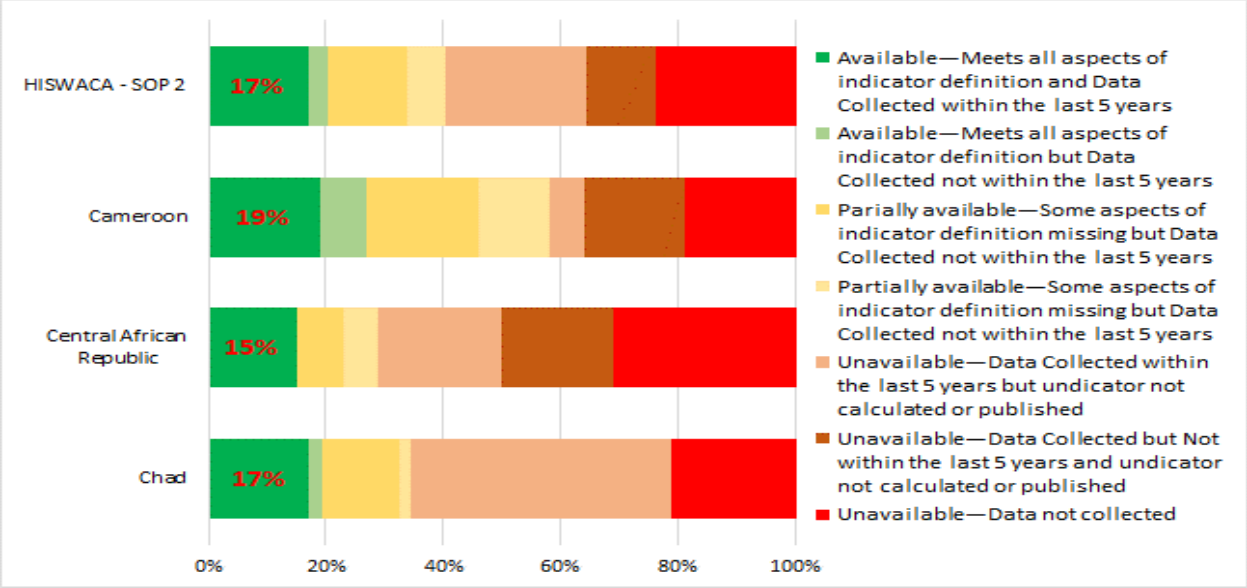
15. **Comparability of statistics still poses a significant challenge, and for many countries, real sector statistics do not fully meet current international quality standards.** For example, data sources and methodologies used to compile aggregates for national accounts still differ among countries across both Western and Central Africa. Differences in CPI methodologies and practices alter the comparability of the indexes. The geographical coverage of the CPI differs from one country to another; the use of regional weights is not similar, and neither is the mode of price collection. Comparison of poverty estimates is also difficult, due to differences in the design and periodicity of household income and expenditure surveys (HIESs) which are the main source of data for poverty estimates. Differences in the questionnaire design, especially for food consumption, are particularly important. For example, consumption data are collected using a diary in some countries, while the recall approach is used in others.

16. **Good-quality data for macroeconomic and sectoral modeling, long-term emissions strategies, climate action plans, and plans for scaling up zero- and low-emissions technologies and measures are currently scarce or at times unavailable.** For example, the inputs for macroeconomic and microeconomic sectoral emissions modeling, used to estimate Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs), always include PHC and survey-based demographic and socioeconomic data. Without these data, it is impossible to adequately design well-balanced climate change mitigation policies. When climate change mitigation policies are being designed for regions straddling national borders, data comparability and harmonization across countries are critical. Sectoral statistics will be needed to feed into the measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems to track the progress of each country toward its pledged NDC targets. In addition to the role in climate change mitigation, multi-country regional forecasting and planning are important for managing and preventing climate-triggered natural hazards; reducing vulnerability of people, businesses, and infrastructure to climate risks; and preventing environmental degradation. This operation will be crucial/central and is intended to support both the climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation efforts as outlined in the respective NDCs of the CEMAC member states including the Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of Chad. Agricultural censuses and the development of geospatial data will be key for preventing environmental degradation, ensuring sustainable use of natural resources, designing adequate and timely sectoral response to climatic events such as droughts or floods, and increasing climate resilience of economies. This operation in its full scope is intended to support the production of harmonized quality data for comprehensive policy support of climate change mitigation and adaptation and for achieving NDC targets in each of the participating countries.

17. **Achieving the World Bank twin goals of reducing extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity along with other international development goals such as the SDGs will not be possible in the presence of significant gender gaps.** These persist in various domains including human capital accumulation, access to labor market, wages, and access to productive assets especially land. Accurate and timely gender data are needed not only to measure the real extent of existing gender disparities but also to implement and evaluate public policies aiming to address these gender disparities.

18. **Gender statistics are still weak in many countries, despite recent World Bank and other donor initiatives.** The lack of relevant data and statistics constrains the appropriate assessment of the extent of gender disparities in the beneficiary countries, preventing adequate policy formulation to address those gaps. Figure 4 shows the gender data gaps assessment of the project participating countries which is extended to all the 52 United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) minimum list of gender indicators. It shows that on average, 13 percent of the gender indicators in the countries are available (properly calculated using data collected within the last five years), the share of partially calculated indicators using data collected within the last five years is 10 percent on average, about 18 percent of indicators are not calculated despite the relevant data being collected within the five last years, and moreover, 27 percent of indicators are not available because of the lack of relevant data. A detailed analysis of the gender data gap assessment for the project participating countries is provided in Annex 9. Gender data gaps come mainly from irregular data collection (37 percent of unavailable indicators) followed by limited data analyses (32 percent) and lack of data (31 percent). Different patterns are observed in Chad (70 percent of indicators missing because of limitations in data analysis).

Figure 4: Current Gender Data Gaps in Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa (HISWACA) - Series of Projects (SOP) 2 Countries



Source: World Bank calculations.

C. Key Design Features of the Project

Series of Projects (SOP)

19. **SOPs sharing a common project template design.** The overarching HISWACA Program constitutes overlapping SOPs to multiple countries that are facing common performance weaknesses in Western and Central Africa as elaborated in the sectoral context and share common development goals. The countries are grouped in alignment with subregional organizations to facilitate better coordination (Map 2).

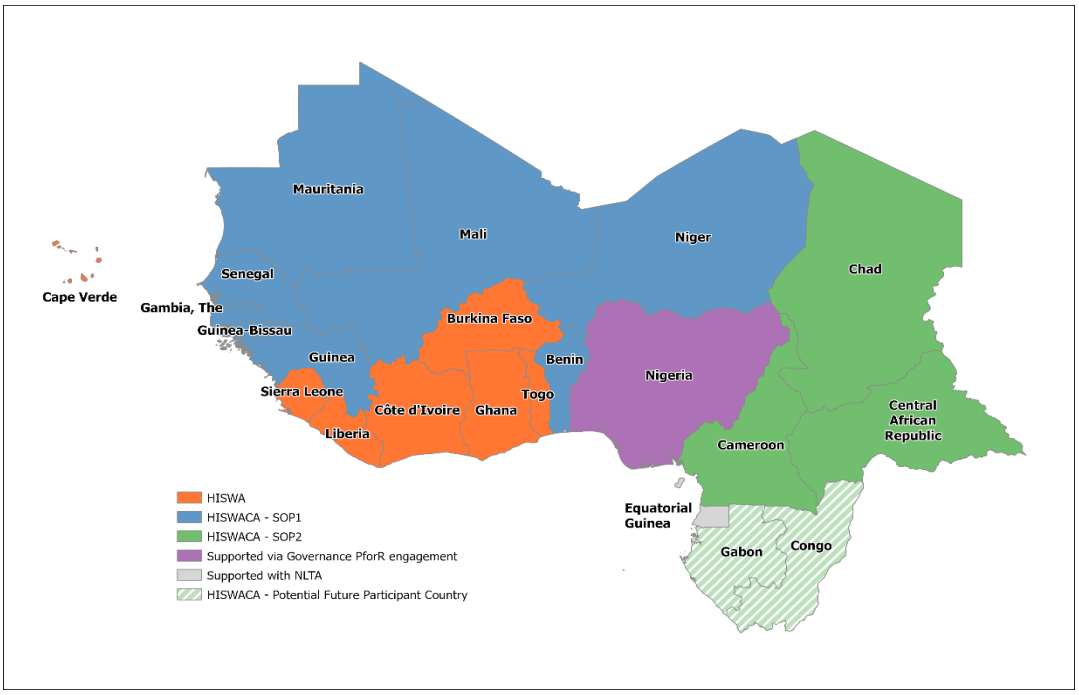
(a) **HISWACA - SOP 1 P178497.** The first SOP focuses on supporting the following West African countries: Benin, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and The Gambia. In addition, the project supports the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission Research and Statistics Directorate under the Department of Economic Affairs and Agriculture, the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC), and WAEMU to facilitate their coordination and advocacy roles to improve the comparability and harmonization of statistics. The HISWACA - SOP 1 is financed through national and regional IDA20 financing sources. This project is planned to be implemented from 2023 to 2028.

(b) **HISWACA - SOP 2 P180085.**[16] The second SOP focuses on the following Central African countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Chad. In addition, CEMAC will be supported as a regional organization. Through CEMAC, support will also be provided to its

[16] Republic of Congo has requested to participate in the proposed Project and asked IDA to assist in the financing of project activities in Republic of Congo. Gabon made a similar request to IBRD. World Bank's financial support to Republic of Congo and the Gabonese Republic is envisaged to be presented for board approval at a later date as additional financings.

regional statistical school (Sub-Regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics [*Institut Sous-régional de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée*, ISSEA]). The HISWACA - SOP 2 will be financed by the national and regional IDA financing resources. It is planned to be implemented from 2023 to 2029.

Map 2: HISWACA SOPs and Other Statistics Operations in Western and Central Africa



Source: World Bank

20. **Each SOP includes a combination of similar activities at the country and subregional levels which benefit the two subregions and the continent.** The three main strategic objectives are increasing the statistical performance of the NSSs in terms of timely production of data and accessibility and use of data, harmonizing statistical standards and methodologies, and modernizing the statistical system. The country-level support is provided to build the capacity of the NSSs to generate timely data in line with international standards and ensure their accessibility and use. The subregional and continental-level support within each SOP aims to facilitate coordination and harmonization of statistical standards and methodologies, key data collection instruments, and tools in line with international standards and African realities, to produce comparable, accurate, and up-to-date statistics to inform both the national development and regional integration agendas.

21. **The overall SOP has a program-level Project Development Objective (PDO) "to improve country statistical performance, regional harmonization, data access and use, and to enhance modernization of the statistical system in participating countries."** The program-level PDO will be monitored at the project level through the following PDO-level indicators: (a) Improved SPIs of project participating countries tailored in variables the project influence; (b) Improved quality of data access and use; (c) Improved regional harmonization and comparability of core statistics; and (d) Enhanced modernization of NSSs.

Regional Approach

22. **The SOP model, coupled with the use of a regional approach, will facilitate coordination among National Statistics Offices (NSOs) by introducing and expanding innovations, peer-to-peer reviewing, and learning that can generate positive externalities such as low-cost benefits through the transfer of technology and sharing across countries.** The NSOs rarely have comparable in-country counterparts and often look to their peers in other countries to innovate. A regional operational program can facilitate this cross-fertilization. New technologies for data collection and storage, measurement, and analysis can be developed in one country and transferred to others in similar situations, generating low-cost benefits. Adopting similar standards and classification also creates economies of scale and makes it easier to transfer knowledge (and build capacity) because peers will be familiar with the methods and standards. The benefits can also spread beyond the program's beneficiaries if they are proven to work. Training can be conducted more efficiently by utilizing regional schools, thus reducing training costs due to economies of scale. Such harmonized statistics also allow for creating a shared pool of skills in the region as the statisticians in the statistical agencies get trained on common standards, methods, and tools.

23. **Although countries in Western and Central Africa score poorly on the SPI, in general, in certain dimensions and for some indicators, good practices exist in the region and peer-to-peer learning facilitated by a regional project.** For instance, if each country adopted the best practice demonstrated by the Western and Central African country with the highest score for each SPI, the region could achieve a score placing it in the top 40 percent of countries globally. This further supports the rationale of adopting the regional approach in this project's implementation. For each indicator, the highest score obtained by any of the peer countries as of 2020 is considered. Aggregating these indicator scores would yield an SPI of 71.9, close to the average of high-income countries (78.5). This shows that despite the challenges they face, significantly better SPI scores are not out of reach, even leveraging just the knowledge and experience that exists in the region.

24. **Prevention of, mitigation of, and recovery from regional and global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic also require a concerted regional approach to set up emergency observatories to establish rapid data collection capacity and geospatial and big data analysis capabilities.** Natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and pandemics do not stop at national borders. Effective monitoring and response to a crisis requires a regional capacity to rapidly collect high-frequency data harmonized across borders. In the context of COVID-19, the World Bank swiftly rolled out rapid response phone surveys across dozens of countries, often in close collaboration with the NSOs. The ad hoc approach delivered invaluable data, and the established emergency observatories can now produce data in even shorter timelines using new methodologies. Geospatial and big data sources will also be leveraged. By using a regional approach, the data can be harmonized ex ante, producing regional data at the country level to inform both national and regional policies. These activities will also contribute to the modernization of the NSOs and selected Ministries, Departments, and Agencies[17] (MDAs) and strengthen their capacities in the production and use of such data.

[17] For the purpose of this document "MDA" means the Participating Countries' ministries, departments and agencies responsible for statistics and involved in the Project, including inter alia national statistics offices: for Republic of Cameroon,

D. Relevance to Higher Level Objectives

25. **This project supports statistical capacity building in project participating countries in line with the twin goals[18] of the World Bank.** The performance of statistical systems in participating countries is not yet sufficient to effectively support evidence-based development plans. The limited availability of high-quality statistics in Africa is one of the main obstacles to better monitoring of poverty reduction strategies, economic progress, and development outcomes. Moreover, the production of harmonized statistics and their alignment with international standards and classifications are prerequisites for producing the high-quality data necessary for evidence-based policy making. This is a fundamental goal of the World Bank to help build statistical capacity in developing countries.

26. **The project contributes to two key strategies recently launched in the African region.** First, the project will support the updated Regional Integration and Cooperation Assistance Strategy (RICAS) 2021–2023 of the World Bank through data production and analytics. This strategy aims to help strengthen regional integration in Africa, reinforce its support to the continent's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and realize its economic transformation. Second, the project will support the recently launched 2021–2025 regional strategy which aims at addressing the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing climate change, through producing data and analysis that contribute to enhancing trust between citizens and the state to create a new social contract, removing the bottlenecks that prevent businesses from creating more and better jobs, strengthening human capital and empowering women, and building climate resilience.

27. **This project is also aligned with the African Union (AU) Commission Second Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA2)[19]** and National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (*Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique* [SNDS]) **as well as regional and global commitments for better monitoring of goals.** SHaSA2 aims at addressing constraints in statistical production, harmonization, and availability to promote the regional integration agenda. It is consistent with the UN's Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics. It covers the production of better-quality and harmonized statistics, improved cooperation, and coordination between African statistical institutions building sustainable institutional capacity and enhancing the use of statistics by promoting a culture of quality decision-making.

28. **The project also responds to the united call for internationally comparable statistics,** which is especially relevant in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[20] and Agenda 2063[21] for a Prosperous and United Africa.

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the *Institut National de la Statistique* (INS); for Central African Republic, *the Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales* (ICASEES); for Republic of Chad, the *Institut National de la Statistique, des Etudes Economiques et Démographiques* (INSEED).

18 The World Bank has committed itself to twin goals: eliminating extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity, measured as the income of the bottom 40 percent in any given country.

19 *https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/34580-doc-34577-doc-shasa_ii_strategy_eng_full_web.pdf.*

20 https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/agenda-programme.aspx?lang=eng.

21 https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-framework_document_book.pdf.

29. **Furthermore, the project will promote the adoption of innovative statistical techniques to strengthen the resilience of NSSs**—especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on traditional data collection techniques. Therefore, this is an appropriate time to promote synergies and cooperation within the statistical community and encourage countries to make efforts toward the harmonization of statistics and align them to SDG monitoring needs. In this regard, this project will contribute to tackling the current shortcomings in regional statistical systems in the Western and Central Africa region, particularly the lack of harmonization of methodologies in compiling key economic statistics. These gaps may not be straightforward to handle at the level of individual countries, but the project will address coordination failures in statistical harmonization through building regional public goods. This type of regional instrument will also support lagging countries in the region by providing additional resources for capacity building.

30. **The project will contribute to operationalizing the World Bank Gender Strategy based on a data-driven approach.** The World Bank Gender Strategy 2016–2023 calls for better country-level diagnostics on gender gaps in Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCDs) and Country Partnership Frameworks (CPFs) to "highlight how closing the key gender gaps in endowments, economic opportunities, and voice and agency would boost the attainment of the twin goals." Improving the quality of national and regional data is essential to pursue this goal. The project will contribute to this agenda by producing and making such data available based on international standards and enhancing its use. The project interventions will emphasize gender statistics as significant gender data gaps prevail in the project participating countries.

31. **The project is aligned with the commitment made by the World Bank along with other partners to support developing countries in solving the data crisis on learning poverty,** which measures the share of children who cannot read a simple text with comprehension by age 10. Available data show learning poverty is a widespread phenomenon, especially in Africa where it was estimated to be 86 percent in 2019. This indicator was launched by the World Bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics in 2019 to highlight the global learning crisis. Additionally, the 2022 World Bank report on the State of Global Learning Poverty makes a clarion call for filling the data gaps on learning poverty. The school closures and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are believed to have likely deepened the crisis. In this context, the availability of quality data is key to understanding and successfully fighting against learning poverty.

32. **The project aims to contribute to the World Bank Climate Change Action Plan 2021–2025**, which aims to advance green, resilient, and inclusive development by enhancing support for World Bank clients to integrate climate into their development strategies. To that end, the World Bank has committed major engagements on diagnostics and analytics to support national policy and planning for climate change. In this regard, this program, in supporting capacity building and production at a larger scale of climate change statistics in all the participating countries, will contribute to improving the quality of those diagnostics, plannings, and actions.

33. **The project is consistent with the project participating countries' NDCs[22] and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)[23] submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**,

[22] Cameroon, September 2021; The Central African Republic, October 2021; Chad, October 2021.
[23] Republic of Cameroon, June 2015; The Central African Republic, February 2022; Chad, February 2022.

where among other sector commitments, all countries commit to improve and implement climate-resilient agricultural and livestock practices by using adaptation measures in the agriculture sector, for example by improving farmers' adaptive capacities using good agricultural practices. The CCDRs in Cameroon[24] and Chad[25] seek to identify ways countries can achieve their overall development objectives while fostering the transition to a greener, more resilient, and more inclusive development pathway. Cameroon CCDR discusses its four priority areas including: (a) agriculture, forestry, and other land use; (b) cities; (c) infrastructure; and (d) human capital, where governance is a cross-cutting reform area for climate action; and Chad CCDR discusses its commitments on energy, agriculture, land use and forestry and transport. Additionally, the planned support to PHCs will help the countries monitor and evaluate the pledges by providing key climate data based on the UNs climate indicators. The project will also improve knowledge on climate change and will help integrate climate change adaptation recommendations into strategies and policies in different national sectors.

34. **The project will also contribute to attaining the objective set by the World Bank's *D4P Initiative*.** The D4P Initiative is a World Bank engagement to strengthen the NSS and build capacity in the IDA countries, by enhancing the availability, timeliness, quality, and relevance of key data for evidence-based decision-making. More specifically, the IDA20 cycle commits to support 34 IDA countries, including those with ongoing statistical operations, to (a) strengthen institutions and build capacity to reduce gaps in the availability of core data for evidence-based policy making, including disaggregation by gender and disability status where appropriate; and (b) increase the resilience of statistical systems, including through investments in digital technology and high-frequency monitoring capabilities. This project would contribute to delivering one-third of this IDA20 target in 2023.

35. **The project reflects priorities emphasized in the World Bank's World Development Report (WDR) on Data for Better Lives.** Its design is squarely based on the frameworks and recommendations of the 2021 WDR on Data for Better Lives, which focuses on how data can improve the lives of poor people and advance development objectives. In particular, the report emphasizes the gaps in the availability, quality, and usability of public use data, which are highlighted by the SPI.

36. **The project will also contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the regional integration visions in the Western and Central Africa region and their subsequent regional development strategies and sectoral policies** by providing high-quality and harmonized data to enhance informed policy and decision-making. This SOP-2 is in line with CEMAC's regional statistics action plan covering the period 2021–2030,[26] which focusses on harmonization, reliability, and availability of statistics to inform regional integration policy decisions.

37. **This project is also in line with the respective World Bank country strategies.** In all participating countries, CPFs[27] and SCDs have identified weaknesses in statistics as a barrier to effective monitoring of strategies of development and SDGs. The project will address quality data production and dissemination

[24] World Bank Group. 2022. Cameroon Country Climate and Development Report. CCDR Series. Washington.
[25] World Bank Group. 2022. G5 Sahel Region Country Climate and Development Report. CCDR Series. Washington.
[26] Adopted in August 2021 during a Head of States Summit: Decision No 01 /21-CEMAC-CCE-15.
[27] Cameroon: Report No. 107896-CM; Central Africa Republic: Report No. 150618-CF; and Chad: Report No. 95277-TD.

regularly in each participating country and will also focus on specific issues highlighted in CPFs, Performance Learning Reviews, and SCDs.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

38. **The project's interventions are designed to support project participating countries and regional bodies in building performing and sustainable statistical systems.** This objective will be achieved by ensuring that international standards are adopted, and that the most critical data sources and indicators are produced to monitor and inform national and international development agendas. Beyond filling the data gap, the project ensures that countries build coherent and complementary statistical subsystems in each area. The project also lays emphasis on institutional reforms to improve NSSs coordination while building the capacity to improve the quality, accessibility, and dissemination of the data collected.

A. Project Development Objective

39. **The PDO is to improve country statistical performance, regional harmonization, data access and use, and to enhance modernization of the statistical system in participating countries.**

40. **The project will use the following PDO indicators to monitor progress toward achieving the PDO.**

(a) **Improved SPI of project participating countries tailored in variables the project influences:**

(i) Increase in SPI of project participating countries tailored on variables the project will influence (percentage) – disaggregated by participating countries.

(b) **Improved quality of data access and use:**

(ii) Increase in users who are satisfied with the accessibility of statistical products as determined by the user satisfaction survey (percentage) - disaggregated by participating countries.

(iii) Reports produced using statistics/datasets/indicators supported by the project and new data sources (number) - disaggregated by participating countries.

(c) **Improved regional harmonization and comparability of core statistics:**

(iv) Harmonized core economic and social statistics produced according to the applicable regional standards and made publicly available on national or regional websites (number) - disaggregated by participating countries.

(d) **Enhanced modernization of NSSs:**

(v) New statistical products produced through project financing using improved data collection and computerized data checking methods (number) - disaggregated by participating countries.

41. **The strategic objective on the *statistical performance* of the NSSs relates to their ability to generate data based on international standards, on time, and their wide availability and use.** The

strategic objective on *harmonization* involves harmonization of statistical methodologies, key data collection instruments, and tools in line with international standards and Western and Central African realities, to produce comparable, accurate, and up-to-date statistics to inform both national development and regional integration agendas. This will enhance statistical cooperation in the region to produce comparable and quality statistics, which requires (a) available of common regional statistical guidelines and tools in line with international standards; and (b) trained staff with adequate skills to implement them. Another requirement to produce these harmonized statistics is the availability of financial resources at the country levels to undertake statistical activities needed to implement the regional guidelines provided. *The data access and use* focus on making statistical products and reports widely available, tailored to users' needs. *The strategic objective on modernization* aims at building a stable and sustainable statistical system with adequate institutions and using innovative solutions and alternative data sources required to produce quality statistics, along with modern equipment and buildings.

42. **The project financing amount is from the regional IDA window and national IDA.** The total financing amount of the HISWACA - SOP 2 is US$290 million and consists of US$90 million from national IDA allocations (IDA Credit US$26.6 million, IDA SML US$8.4, and IDA Grant US$55 million) and US$200 million from the regional IDA window (IDA Credit US$70 million and IDA Grant US$130 million) Table 1. The project qualifies as a regional project eligible to receive financing from the IDA20 regional window, as it will generate positive externalities across participating countries and the regional organization to improve statistical performance, harmonization, and comparability across the recipients, and the World Bank has demonstrated experience assisting countries to improve and modernize their statistical systems. In accordance with the IDA20 regional window requirements, CEMAC meets the eligibility requirements to receive IDA Grant of US$20 million. The CEMAC Grant will cover regional public good activities related to institutional cooperation for economic integration and coordination and more specifically to production of statistical methodologies and guidelines to produce comparable and quality official statistics that are regional public goods for all participating countries.

Table 1: Financing Amount by Country and Regional Organization

Country/Regional Organization	National IDA Allocation (US$, million)			Regional IDA Allocation (US$, million)		Total (US$, million)
	Credit	Grant	SML	Credit	Grant	
Cameroon	26.6	—	8.4	70.0	—	105.0
Central Africa Republic	—	20.0	—	—	40.0	60.0
Chad	—	35.0	—	—	70.0	105.0
CEMAC	—	—	—	—	20.0	20.0
Total	**26.6**	**55.0**	**8.4**	**70.0**	**130.0**	**290.0**
Total IDA Grant	185.0					
Total IDA Credit	96.6					
Total IDA SML	8.4					
Total Financing	**290.0**					

B. Project Components

43. **Project activities are grouped into four components.** Activities under the first component of the project are designed to improve performance in data sources (Pillar 4) and data infrastructure (Pillar 5) of the SPI, by supporting key data collection activities which in turn will make available many indicators needed to monitor the SDGs (Pillar 3) and feed some international databases (Pillar 1). Furthermore, regional statistical harmonization under this component will assist participating countries in producing more comparable data and adapting international standards (System of National Accounts [SNA] 2008 and 2018 Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose [COICOP], for instance) to the regional context, making it easier for NSSs to adopt them and therefore be aligned with international guidelines. Activities under Component 2 related to data dissemination will directly help improve Pillar 2 of the SPI, in addition to contributing to the improvement of Pillar 1 through the support to better use of data for public policy, although specific indicators of that nature are not yet included in the score. They also support the development and funding of SNDSs, covered under Pillar 5 (data infrastructure) although only partially included in the SPI score. Component 3 seeks to provide the basic physical infrastructure and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capacity needed to implement any of the other activities or make progress on any of the SPIs. While not directly reflected in the SPI, these activities are also related to the skills component under Pillar 5 of the SPI. The project management (Component 4) aims to oversee and supervise the implementation of the first three components. The World Bank's support is planned from 2023–2029.

44. Table 2 and Table 3 show respectively the project cost by components and subcomponents, and project cost allocation by participating countries and regional organization.

Table 2: Components and Subcomponents of the Project

Component 1: Harmonization and Production of Core Statistics using International Data Quality Standards	Component 2: Statistical Modernization, Institutional Reform, Human Capital, Data Accessibility and Use	Component 3: Construction, Upgrading and Modernization of Physical Infrastructure	Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation
1.1 Regional Coordination and Adoption of Harmonized Data Quality Standards (US$12.0 M)	2.1 Statistical Modernization of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) (US$1.1 M)	3.1 Construction and Infrastructure Upgrading of selected NSOs and Statistical Schools (US$39.7 M)	4.1 Project Management (US$13.7 M)
1.2 Demographic and Socio-Economic Statistical Production (US$94.2 M)	2.2 Institutional Reforms for Selected National Statistical Systems (NSSs) (US$3.1 M)	3.2 Modernization of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Statistical Infrastructure of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Statistical Schools (US$9.1 M)	4.2 Project Results and User Satisfaction Monitoring (US$1.5 M)
1.3 Real and Fiscal Sector Statistical Production (US$28.9 M)	2.3 Enhance Human Capital (US$7.9 M)		4.3 Performance-based financing for Republic of Central Africa – ICASEES (US1.0 M)
1.4 Agricultural and Climate Change Statistical Production (US$40.5 M)	2.4 Data Accessibility and Dissemination (US$3.5 M)		
1.5 Sectoral and Sub-National Administrative Data Curation (US$18.9 M)	2.5 Data Use and Analysis to Inform Public Policy (US$15.0 M)		
US$194.5 M	US$30.5 M	US$48.8 M	US$16.2 M

Table 3: Project Cost Allocation by Project Participating Countries and Regional Organization (US$, millions)

	CEMAC and ISSEA	Cameroon	Central Africa Republic	Chad	Total
Component 1: Harmonization and Production of Core Statistics using International Data Quality Standards (US$194.5 million)	**12.0**	**77.9**	**37.1**	**67.5**	**194.5**
Subcomponent 1.1: Regional Coordination and Adoption of Harmonized Data Quality Standards	12.0				12.0
Subcomponent 1.2: Demographic and Socio-Economic Statistical Production (US$94.3 million)		31.7	17.9	44.7	94.2
Subcomponent 1.3: Real and Fiscal Sector Statistical Production (US$28.9 million)		13.8	7.8	7.3	28.9
Subcomponent 1.4. Agricultural and Climate Change Statistical Production (US$40.5 million)		22.6	9.5	8.4	40.5
Subcomponent 1.5: Sectoral and SubNational Administrative Data Curation (US$18.9 million)		9.8	1.9	7.2	18.9
Component 2: Statistical Modernization, Institutional Reform, Human Capital, Data Accessibility and Use (US$30.6 million)	**1.5**	**15.8**	**3.5**	**9.7**	**30.5**
Subcomponent 2.1: Statistical Modernization of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) (US$1.1 million)		0.5	0.1	0.5	1.1
Subcomponent 2.2: Institutional Reforms for selected National Statistical Systems (NSSs) (US$3.1 million)		1.8	0.3	1.0	3.1
Subcomponent 2.3: Enhance Human Capital (US$7.9 million)	1.5	0.6	2.0	3.8	7.9
Subcomponent 2.4: Data Accessibility and Dissemination (US$3.5 million)		1.6	0.4	1.4	3.4
Subcomponent 2.5: Data Use and Analysis to Inform Public Policy (US$15.0 million)		11.3	0.7	3.0	15.0
Component 3: : Construction, Upgrading and Modernization of Physical Infrastructure (US$48.8	**3.5**	**6.0**	**15.4**	**23.9**	**48.8**
Subcomponent 3.1: Construction and Infrastructure Upgrading of selected National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Statistical Schools (US$39.7 million)	2.5	3.0	14.0	20.2	39.7
Subcomponent 3.2: Modernization of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Statistical Infrastructure of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Statistical Schools (US$9.1 million)	1.0	3.0	1.4	3.7	9.1
Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation (US$16.2 million)	**3.0**	**5.3**	**4.0**	**3.9**	**16.2**
Subcomponent 4.1: Project Management (US$13.7 million)	3.0	4.5	2.7	3.5	13.7
Subcomponent 4.2: Project Results and User Satisfaction Monitoring (US$1.5 million)		0.8	0.3	0.4	1.5
Subcomponent 4.3: Performance based financing for Republic of Central Africa (US$1.0 million)			1.0		1.0
Total	**20.0**	**105.0**	**60.0**	**105.0**	**290.0**

Component 1: Harmonization and Production of Core Statistics using International Data Quality Standards (US$194.5 million equivalent)

45. **Activities under this first component relate to supporting the regional statistical harmonization process and the production of quality core statistics to improve data sources and data infrastructure pillars of the SPI, where participating countries in the region are doing poorly in terms of statistical performance.** The harmonization of statistics requires adoption of international standards, and the production of a core set of economic, social, and demographic statistics will improve data availability to meet users' demand for statistics, especially regarding indicators needed to monitor most of the SDGs (Pillar 3 of the SPI).

Subcomponent 1.1: Regional Coordination and Adoption of Harmonized Data Quality Standards (US$12.0 million equivalent)

46. **This subcomponent aims to primarily support CEMAC in its coordination role to improve quality and comparability of statistics in the region.** Very often, data are inconsistent and noncomparable because of the nonuse of international standards and best practices. This subcomponent also aims to enhance the commission's capability to play its critical role in statistical advocacy. Indeed, statistical awareness—the importance and role of statistics in society, needed to create demand for and use of statistics especially for public policy, planning, and decision-making, and for increased investment in statistics and statistical development—remains low in the region. CEMAC will use its convening power, including via its political (Heads of State summit and ministerial-level committees) and technical (CEMAC Economic and Financial Reforms Program and Director Generals of NSOs) forums to promote the wide use of statistics in society, making a general case for the importance and role of statistics in the wider context of development and in informing the process of governance and regional integration. This subcomponent will finance CEMAC in this advocacy role and all regional training and workshops required during this project's implementation. More specifically, the project support under this subcomponent will encompass the following:

(a) **Production of harmonized methodologies, guidelines, and regulations in line with best practices and international standards.** CEMAC will have a critical role in ensuring coordination and harmonization of major data collection activities, mainly PHC, informal cross-border trade surveys, HIESs, and LFSs. The production of harmonized statistics in the region requires clear guidelines and regulations so that member states can produce official statistics in the same way. CEMAC should prepare these guidelines in some priority areas. In this regard, funds will be made available to finance the process to prepare these methodologies, guidelines, and regulations. The set of activities to be supported are based on CEMAC's subregional statistical program which covers the period 2021–2030 and aims at harmonizing the production and dissemination of key statistical indicators, to inform regional integration policies. The priority areas include national accounts, prices, foreign trade, public finances, transport, energy, health, education, poverty, environment, and climate change. The CEMAC Statistical Program, STAT-CEMAC, was adopted by the Heads of State of CEMAC in August 2021.

(b) **Adoption of compatible software and tools to compile relevant statistics.** As part of the statistics harmonization process, the region aims to harmonize tools used by member states'

NSOs to compile the important statistics, especially in the areas of national accounts and price and trade statistics.

(c) **Adaptation of international classifications to the region's circumstances and production of common classifications.** The objective of the harmonization of statistics is to make it possible to combine or compare data that have been collected and produced by the member states. This would be made easy with the use of harmonized standards and classifications across different parties. In this respect, in addition to the work on standards and methods to produce the abovementioned guidelines, regionally coordinated work to adapt international classifications and produce common regional ones in line with international recommendations will be funded by the project.

(d) **Statistical advocacy.** This is a strategic issue in statistical development in developing countries. It is about promoting the wide use of statistics in society as one of the essential life skills which every citizen should have, making a general case for the importance and role of statistics in the wider context of development and in informing the process of governance. The project will finance CEMAC to use its convening power to undertake statistical awareness among the decision-makers (Heads of State, ministers, and director generals) and the public on the role and importance of statistics.

(e) **Specialized training on regional statistics guidelines or agreed statistical methodologies to produce highly trained professionals capable of designing effective statistical systems for the countries and the region.** The trainings will cover not only the above-cited priority areas but also other statistical areas such as government finance, monetary and financial statistics, population census, and agriculture statistics.

(f) **Improving the management of MDAs in the region.** Specific TA programs will be designed to enhance the management of NSOs, including management of staff careers, building on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, which advocate for permanent activity to be streamlined, to be implemented by specialized teams. Issues related to staff motivation, and performance pay will also be addressed under this TA.

(g) **Strengthening the capacity of the CEMAC Department of Statistics in terms of human resources and equipment.** Indeed, successful implementation of the project requires hiring technical personnel to reinforce the team. There is a human resources capacity challenge at the Department of Statistics in key areas necessary for macroeconomic convergence. In this regard, resources from this subcomponent will be used to hire experienced and specialized experts in priority areas to support the harmonization agenda and to provide technical support to staff of the NSOs of member states. To ensure sustainability of the support from the project, CEMAC will mainstream and fill these positions within the CEMAC regular positions, by the time the project closes. Equipment to be financed by the project for the Statistics Department includes office furniture and Information Technology (IT) equipment for data processing and archiving.

47. **CEMAC will work with Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (*Observatoire Economique et Statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne*, AFRISTAT[28])** which has done some work on adapting the international classifications on activities and goods, for National Accounts. AFRISTAT is also working on issues related to quality control, data privacy, and dissemination, which are critical and relevant. Therefore, a strong partnership between CEMAC and AFRISTAT is envisaged for successful implementation of this project. More specifically, AFRISTAT will be procured to provide TA to CEMAC.

48. **On PHC, CEMAC will contract the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) West and Central Africa Regional Office to ensure that countries are receiving quality TA to enhance the generation and use of quality population data in the region.** CEMAC will also engage with STATAFRIC throughout project implementation to benefit from STATAFRIC continental coordination and support as part of the SHaSA2 implementation.

Subcomponent 1.2: Demographic and Socio-economic Statistical Production (US$94.2 million equivalent)

49. **This subcomponent supports participating countries to produce updated demographic and socioeconomic data from PHCs and an integrated program of household-based surveys.** In the implementation of this program, the project will consider the need to fill data gaps in some key areas like disability and climate change statistics. The project will improve disability data collection, guided by global standards and best practices, such as using the Washington Group's Short Set of Questions on Disability, which is critical to align with the World Bank's 10 commitments made in 2018 regarding disability inclusion. The project's intervention in collecting climate data will help participating countries monitor and evaluate the results of their NAPs or NDCs. In addition, this type of data is always one of the main inputs in macroeconomic modeling for designing climate change mitigation policies, climate change modeling for Shared Socioeconomic Pathways scenarios, and climate risk and vulnerability forecasting. More information on the project's climate change intervention is described in Annex 8.

Population and Housing Censuses

50. **The subcomponent will support PHCs in all three participating countries, scheduled to be conducted during the period 2023–2025.** All these PHCs are overdue. The international recommendations require countries to conduct a census every 10 years; however, this is not the case in project participating countries. The situation is worse for other CEMAC countries. In Central African Republic, Cameroon, and Chad, the last censuses were conducted in 2003, 2005, and 2009, respectively. This represents a gap of 14–20 years. The outdated PHC affects much of the statistical systems and reduces the credibility of development planning, monitoring, and management. Indeed, the accuracy of statistics that incorporate population dimensions and that are based on household sample surveys, including macroeconomic statistics (such as GDP per capita), service access, and poverty measurements, is questionable because the information available regarding the size, structure, and geographical distribution of the population

[28] AFRISTAT is an international organization created by a treaty signed in 1993 in Abidjan by 14 African countries members of the Franc Zone: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Comoros, the Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabonese Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Chad, and Togo.

does not reflect the current situation. In most countries, a lack of resources delayed the start of the census. Censuses are expensive and typically require funding from many international organizations.

51. **In all three countries, preparatory works for a census started under the ongoing and closed statistics projects funded by the World Bank—**for the Central African Republic – P160717 and Chad – P159434. In Cameroon, the preparatory works are being funded through a governance project (P151155), and main data collection is set for November 2023. In the Central African Republic results from the cartography were published and are already being used to inform policy decisions. In the Central African Republic, data collection will start in December 2023. Depending on where the country stands in the census preparation phases, the project will support all the remaining phases including the pilot cartography and census, the main cartography, the enumeration, the post-enumeration survey, data processing and analysis, and census results and data dissemination. PHC activities will be implemented in close cooperation and coordination with UNFPA, the leading UN agency in supporting censuses.

Integrated Household Surveys Program

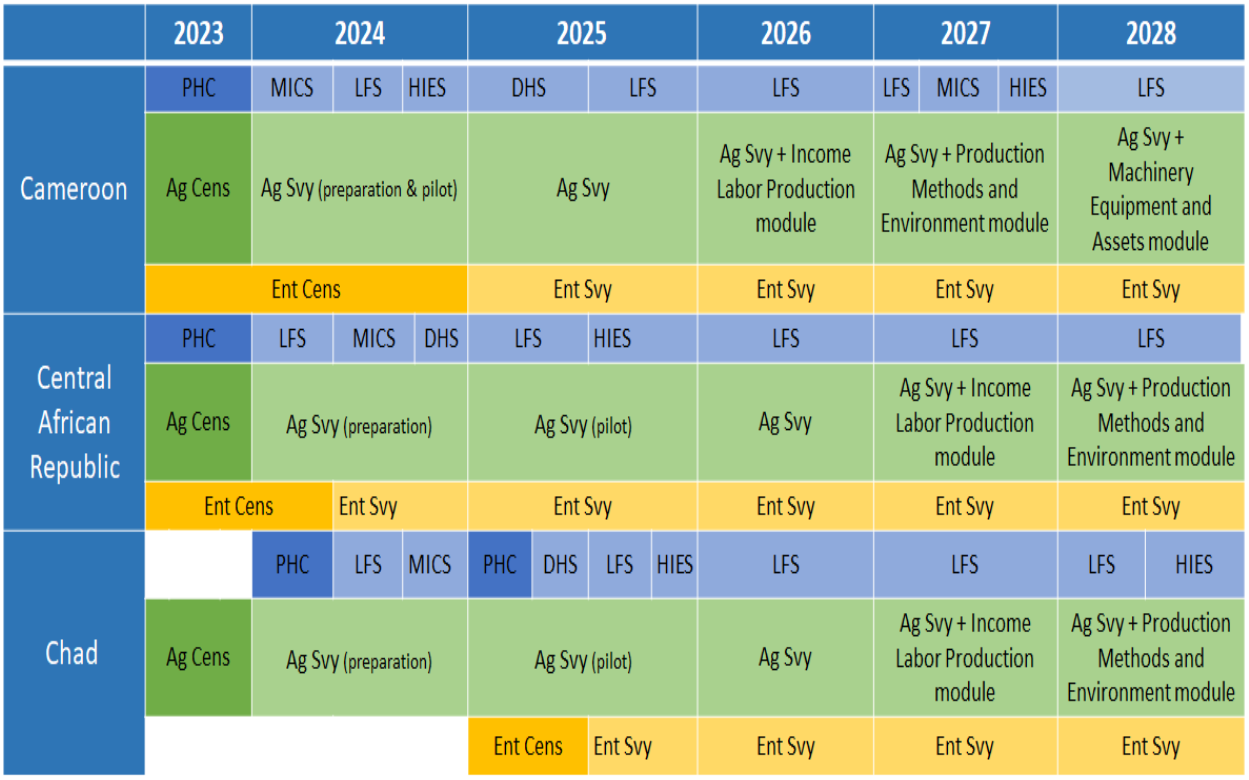
52. **A well-functioning household survey program plays a crucial role for an NSS, as part of its overall system of data collection and analysis.** Household surveys provide specific types of data, the lack of which would severely constrain effective and improved policy making. In the short run, regular household surveys are the main tool to monitor well-being in these countries and inform their own socioeconomic policies in many areas. In each participating country, the Integrated Household Survey Program will include DHSs, LFSs, and HIESs (Figure 5). In addition, MICS will be implemented in Cameroon and Chad. These key surveys play crucial roles in supporting countries to generate high-quality data for tracking progress toward both global and national targets and for formulating effective policies and programs, especially toward achieving the SDGs.

53. **DHSs/MICSs provide valuable information on health issues such as malnutrition, fecundity, and infantile and maternal mortality.** These surveys are also valuable sources of information to monitor multidimensional poverty and the SDGs. The international best practices are to conduct a DHS every five years and the MICS every three years. The project support aims to keep participating countries in line with these international best practices. Other donors such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are also involved in financing these types of surveys in developing countries. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provides financing to Inner City Fund (ICF) International for TA on implementation of a DHS program that provides vital information to help advance global understanding of health and population trends in low- and middle-income countries. The project will partner with these institutions in funding DHS/MICS. There will be no funds for these institutions. Rather, as classic partners for these type of operations, intensive coordination will be done to ensure synergies and avoid double counting. The project will coordinate with UNICEF and USAID in funding DHS/MICS, but those entities will not receive financing from the World Bank.

54. **LFSs allow for understanding of the constraints faced by individuals to enter the labor market and/or to get decent wages.** An ideal LFS system consists of a comprehensive baseline LFS conducted every three years and light panel surveys conducted each quarter or every six months. However, all participating countries do not have the necessary human resources for such a demanding system. The

system will be adapted to each country. Cameroon's ambition to reach the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) will require them to produce quarterly information on the labor market. Chad and the Central African Republic are planning to set up a system that will allow them to produce these statistics twice a year. For all beneficiary countries, the main products will be a regular labor market bulletin and data/information for labor market analysis. In addition to this output, the LFS will be used to monitor welfare in years where a living standard survey is not implemented. To achieve this goal, specific modules to monitor welfare will be added each year to the questionnaire. The survey will not have a consumption module but instead consumption correlates such as education, housing, and assets, in addition to labor market variables, to predict welfare and conduct analysis. Furthermore, this survey will be designed in a way that, if any new issue arises (insecurity; conflict; shocks such as climate, health, or economic; and so on), a module is added to the questionnaire to address it.

Figure 6: Planned Censuses and Surveys



55. **The international recommendation is to conduct a household survey to measure poverty every five years at maximum.** As the project is planned for five years, every country, even those who implemented a household survey in 2022,[29] will have the opportunity to conduct one or two new poverty survey(s) during the project. The surveys will be designed using the most recent international standards prepared by the World Bank team on household surveys design and poverty measurement. In the case of the methodological change between the previous household survey and the new one, it will be challenging to compare the new poverty estimates with past poverty numbers. In that case, the survey design and funding will include a survey experiment which will serve as a bridge survey to allow comparability. The situation differs between WAEMU and CEMAC countries. WAEMU countries have decided to completely harmonize the survey; beyond using the same methodology and the same data collection tools, the data collection also takes place at the same time. Under CEMAC leadership, a dialogue will be conducted between the participant NSOs to explore interest and if so decide whether CEMAC can also adopt the same approach whereas all poverty surveys are conducted at the same time for the whole subregion. If CEMAC countries agree to conduct the poverty survey at the same time, it is envisaged that a dialogue between CEMAC and WAEMU will take place to explore options for further harmonization, to have both WAEMU and CEMAC countries conducting poverty survey at the same time.

56. **The integrated nature of this survey program requires a unique and coordinated planning of operations in each country.** The surveys will be carried out based on harmonized concepts, variables, and classifications. Each survey will include lists of similar and standardized variables needed for nonmonetary poverty measurement. Standardization of coding, editing, and imputation in the data processing of the same modules will also be sought to ensure consistency in the results. Effort will be made to leverage from the work being done by the consultative group on DHS, MICS, and Living Standards Measurement Study (supported by USAID, UNICEF, and the World Bank, respectively) on improvement of comparability and integration across survey methods and techniques as well as on greater coordination and timing and scheduling of surveys. In addition, the program will offer expansion of the range of data collected in addition to expanding the use of innovative technologies in data collection. The expansion of the range of data collected will consider the inclusion of new topics such as modules on learning poverty, food insecurity, and impact of high food prices. The project will also support the inclusion of longitudinal surveys to support the evaluations of public policies or their designs, especially in relation to climate change (more information under Annex 8).

57. **Participating countries will purchase drones to support survey activities under "innovative technologies".** Drones offer enormous potential over traditional survey methods despite the prohibitive cost associated with this technology. They use sensors to create thousands of highly accurate data points of the same quality as traditional methods. Aerial surveys are becoming increasingly common in many countries as they offer a myriad of benefits including the following: (a) difficult-to-reach areas become data rich such as during disasters; (b) drones require lesser time necessary than ground-based survey; (c) they produce faster and accurate results; and (d) they save time and money. No drones procured under the project shall be used for any other purpose other than those set out to support survey research and implementation. A risk assessment and mitigation on drone use will be undertaken before any procurement approval.

[29] Chad implemented a survey in 2019, Cameroon in 2021/22, and the Central Africa Republic in 2021.

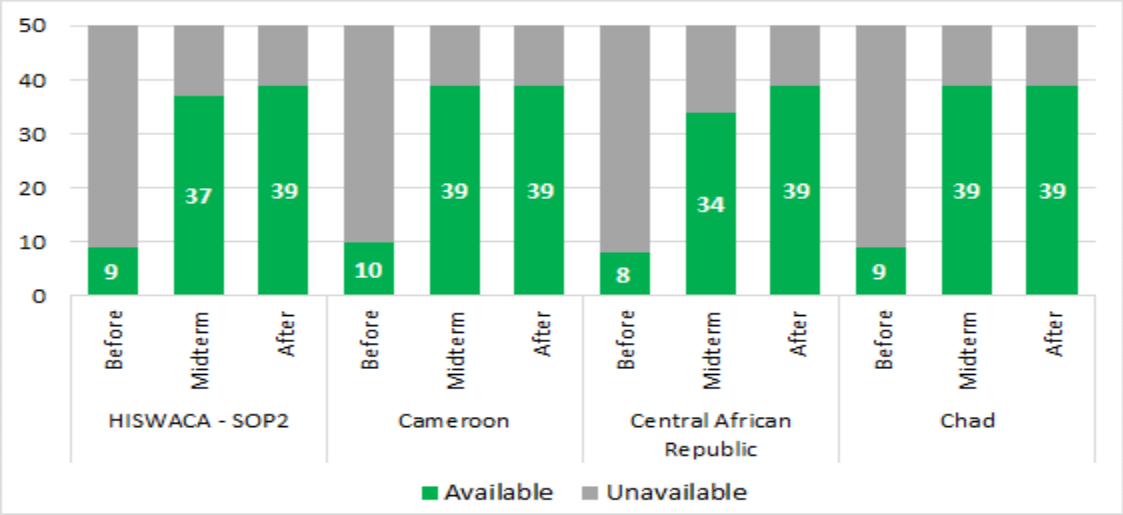
58. **The learning poverty module will build on the ongoing initiative led by the Program for the Analysis of Education Systems of Conference of Ministers in Francophone Countries (*Programme d'analyse des systèmes éducatifs de la Conférence des ministres de l'Education ,* PASEC) together with the Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Education of participating countries.** This program has already conducted two rounds of surveys in 2014 and 2019 to measure students' learning levels at the end of primary education, especially their reading and mathematics capabilities. The PASEC2014 covered 10 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Senegal, Chad, and Togo, while the PASEC2019 added four countries: Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Support from the project will coordinate with CONFEMEN and the different ministries of education. As part of the survey program implementation, the project will identify the survey to which specific modules on learning poverty will be added to the questionnaire.

Gender

59. **The project will contribute to filling gender data gaps and improving gender statistics through implementation and improvement of data collection efforts and various capacity-building activities to enhance both data collection, indicator calculation, and data dissemination.** More specifically, the following activities are foreseen to enhance gender statistics by: (a) fully capturing the gender dimension in surveys through improved questionnaire design; (b) improving gender statistics from administrative sources (specifically health and education); (c) improving data collection methodologies and tools to enhance gender data quality, including reduction of proxy response rates; (d) increasing the availability of individual-level asset indicators (including nonagricultural land); (e) improving the calculation of gender indicators according to international standards; and (f) disseminating gender data through the preparation of gender factbooks. The availability of relevant gender indicators based on high quality and timely data is expected to enable key stakeholders and data users to make informed decisions with respect to closing gender gaps in the country and better tracking of progress toward this objective.

60. **The project will track progress in gender data gap reduction using a baseline list of indicators based on the UNSD minimum set of gender indicators.** For each indicator of this baseline list, the current availability status and projected availability status at the end of the project will be provided. An indicator is classified as available if it is properly computed and published by the statistical system. The baseline list includes mostly indicators on education, income, labor market, and assets ownership (agricultural land, mobile phone, bank account, and internet) that can be computed from household surveys, firm surveys, or administrative data. The project is expected to boost the availability of relevant gender indicators. In addition, the project aims to increase individual-level data on assets (nonagricultural land specifically) and will also monitor the share of proxy response in its survey operations and aim to reduce this. Surveys supported by the project (Household Living Standard Survey [HLSS], DHS/MICS, LFS, and PHC) along with TA for gender indicators calculation will increase the number of UNSD minimum list of gender indicators properly calculated using data collected within the last five years (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Gender Data Gaps in Project Participating Countries - before and after the Project Activities



Source: World Bank.
Note: The category unavailable includes all the indicators that have a status other than 'available'—meets all aspects of indicator definition and data collected in the last five years.

Subcomponent 1.3: Real and Fiscal Sector Statistical Production (US$28.9 million equivalent)

61. **Although the scope of real sector statistics is wide and involves different producers, the project's scope focuses on improving the most fundamental real sector statistics: CPI and National Accounts.** In addition, the project will support participating countries to implement the 2014 GFSM, one area where countries in the region receive low scores in the SPI. Furthermore, in addition to supporting participating countries to make progress in the periodicity and quality of some of their crucial economic statistics, activities under this subcomponent will support participating countries to improve their data dissemination standards,[30] as recommended by the IMF. Activities under this subcomponent will be implemented in close collaboration with the Strategy, Standards and Review Division of the Statistics Department of the IMF.

62. **Solid arguments justify the focus on the CPI and National Accounts.** First, the CPI is the basic statistic for any economy: it helps measure inflation which has a direct impact on welfare and on short-term development of the economy. While the quality and availability of CPI have improved in many CEMAC countries, with the support of CEMAC, there are still some weaknesses. These weaknesses involve the lack of harmonization on the calculation of the index among member states; insufficient geographic coverage, and many countries are yet to use the latest 2018 COICOP in their CPI compilation. Second, national accounts produce GDP and many other economic indicators used to track macroeconomic progress. According to international recommendations, GDP rebasing exercises should be done every five years; however, in many projects in participating countries, the last rebasing is far older. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic and high inflation are reshaping the structure of the region's economies, making the

[30] The dissemination standards developed by the IMF have three tiers: Enhanced General Data Dissemination System, (e-GDDS), Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), and SDDS Plus. Except Senegal that is a participant of the SDDS, all participating countries are at e-GDDS stage.

rebasing exercise more important. Third, as highlighted before, rebasing of national accounts and the CPI and their alignment to the most recent international standards are important contributors in the improvement of the statistical performance in the region.

Source Data Collection and Adoption of Improved National Accounts Standards

63. **Participating countries will be supported to improve source data used to compile National Accounts, especially enterprise statistics, and rebase their National Accounts using the 2008 SNA with a more recent base year.** With the planned adoption in 2025 of the new National Accounts system, the 2025 SNA, the project will also support building NSOs' capacity in the understanding and implementation of the new system.

64. **Improving source data from enterprises requires having a system of enterprise statistics that includes business registers, administrative data, censuses, and surveys.** Each element of the system has a specific goal. Business registers provide information to build sampling frames for enterprise surveys and study their demographics (creation, closing, fusion, and so on). Economic censuses are necessary to complement and update business registers. Data from administrative sources and surveys are used to produce detailed information for analytical purposes. However, most of the participating countries do not have accurate and updated business registers. As for administrative sources, most CEMAC member states collect enterprise data from the statistical and tax declaration (*Déclaration Statistique et Fiscale*, DSF), a financial statement filled annually by formal enterprises. The DSF system is a strong data source for enterprise statistics, but it still has many weaknesses: (a) low coverage rate: many medium and small enterprises do not fill a DSF; (b) limited themes are included: the DSF does not always have the detailed information for microeconomic analysis, for example, when it comes to labor demand; and (c) challenges in data processing: the DSFs are filed on paper, and takes a long time to process. As for economic censuses and surveys, they are irregular in many countries.

65. **In all the participating countries, the project will support strengthening the system of enterprise statistics, including business registers (building and maintaining), a census, annual surveys (depending on the capacities of the country), and an electronic platform to collect DSF data.** Collecting DSF data on an electronic platform will speed up the availability of economic data needed for National Accounts and thus reduce the time necessary to publish macroeconomic aggregates.

66. **The GDP rebasing exercise involves producing detailed National Accounts for the base year and the first current year and back casting the key aggregates for at least five recent years.** All the recent rebasing exercises have not always been finalized with complete data. In all CEMAC countries, there are still important data gaps in agriculture and livestock. Moreover, a rebasing exercise always needs specific data collection to have a better understanding of the structure of the country's economy. The GDP rebasing in all the countries will integrate the changes needed to align with at least the 2008 SNA recommendations, including use of the International Standard Industrial Classification Revision 4 as the standard nomenclature for economic activities in the country and Central Product Codes Revision 2 as the standard nomenclature for products (goods and services).

67. **The project will support this cycle of rebasing with more comprehensive data in agriculture, livestock, the informal sector, and so on, supported by other subcomponents of this project.** It will also

fund data collection in other specific areas (digital economy, additional administrative data, and so on) or improve the existing ones in some other areas, for example, Balance of Payments (BoP). In some countries with limited human resources such as the Central African Republic or Chad, consultants will be needed to provide TA which will be supported through the project. The rebasing process will be supported by the IMF and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The second activity in this set of activities is to improve quarterly national accounts for Cameroon aiming at reaching the IMF SDDS. The third activity is to support countries where demand exists, such as Cameroon, to produce regional accounts to monitor decentralization policies. Finally, satellite accounts in education, health, tourism, and so on will be produced in all countries except the Central African Republic. The project will also support these activities, which will entail complementing data collection activities.

68. **To help improve economic analysis on the impact of climate change on the GDP indicator, and since the project will support improved agriculture, livestock, PHC, and enterprise data, this subcomponent will support beneficiary countries to include data collection and analysis of the impact of climate change on GDP (current and future).** The project will also support beneficiary countries consider the environmental impact on GDP: 'Green GDP'. Green GDP is an alternative indicator of economic growth that incorporates environmental consequences of that growth by including the depletion of natural resources and degradation of the environment. The project will build capacity on how to work on the fundamentals, including the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) related tools and other data sources to produce forest accounts, land accounts, water accounts, and so on, which are critical inputs for the computation of Green GDP.

69. **The project will support the implementation of informal cross-border trade in all recipient countries.** Experience in conducting such surveys in some countries (Cameroon and the Central African Republic) had shown that this informal trade is important, and if not catered for, trade statistics will be underestimated, and related national accounts measures will be biased. Previously, informal trade was measured by an analysis of movements of currency notes, as each bank note released in each country has a related alphabet letter representing the country of origin. For each country, the stock of bank notes from other countries at the branch of the Central Bank was used to estimate informal trade. Survey implementation shows that this method underestimated the value of informal trade. Moreover, with the introduction of new bank notes in January 2023, it becomes crucial for all countries to implement this survey to allow proper capture of informal cross-border trade in national accounts.

Modernization and Adoption of Improved CPI Standards

70. **This aims to improve the quality and timeliness of the CPI in coordination with IMF, CEMAC, and AFRISTAT.** In this regard, participating countries will be supported to (a) modernize the price collection process by moving from Paper-and-Pencil Interview to Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI); (b) rebase their CPI to a more recent base year; (c) implement the harmonized methodology developed by ECOWAS using up-to-date international standards; and (d) improve the geographical coverage of the CPI, along with greater alignment between the CPI and the International Comparison Program price collection.

71. **CEMAC countries will build on WAEMU's experience that has worked during the last three decades to implement a harmonized CPI in its member states thereby improving the quality of CPI data**

in those countries. These countries use the same approach in terms of data collection, the same protocol in terms of data cleaning, and the same software (PHOENIX) for data processing. Under a TA from the CEMAC Department of Statistics, CEMAC countries are in the process to adopt the WAEMU approach, including usage of the PHOENIX software. However, the software used (PHOENIX) to compute the CPI in the WAEMU member states still has some weaknesses and needs to be updated. The WAEMU Commission has received funds from the European Union (EU) to improve the quality of the CPI. The EU Initiative will fund two activities: rebasing of the CPI with a more recent base year and improvement of the software. This subcomponent of the project will therefore support CEMAC countries for them to build on the WAEMU experience and to adopt the updated version of the improved version of PHOENIX.

Improved GFS Standards

72. **GFS are a basis for fiscal analyses, and they play a vital role in developing and monitoring sound fiscal programs and in conducting surveillance of economic policies.** For their compilation, standards and methods have been continuously developed by the IMF. The last of the series issued by the IMF was the third edition in 2014, referenced as the 2014 GFSM, a revision of the GFS Manual 2001, to align the manual with the 2008 SNA. Most importantly, for the development and application of sound statistical practices, it is in line with the worldwide trend toward greater accountability and fiscal transparency, in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. Yet, all the countries in the region are still compiling their GFS based on the 2001 manual. The project will provide financing for TA, regional training, and peer learnings to support countries' move to the 2014 GFSM. In Chad this will also include the production of debt statistics.

73. **This activity will be conducted in close collaboration with the IMF.** More importantly, part of the trainings will be delivered by Africa Regional Technical Assistance Center (AFRITAC) staff with support from the project. AFRITAC will not receive financing from the project; rather, there will be close coordination and collaboration to maximize impact.

Subcomponent 1.4. Agricultural and Climate Change Statistical Production (US$40.5 million equivalent)

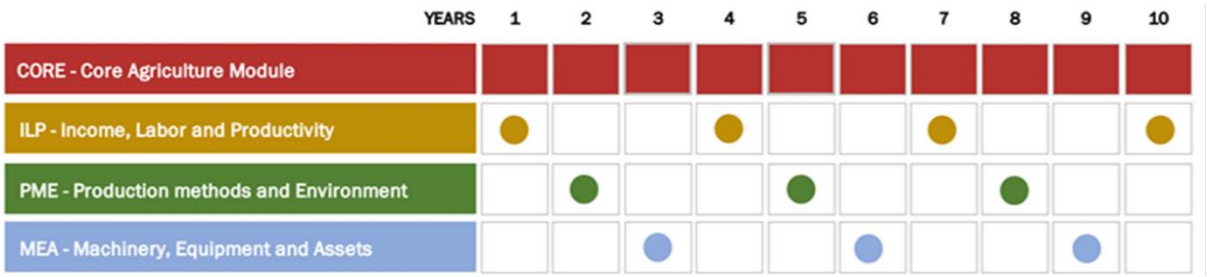
74. **In the Africa region, particularly in Western and Central Africa, agriculture accounts for a large share of GDP for some countries (16.9 percent for Cameroon, 54 percent for Chad, and 30 percent for the Central African Republic in 2021) and is the main source of livelihood for a significant share of the population in these countries.** Good data are needed to inform decisions related to promoting sustainable agriculture, improving nutrition and food security, addressing the effects of climate change, and improving national accounts quality. Yet, current data on agricultural and livestock production in these countries are not comprehensive enough to serve these purposes. Despite recent efforts for strengthening capacities and developing or updating many statistical methodologies in the agricultural sector (particularly through the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics), a number of problems are still common across most of the countries in the region: insufficient funding allocated for agricultural statistics, in particular to regular surveys and lack of institutional coordination particularly on the agricultural sector where responsibilities are shared between NSOs and line ministries. In addition, in countries where annual survey systems are already in place (for example, Chad), the survey focuses on rain-fed agriculture, while horticulture, arboriculture, and livestock data are mostly missing.

Implementation of an Integrated System of Agricultural Sample Censuses and Surveys

75. **The project will partner with the 50x2030 Initiative to fill data gaps in agriculture, in designing and implementing an integrated system of agricultural surveys (Figure 8) linking agricultural censuses (in many cases sample censuses) with a system of annual agricultural censuses.** This approach is recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the leading UN agency providing guidelines for the conduct of agricultural censuses worldwide (World Program for the Census of Agriculture 2020 [WCA2020] endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission) and proposed as the main survey approach by the 50x2030 Initiative. The system starts with an agricultural census covering a core module and is followed by annual core sample production surveys (crops and livestock, including fishery and forestry activities at the farm level) and on a rotational basis with several modules covering the economic, social, and environmental aspects of agricultural holdings. Because participating countries do not have similar capacity, this model system will be adapted according to specific situations, depending also on the availability of a recent census of agriculture, the availability of a good sample frame from a recent PHC, and/or the existence of a system of regular annual surveys. This approach contributes to generating a more regular flow of quality data, and better respond to the huge demand of agricultural data for policies.

76. **This regular data flow allows a systematic monitoring of the performance of the agricultural sector**, shedding light on (a) annual production and productivity (crop and livestock including horticulture and arboriculture); (b) annual animal stock and stock changes; (c) intermediate inputs and factors of production; (d) costs of production at the commodity or activity level, (d) farm gate prices; (f) production methods and environmental practices; (g) impact of agricultural activities on the natural environment; (h) losses on farms; (i) elements of national food security (Food Balance Sheets); and (j) mechanization of agriculture. Annual agriculture surveys are the main source of data on agricultural production; help manage crisis situations such as a food insecurity crisis; inform policy on the performance of the sector (yields, productivity, welfare, investments, agricultural practices, and so on); build national accounts; and monitor national, Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), and SDG 2 indicators. Figure 8 provides a comprehensive overview of agriculture censuses and surveys to be implemented in each participating country. The 50x2030 Initiative will cover the costs related to capacity building and TA. The project will support the costs associated with data collection and technical workshops under the lead of the regional entities to share experiences and use harmonized methodologies, while the technical tools will be adapted to each country based on own specificities (for example, agriculture is different between coastal countries and Sahel countries, in terms of crops, production cycle, and so on).

Figure 8: Integrated System of Agricultural Censuses and Surveys (With Sample Census at the Beginning of the Cycle)



Source: 50x2030 Initiative.

Geo-spatial, Remote Sensing, and Climate Data Collection

77. **The project will support operationalizing the UN Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators as well as implementation of supporting requirements and climate-related SDG indicators.**[31] All participating countries will be supported in the collection and production of a set of core climate change statistics and indicators relevant to the country and the region. The UNSD has, in March 2022, adopted a global set of climate change statistics and indicators[32] as a framework to be used by countries to produce comparable climate change statistics. The framework covers the five policy areas of climate change: drivers, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation. The project has selected a core set of questionnaires from these UNSD climate indicators to be included in project supported PHCs, agriculture surveys and censuses, and integrated household surveys. Some of the indicators will be similar throughout the project participating countries while others will be country specific to address respective vulnerabilities of the project participating country. The project will finance TA and regional and national workshops to improve MDAs' capacity to collect and produce statistics for these indicators. Details on the project interventions to improve climate change data collection, production, and use are described in Annex 8.

78. **In addition, the 50x2030 Initiative will contribute to the identification of a core set of agriculture-related climate change statistics that could be generated from the agricultural survey programs** (Production Methods and the Environment [PME] module) implemented in Western and Central African countries. The initiative will also include climate change topics in the different training modules to be developed for the respective subregions. If possible, the initiative will assist countries in generating agriculture-related indicators through special data processing.

79. **The use of geospatial data will be supported to help identify the most vulnerable areas and population.** Geospatial data sets are growing at an unprecedented rate in size, diversity, and complexity, which has created new opportunities for climate change analysis. Specifically, mapping based on accurate census location data is a powerful tool, including the potential to link spatial data with other surveys, not just household surveys. The project will encourage collaboration between the NSOs and other producers/users to make the most of this already available data. To that end, the project will encourage the assessment of available geospatial data and access within the country. Through regional organizations, this project will support, strengthen, and build the capacity of selected MDAs. South-South cooperation will also be encouraged among project beneficiaries to share knowledge, skills, expertise, and resources. Geospatial data, such as satellite imageries and related tools, provide cheaper and efficient options to produce statistics in several areas, including yield estimations, pasture lands and so on. Geospatial data also has the advantage that they can be disaggregated at a lower level, making them a reliable source of data to inform local policy making in the context of decentralization.

[31] *https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Presentation_by_UNSD.pdf.*
[32] *https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3m-Globalsetandmetadata-E.pdf.*

Subcomponent 1.5: Sectoral and Sub-national Administrative Data Curation (US$18.9 million equivalent)

80. **The aim of this subcomponent is to support participating countries to improve quality and availability of data from administrative sources, produced by MDAs.** This subcomponent will also support the production and dissemination of administrative data at the subnational level.

Improved Sectoral Administrative Data Systems and Integration

81. **Data from administrative sources are important for at least three reasons: frequency, consistency, and cost.** First, they are regularly produced, on an annual or even intra-annual basis, and thus complement data from surveys which are less frequent. Second, in a crisis when face-to-face data collection becomes difficult, they might be one of the most available data sources. Third, they are less expensive than censuses and surveys, because most of them are by-products of routine activities of government MDAs. However, one of the key methodological concerns regarding administrative data in the region is their representativeness, which varies significantly from one sector to another and from one country to another. In most cases, administrative data coverage of rural areas and poor population is not adequate, which limits their sole usage for policy decision.

82. **The primary focus areas of the project are health, education, agriculture, and labor statistics.** Health and education are the priority services to satisfy the needs and demands of the population. Quality statistics in these areas must therefore be made available for planning the delivery of these services, both to evaluate the present services and anticipate the future needs and demands of the population. In addition, important gender gaps in access to these services persist in those domains in the beneficiary countries—calling for up-to-date and high-quality administrative data to inform policies to narrow these gaps. The project will support all countries in these two areas. For other administrative statistics, each country will focus on the most important sectors for monitoring the national development strategy since it is difficult to embrace all the sectors simultaneously. Activities will be designed to provide TA and training to MDAs in the design of data collection and data processing tools and techniques using international standards and moving from paper to electronic data collection tools. The project will also provide some basic equipment needed to produce and disseminate statistical yearbook data production. The project will work closely with other partners, to make the optimal use of resources. For example, the EU is also preparing a project to support some participating countries on statistics from administrative sources.

83. **As part of this subcomponent, the project will collect a core set of questionnaires from the UNSD climate indicators which are available in the respective focal institutions.** For institutions that already collect climate data, the project will help support better data collection, analysis, and publication. For sectors that do not yet measure indicators, the project will provide TA and other support to help include relevant data points in their data collection. For example, the ministries of Environment and Natural Resources, Forestry, Transport, Water authority, Land, Agriculture, Tax, and Health and disaster risk reduction agencies, metrological offices, and so on are focal institutions that could provide data on some of the global set of climate change statistics and indicators. The project will support these institutions as part of this subcomponent, to include the climate indicators (if they are not yet already included) and to improve the methodology for data collection, analysis, and publication.

Production and Management of Subnational Statistics

84. **Data used to plan and manage development outcomes is important at the national level and to help make informed decisions at the subnational level.** However, in the participating countries, good-quality subnational disaggregated data are not available in many areas to support subnational policy makers to make informed decisions, especially from administrative sources.

85. **NSOs have subnational (regional) entities which serve two purposes.** First, they play a significant role in regular data collection activities such as household surveys, other surveys, and censuses. Relying on subnational entities in organizing data collection activities can be more effective. For example, subnational entities have a better knowledge of their territory, they can help in organizing fieldwork efficiently, and using them means less resources for supervision. Second, subnational entities of the NSOs can play an active role in collecting granular data to inform decentralization policies. However, subnational entities are ill equipped to perform their tasks and have less opportunities for training which could improve their performance.

86. **This subcomponent will support countries in strengthening the capacities of MDAs but more specifically NSOs to perform their task in data collection, production, and dissemination and subnational statistical coordination.** The activity will finance furniture, basic hardware, software equipment, access to the internet, and specific trainings.

Component 2: Statistical Modernization, Institutional Reform, Human Capital, Data Accessibility and Use (US$30.5 million equivalent)

87. **The second component aims to support statistical modernization; institutional reforms; improvement to data access, dissemination, and use; and human resources development.** In today's fast-changing world, NSOs need to transform and modernize to respond better to emerging and increasing demand for timely and accurate data, to meet the twenty-first century development data requirements and challenges. These require NSOs to (a) consider the data revolution; (b) become more user-centric; and (c) modernize their methods and organization to provide data in new ways and use new methods to complement traditional statistics. Big data has shown the potential to be used to complement official statistics in many areas, enabling NSOs to be more resilient in executing their mandate of providing users with the necessary information. In this context, this component aims to support NSOs and selected MDAs of participating countries to prepare them in moving toward what the 2021 WDR called an Integrated National Data System, by supporting them to harness the potential of new data sources. The project will support participating countries in the use of advanced technologies and develop new, cost-effective methods to integrate data from various sources. In addition, this component will support efforts to improve data access, dissemination, and use. Furthermore, it will invest in human capital, academic training in statistics, and on-the-job training of staff to help address the shortage of statisticians with expertise and skills in specialized areas faced by countries in both regions, such as in national accounts, agricultural statistics, household surveys, trade statistics, financial statistics, and price statistics. Finally, it supports one of the key principles of institutional reforms in the form of TA to the participating countries seeking to update their Statistics Act or regulations to include provisions for sustainable funding of statistical activities and to finance TA to improve data protection frameworks applicable to statistical activities in participating countries.

Subcomponent 2.1: Statistical Modernization of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) (US$1.1 million equivalent)

88. **While Component 1 focuses on the production of traditional quality harmonized public intent data, mostly associated with censuses and surveys, this subcomponent aims to support participating countries to embrace the production of statistics using new data sources, including based on private intent data.** These data, often associated with new sources of data produced using digital tools and applications, are growing rapidly and offer improved timeliness, frequency, and granularity of data and can contribute significantly to addressing public sector development challenges. In this context, to continue to demonstrate their relevance and remain competitive with other emerging sources of data and to add value to official statistics. NSOs will seek to incorporate these new data sources collected, for instance, through cellphones' CDR data and mobile device location, internet usage, satellites, remote sensors, energy consumption statistics and trends, and web search information. This project aims to build the capacity of the NSOs and selected MDAs in the region in the use of alternative source data and new data collection methods such as high-frequency data using innovative and alternative sources of information such as CDR and satellite data.

89. **Indeed, the concepts, standards, and tools are new to most of the NSOs in the region, and they lack the needed methodological and IT expertise.** The priority areas of support could be the use of earth observation data in agriculture statistics and poverty maps. Building on the well-established household surveys conducted by NSOs, satellite CDR data offer new opportunities for updating poverty estimates for small areas more frequently. To that end, the project will finance tools and training needed to process this large scale of data. Regional workshops on statistical modernization will also be financed. In addition to capacity building, some of these regional workshops will serve to build strategic partnerships with national statistical organizations, policy makers, and data suppliers like the mobile phone companies' managers. These regional workshops could focus on practical experiences, case studies, lessons learned, and policies and regulations to access data while ensuring confidentiality and protecting privacy.

90. **In most CEMAC beneficiary countries, the NSO, with the support of the World Bank, put in place a call center to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on households.** Some countries will use resources to upgrade the call centers that could also be used to collect data to quickly answer emerging issues in the case of a shock for instance. Countries may also want to use these call centers for the 'light' quarterly LFS.

Subcomponent 2.2: Institutional Reforms for Selected National Statistical Systems (NSSs) (US$3.1 million equivalent)

91. **This subcomponent focuses on supporting some NSSs for better coordination, sustainable financing of statistical activities, and improvement of the data protection framework of the statistics laws.** Limited availability of financial resources remains a key constraint for performance of the NSSs of beneficiary countries. Therefore, the project will provide TA to support the establishment of mechanisms for sustainable funding of the NSSs. Under this subcomponent, the project will strengthen statistical coordination and quality assurance, including facilitation of meetings, and elaboration of SNDSs following PARIS21 guidelines. This subcomponent will also support participating countries to update their legal data protection framework for national statistics to align with international good practice relating to statistical

disclosure controls and data protection rules and practices for statistical data. In this regard, the project will support assessing the data protection framework applicable to statistical activities in each participating country. Where the statistics regulations are not up to date, the project will support their revision in compliance with recent developments on data access and privacy and in line with good practice.

Subcomponent 2.3: Enhance Human Capital (US$7.9 million equivalent)

92. **Support to establishing a strong workforce will be critical to achieve the vision set under the PDO.** In this regard, the overall aim of this subcomponent is to increase the proportion of the NSOs' and selected MDAs' professional staff trained in specialized statistical areas in the region, with the objective of permanently improving the quality and comparability of the statistical products. More specifically, this subcomponent will support the following activities:

(a) **Support direct and professional education and on-the-job training for statisticians in participating countries.** This will entail providing continuous training to staff working in the NSS, awarding scholarships for students admitted to regional and national schools of statistics. For those already working in the NSSs, on-the-job and professional training will aim to enhance their knowledge and expose them to new emerging techniques and tools. For example, countries still largely rely on consultants to estimate poverty, build poverty maps, process geo-spatial data, and so on. Training will be provided in countries, depending on the specific needs of each country. Through the Strengthening of Gender Statistics Project, NSOs and selected MDAs will receive TA on good practices related to gender data collection methodologies, indicator calculation, and data dissemination.

(b) **Support the national statistics schools in Chad to establish a center of excellence.** The project will facilitate the establishment of the statistics school in Chad. Under this subcomponent, the project will support the following activities: (i) elaboration of curriculum; (ii) training for lecturers so they can adapt to the new curriculum, as well as emerging knowledges in their respective fields; and (iii) institutional reforms that are needed for the school to be perfectly functional, including legal, but also organigram.

(c) **Support ISSEA to harness innovative technologies.** The adoption of innovative technologies to improve the conduct of censuses and surveys and the management of the data obtained has steadily increased to a point where all the countries in the region are using tablets in field data collection for surveys and censuses. There are also ongoing experiments to use mobile phones to disseminate statistical information to the wider public. There is also growing demand for the NSS to use alternative data sources to produce statistics, which need specialized data science skills. In this regard, the project will support ISSEA to strengthen its capacity to train professional staff from the NSOs and selected MDAs as well as students in the use of alternative data sources to produce statistics, CAPI applications development and management, and the GIS. Currently, the greater need is for more training equipment (specifically to develop open-distance learning), the establishment of a library (including subscription to journals), and the establishment of a modern laboratory. The project will support the capacity and skills building of ISSEA staff, hiring international teachers and consultants. It will also support the establishment of a doctorate degree at

ISSEA. As a CEMAC specialized institution, ISSEA Yaoundé will receive its support through overall CEMAC project financing (Box 1).

Box 1: ISSEA-Yaoundé, the CEMAC Regional School of Statistics

(a) **ISSEA, previously known as the Center for Training of Statisticians (1961), is a specialized institution of CEMAC.** The institute enjoys administrative and financial autonomy, allowing it to work independently in all CEMAC countries on themes related to the three missions entrusted to it at its creation:

  (i) The training of middle- and upper-level statisticians and economists (initial training);

  (ii) Development and retraining of executives already in activity (continuing education); and

  (iii) Applied research in statistics and economics.

(b) ISSEA has trained students coming from more than 15 countries in Africa. Apart from the body of permanent and associate professors who are mobilized to validate scientific approaches to research work, ISSEA has the expertise of researchers from the Network of African Schools of Statistics (RESA) including the National School of Statistics and Applied Economics (*Ecole Nationale Superieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée*) in Abidjan and the National School of Statistics and Economic Analysis (*Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique*) in Dakar.

(c) **ISSEA supported the creation of national statistical training centers like the one in N'djamena, Chad, and is working on the creation of a similar school in Bangui, Central African Republic.** ISSEA supports many NSOs by issuing certificates for training provided on-site.

(d) In addition, ISSEA is in partnership with the World Bank, AFRISTAT, UNECA, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (*Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques*, INSEE-Paris), the Group of National Economics and Statistics Schools of France (GENES) and its schools (ENSAE Paris, and ENSAI Rennes), the National Institutes of Statistics (*Institut National de la Statistique*, INS) of CEMAC member countries, the Institute of Training and Demographic Research, the Universities of Yaoundé I and II, and The Francophone University Agency (*Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie,* AUF).

(e) **ISSEA carried out, with the support of the World Bank, a survey on transport costs on the Douala-N'Djamena corridor (between 2014 and 2015).** To this end, ISSEA has experience in developing panel and sectional survey methodologies, monitoring field operations implementation, processing, analysis of data. and publication of survey results. In addition, it has acquired considerable experience in the digitized collection of data using the CAPI method.

(f) **In addition, since 2020, ISSEA has been selected under a service contract with the EU to implement the Observatory on Abnormal Practices project.** It was selected based on its institutional, scientific, technical, and organizational strengths and its data collection experience. The objective of this project is to collect data on the main corridors of CEMAC namely Douala-Bangui, Douala-N'djamena, and in the future, Yaoundé-Libreville.

93. **Use of regional experts in statistics from countries with higher capacity to deliver on-the-job training and TA in other low-capacity countries.** Human resource endowment in the region is uneven. While some countries are severely resource constrained in terms of availability of professional statisticians and skills in some technical areas, some countries have ample professional statisticians and skills in those areas. The project, along with CEMAC, will support the harnessing of these resources within the subregion. CEMAC is already working along these lines, with the establishment of a regional database of experts in core statistics areas, that will contribute to the planned south-south learning exchange.

94. **Enhancement of statistical capacity in the region on agriculture statistics, particularly in survey design, survey operations, data analysis, and policy analysis.** The approach aims to train and develop regional trainers on agriculture statistics, as a step toward creating a pool of training experts that could provide recurring support to countries. This will be implemented in collaboration with the 50x2030 Initiative's Regional Hub. The initiative, in partnership with CEMAC and ISSEA, could co-develop and deliver the package of training modules for agriculture statistics targeting participants from ministries of agriculture and NSOs. It will also support the program through facilitation of twinning arrangements with advanced countries to develop and train a pool of regional trainers on agriculture statistics.

Subcomponent 2.4: Data Accessibility and Dissemination (US$3.4 million equivalent)

95. **Accessibility of data is among the weakest links of the NSSs of the beneficiary countries.** Data access is weak for a long time series as well as for microdata. Where long series data are available, they are often not well organized and are accessible only in PDF formats which are not user friendly. At the same time, formats such as Excel, which are user friendly, are barely available. As for microdata, they are available on demand; a demand which is not always satisfied for students and researchers. Because data is not accessible, they are not sufficiently used, and the investment made in data collection is not delivering its full potential for development. This subcomponent is designed to address this issue and boost access to existing statistics. The project will support implementing an open data system for archiving and distributing long-time series nationally. The availability of such a series is crucial for deeper analysis, including macro modeling. The project will also support the establishment and improvement of mechanisms for accessing and sharing microdata (and online queries) and disseminating statistical findings.

96. **This subcomponent will also support participating countries to improve their IMF data dissemination standards.** These standards guide countries in the dissemination to the public of economic and financial data, aiming at enhancing countries' data transparency and promoting the development of sound statistical systems These standards typically consist of three tiers: Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS), SDDS, and SDDS Plus. The e-GDDS applies to all IMF members, and the SDDS and SDDS Plus are set up for those member countries having or seeking access to international capital markets.

97. **Among the CEMAC project participating countries, Cameroon aims to build on the project to align their data dissemination standards with the SDDS requirements.** Cameroon is hoping to at least align with the General Data Dissemination Systems (GDDs) while the Central African Republic and Chad are hoping to set the foundation for future alignment with the SDDS requirements. The project will provide support to all participating countries to improve their data dissemination practices through capacity building and TA, in addition to supporting them through other project components in meeting data production timeliness and quality requirements. Activities under this subcomponent will be implemented in close collaboration with the Strategy, Standards and Review Division of the Statistics Department of the IMF.

Subcomponent 2.5: Data Use and Analysis to Inform Public Policy (US$15.0 million equivalent)

98. **In addition to improving access to data, it is important to put data into practice to conduct and publish robust analyses used to inform policy decisions.** The project will focus on a set of activities to improve data use. First, the project will help the NSSs (under the lead of the NSOs and the economic department) with the establishment of tools that can be used for analytical work to inform policy decisions such as Social Accounting Matrix, BOOST,[33] and economic models. Successful establishment of these tools will require strong collaboration with the respective economic departments. The NSOs will be equipped with the right tools and skills to evaluate (ex-ante and ex-post) the impact of key actions proposed in the National Development Plan (NDP). The project will also support the economic department in playing its role of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the NDP. The NSOs will also be strengthened to provide data literacy campaigns to equip key users with the tools and skills on how to use data. Activities could include data visualization competitions for young statisticians in the respective countries, providing training and conducting workshops on data literacy with key users including policy makers, parliamentarians, associations, and the media.

99. **The project will specifically include activities designed to strengthen capacity (a) on macroeconomic forecasting and analysis; (b) to monitor the implementation of the NDP; and (c) on debt management, analysis, and reporting.** In Chad, the project will strengthen the capacity of the department of economics to adequately forecast key macro indicators and of the monitoring unit of Chad's Development Strategy to assess the economic incidence of economic policies as well as monitoring the NDP. The project will allow the Ministry of Planning to (a) support the establishment of tools that can be used for analytical work to inform policy decisions and economic models; (b) provide training and TA on debt management and analysis; and (c) improve the data collected and produced by the national statistical agency that can be used to monitor the implementation of the NDP by the Ministry of Economy and Planning. The project will also allow the Ministry of Finance to (a) benefit from on-the-job training and TA on debt issues and macroeconomic management; (b) benefit from regional workshops and countries' experience exchange on data processing and statistical modernization (public debt data); and (c) support the establishment and improvement of mechanisms for accessing and sharing data and disseminating statistical findings and tools that can be used for analytical work.

100. **A critical element of this project is ensuring data, including climate-related data, are used in analyzing plans, programs, and policies of governments.** Countries implementing the 50x2030 Initiative will likewise benefit from data use support offered under the program. The project will collaborate with the 50x2030 Initiative to provide TA in strengthening statistical capacities on data use. The 50x2030 Initiative promotes wider use of agriculture survey data through understanding user needs and building capacities of national stakeholders. It will organize training and workshops to optimize the use of data to inform decisions, policies, programs, and investments of partner countries. It will prioritize activities that promote data use to inform public policies. Specifically, it will implement activities to build the capacity and motivation of the Ministries of Agriculture and NSOs to use the agriculture survey data to inform policies and decisions related to agriculture, food security and sufficiency, productivity, and the impact of climate change, among others. It will likewise facilitate twinning arrangements and/or South-South

[33] The BOOST initiative is a World Bank-wide collaborative effort launched in 2010 to facilitate access to budget data and promote effective use for improved decision-making processes transparency and accountability.

cooperation between beneficiary countries and countries with substantial experience on the use of agriculture survey data in policy making. To contribute toward institutional strengthening of the NSS, the 50x2030 Initiative shall assist in the formulation (and/or amendment) of the related policies/guidelines on data dissemination, data sharing, access, and use.

101. **Similar efforts will be used in the other sectors including urban planning, disaster risk management, and readiness.** For example, data obtained from metrological services will be analyzed for consideration in public planning or policy design. The project will also ensure that climate-related data are accessible and considered as a public good, for planning or policy design.

Component 3: Construction, Upgrading and Modernization of Physical Infrastructure (US$48.8 million equivalent)

102. **The working environment and the availability of suitable equipment are important pillars for strengthening statistical capacity.** The NSOs in the participating countries are the leading official statistical agencies within the NSS in data production, which means that the government will play a critical role to enable value creation in the data produced. They are a key factor in the productivity of any NSS institution and its performance. For example, power shortages and low internet bandwidth can severely limit productivity. Similarly, data statistical software for analysis and/or data science—such as the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), and Stata—which are basic data manipulation tools (process of organizing information to make it readable and understandable) and allow data sharing and accessibility of statistical production. In many countries, these tools are not readily available, and some staff use their own private resources for official business. This component aims to strengthen the capacity of NSOs and statistical schools with the equipment and tools needed to adequately fulfill their mandates. Under this component, the project will support the construction of a new building or rehabilitation of physical and ICT infrastructure for NSOs and schools of statistics. Needs assessment will be conducted country by country with the NSOs, and for selected countries without good infrastructure, they will be rebuilt.

Subcomponent 3.1: Construction and Infrastructure Upgrading of Selected National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Statistical Schools (US$39.7 million equivalent)

103. **The project will support the modernization of NSOs buildings and statistical schools by building or upgrading office complexes with modern facilities and providing needed office furniture and equipment for the entire statistical cycle from production through dissemination.** The availability of requisite infrastructure is critical for the smooth functioning of the NSS and timely delivery of key statistical activities by NSOs. In some of the participating countries (notably FCV countries), the impact of such reforms is expected to be even larger given the state of their statistical infrastructure. The project aims to provide critical resources to support improvement of the statistical environment for the delivery of data to inform evidence-based policy making and reforms.

104. **Construction and/or rehabilitation activities will be done for the following countries and include furnishing as part of the modernization activity: -**

(a) **Cameroon (Yaoundé)**. The existing Central Bureau of Censuses and Population Studies (*Bureau Central des Recensements et des Etudes de Population* [BUCREP]) building will be rehabilitated. Architectural studies will be conducted for the future regional statistics agencies in the country and the BUCREP.

(b) **Cameroon (Yaoundé)**. The existing Central Bureau of Censuses and Population Studies (*Bureau Central des Recensements et des Etudes de Population* [BUCREP]) building will be rehabilitated. Architectural studies will be conducted for the future regional statistics agencies in the country and the BUCREP.

(c) **The Central African Republic (Bangui)**. The NSO plans to construct a new building for its offices on its existing premises.

(d) **Chad (N'Djamena).** The NSO will rehabilitate its headquarters and/or construct a new building complex for its headquarters and for the newly formed statistics school on a new site.

(e) **CEMAC (Yaoundé).** ISSEA will rehabilitate its existing buildings in Yaoundé and will extend them to include a new IT lab and media center.

Subcomponent 3.2: Modernization of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Statistical Infrastructure of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Statistical Schools (US$9.1 million equivalent)

105. **This component of the project will be implemented in all participating countries as well as national statistical schools, albeit at various levels.** Activities include upgrading IT systems, improving access to and use of innovative tools such as statistical software (including tools to conduct geospatial analyses), and increasing access to innovative practices through subscriptions to scientific journals. These activities aim to strengthen reforms in the digitization of data production and dissemination and provide centers of statistics with the necessary training equipment to support the training of students and NSOs staff in CAPI and the management of GIS. The NSS will be able to leverage economies of scale that come with increased digitalization through improved quality of data collection activities and reduce the time taken to provide statistical information to end users of the data.

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation (US$16.2 million equivalent)

106. The goal of this component is to support project management and monitor project results and user satisfaction.

Subcomponent 4.1: Project Management (US$13.7 million equivalent)

107. **This subcomponent will cover the cost of staff of the Project Implementation Units (PIUs) and costs related to project coordination (Steering Committee and Technical Committees), operating costs, external auditing costs, and other expenses needed for project implementation.** Government officials will not be paid by the project.

Subcomponent 4.2: Project Results and User Satisfaction Monitoring (US$1.5 million equivalent)

108. **This subcomponent will support the biannual data collection and reporting for country-level and regional-level indicators according to procedures outlined in the Project Operations Manuals (POMs), that is, in the Implementation Status and Results Reports.** Progress in conducting project activities will be documented in progress reports that the PIUs will prepare at both the country and regional levels. In some national or regional PIUs, carrying out this exercise may require hiring a dedicated M&E expert. This component will support the cost associated with this monitoring exercise.

109. **This subcomponent will also support regular user satisfaction surveys to measure how well the statistical products or services produced meet or exceed user expectations.** Indeed, data users are the customers of statistical systems and are clearly the key component of the NSS. Data is generated because there is demand from the users. In addition, some data users are responsible for providing resources. Therefore, it is important that users are satisfied with the scope, quality, and timeliness of the data produced. The results of these studies therefore serve as a basis for continuous improvement and a more responsive NSS for end users.

Subcomponent 4.3: Performance-Based Financing for Central African Republic – ICASEES (US$1.0 million equivalent)

110. **In the Central African Republic, the project management will also include a performance-based financing (PBF) mechanism.** The approach has been implemented in the statistical sector in the last five years in the Central African Republic. PBF is mostly applied to the health sector, and its effectiveness was proven through a rigorous impact evaluation in Rwanda.[34] A PBF toolkit has been developed by the World Bank, and an English version has been available since April 2014.[35] The PBF mechanism has recently been used in the statistics sector in countries such as Niger (Quality Data for Decision Making Project, P165062), the Central African Republic (Data for Decision Making Project, P160717), the Republic of Congo (Additional Financing – Statistics Capacity Building Project, P162345), and Mali (Improving Mali's Statistical System Project, P160977).

111. **PBF is an effective way to improve the quality and quantity of services by providing incentives for providers to improve performance and achieve outcomes.** It links payments to results achieved and provides an autonomous mechanism in the use of funds as it fosters greater accountability and motivates teams to perform better. Because the PBF will be mainstreamed into the budget, it will not create any parallel structures that are difficult to sustain. PBF is solely based on the service delivery (Annex 10).

112. **The Central African Institute for Statistics and Economic and Social Studies (*Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales*, ICASEES) has already implemented**

[34] (a) Basinga, P., P. Gertler, et al. 2011. "Effect on Maternal and Child Health Services in Rwanda of Payment to Primary Health-Care Providers for Performance: An Impact Evaluation." *The Lancet* 377: 1421–1428; (b) Gertler, P., and C. Vermeersch. 2012. "Using Performance Incentives to Improve Health Outcomes." Policy Research Working Paper WPS6100. Washington, DC: World Bank; (c) Walque, D. D., P. J. Gertler, et al. 2013. "Using Provider Performance Incentives to Increase HIV Testing and Counseling Services in Rwanda." Policy Research Working Paper WPS6364. Washington, DC: World Bank.

[35] Fritsche, G., R. Soeters, et al. 2014. "Performance-Based Financing Toolkit." Washington, DC: World Bank. https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/17194.

PBF for the last five years. It produces results that can be easily evaluated, the size of the agency is relatively small (simplifying the introduction of reforms), and the Directors of ICASEES are motivated to break with old practices. PBF requires the identification of the products purchased, their unit price, the verification mechanism that will be followed, and a clear set of rules defining how good performance will be rewarded. In the PBF manual, each of these aspects will be defined for each activity. Activities that lend themselves to a PBF approach include all data generation activities under Subcomponents 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.4, 2.5, and 4.2. Before the start of each data generation activity, the PBF manual will be prepared considering experiences and details of the intended activity. Staff eligible for the performance bonus of the ICASEES team based at the headquarters in Bangui who are responsible for the daily implementation of the activity will be included in the PBF manual. PBF payment verification mechanisms include an annual audit, a review of the financial documentation, and the quarterly PBF performance report and intended deliverables.

113. **Given that the ICASEES has already produced lots of data, one of the main goals of the proposed project is to focus on improving data quality, particularly as poor survey planning, and weak field supervision continue to affect data quality.** The PBF encourages better data quality and efficiency, thus reducing costs, and delivering results faster. In the statistics domain, it offers a way to reorient incentives toward improving data quality and value for money, which is critical for statistical operation. Th PBF approach will improve priority-setting processes around statistical collections, exploring trade-offs between competing needs to ensure that the ICASEES's work program is doable with existing financial and human resources. The PBF approach will help increase integration among survey activities and reduce duplication among data collection. Overall, it will help conduct a comprehensive methodology review of key data collection activities to improve accuracy.

114. **The PBF is expected to be cost-neutral.** Allowances for committee meetings will be replaced by bonuses paid for quality work delivered, thus emphasizing outputs rather than processes. It involves identifying and remunerating individuals and teams that contribute to improving the system and produce actual results. A verification mechanism will be established to identify results and confirm whether the intended objectives to be financed under the project are met. This performance-based incentives system will be based on timeliness of statistical products supported by the project. The PBF Manual will provide modalities on how the PBF will be implemented.

Retroactive Financing

115. **Cameroon.** All eligible expenditures incurred on or after July 21, 2023, until the date of the signing of the Financing Agreement, and up to an aggregate amount of EUR 9,000,000, would be eligible for retroactive financing. The retroactive financing is intended to finance activities related to the PHC and agriculture census, including renting vehicles, payment of field personnel, census supervision costs, communication, and supporting other expenses related to data collection activities (fuel, so on).

C. Project Beneficiaries

116. **The direct beneficiaries of the project will be CEMAC, ISSEA, and the statistical systems of countries participating in the project—coordinated by the NSOs and involved in data development, production, and dissemination.** These beneficiaries will benefit from inputs to provide the outputs and

data services (accessible quality harmonized statistics) needed to inform and underpin planning and decision-making processes; monitor performance; and evaluate the impact of policies, plans, and programs. In addition, participating NSSs will benefit as the desired harmonization is achieved through alignment with international standards and best practices and, more specifically, to production of statistical methodologies and guidelines to produce comparable and quality official statistics that are regional public goods. Countries participating in this project will also benefit from capacity building through regional workshops and networking, thereby reinforcing collaboration and cooperation among MDAs in the subregion.

117. **Other beneficiaries of the project will include data users in the public and private sectors** (investors and traders), the civil society who need statistical information for advocacy and to hold governments accountable, academia for research and teaching purposes, the donor community, and international organizations to assess requirements for assistance and/or participation in development initiatives. Data access and open data have the potential to unlock innovation and transform economies. Governments will play a key role in ensuring cost-effectiveness is met in data generation, thereby stimulating economic growth through various channels—providing goods and services, creating jobs, and so on.

118. **The project will benefit the population of each country and region who are the target beneficiaries** through regional integration and national efforts to help eradicate poverty and promote shared prosperity in a sustainable way through improved living conditions. For example, data collection from the population can help governments plan and make informed decisions, for instance regarding construction of social amenities; accurate data can help firms make informed business decisions; and so on.

D. Results Chain

119. The HISWACA - SOP 2 project contributes to the targeted outcomes by directly funding data collection and building NSOs' and selected MDAs' capacity and the regional subcomponent complements by improving the quality of regional support available to the NSS (Figure 9).

Critical Assumptions

(a) Statistical products under the project follow high-quality, harmonized methodologies and guidelines developed by the regional entities and the NSOs together. Beyond the PDO, the enhanced use of harmonized statistics will deepen regional integration, accelerating growth and poverty reduction in the region.

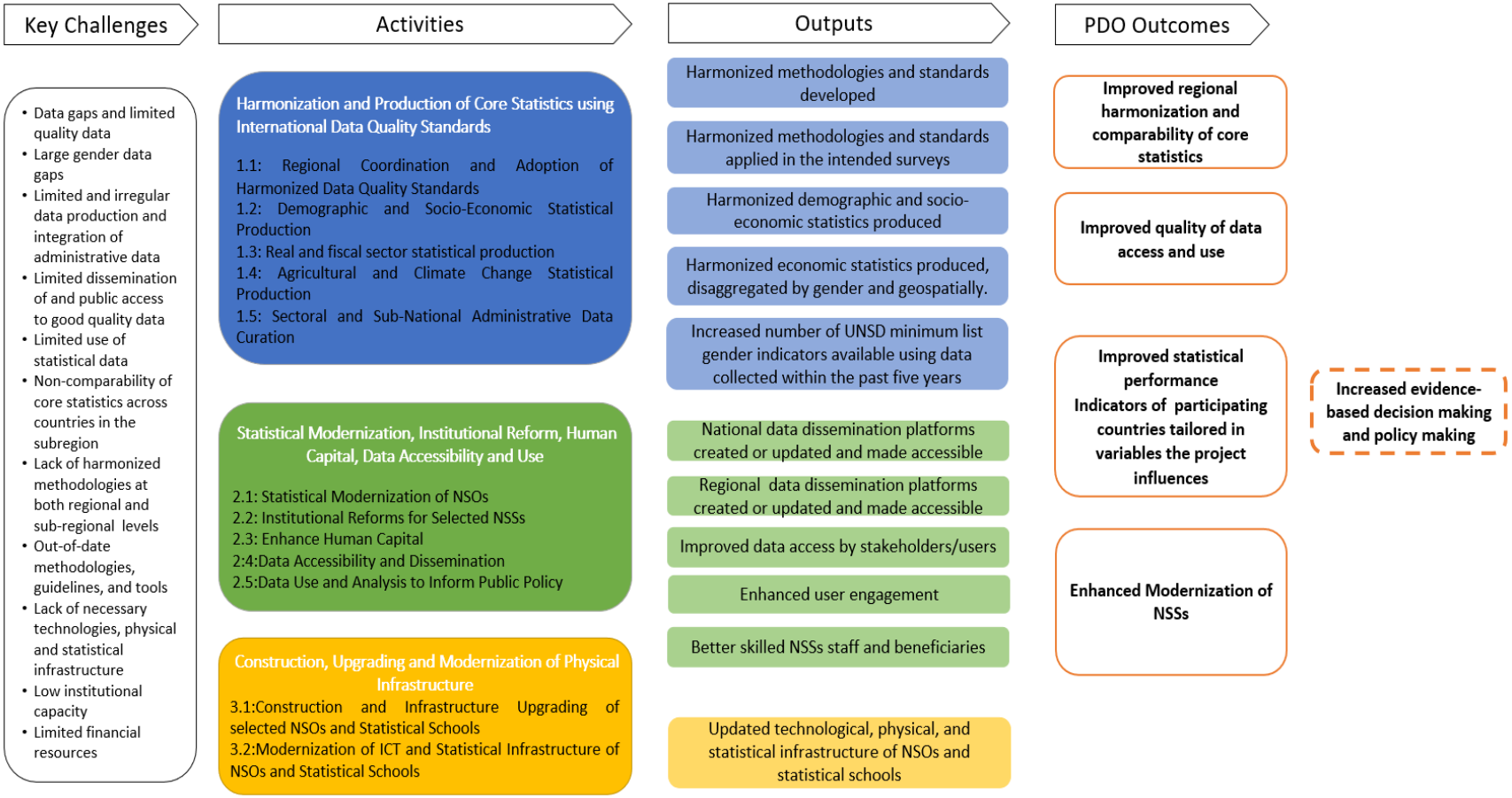
(b) TA on gender including gender data collection methodology, questionnaire design, indicator calculation, and gender data dissemination (factbooks) included in the Demographic and Socioeconomic Statistical Production will improve gender data gaps.

(c) Innovations and modern methods of data production and dissemination facilitate expected improvements in time, cost, and quality.

(d) Training, peer-to-peer learning, and South-South collaborations are implemented on schedule, and opportunities for knowledge application are made available.

Figure 9: Theory of Change

The Project Development Objective is to improve country statistical performance, regional harmonization, data access and use, and to enhance modernization of the statistical system in participating countries.



Abbreviations: ICT=Information, Communication, and Technology; NSO=National Statistics Office; NSS= National Statistical System; UNSD=United Nations Statistics Division.
* Color scheme is made similar between activities and outputs to show respective relationship among each section.

(e) Increased engagement of key stakeholders facilitates accessibility, use, and demand for better development statistics.

(f) Commitment among NSOs and RECs to collaborate is promoted.

(g) The pace of institutional reforms in all participating countries advances as planned. Pre-identified and emerging risks to the project activities are fully mitigated and/or managed.

E. Rationale for World Bank Involvement and Role of Partners

120. **The demands of region-wide scale-up necessitate IDA's and IBRD's involvement.** As public goods, official statistics are financed from government revenue and from partners and donor contributions. In most of the participating countries, due to budget constraint, only limited public resources are allocated to the NSS and particularly to NSOs to produce quality and timely data. The rationale for World Bank involvement considers the counterfactual case, that is, the scenario without a World Bank-funded regional statistical project. In most participating countries (especially those categorized as FCV), donor organizations provide most funding for large data collection activities and government funding for statistics is highly volatile because of other priorities, including in social sectors and security. Therefore, the absence of World Bank support is likely to result in large negative effects such as a decrease of the statistical performance which will lead to the inability of the governments, the World Bank, and other development partners to use evidence for informed policy making and for monitoring the progress and effect of public policies on the World Bank's twin goals. World Bank financing is a huge asset to smooth out fluctuations in the provision of resources for the production, dissemination, and use of official statistics in developing countries and region-wide scale-up.

121. **The World Bank will collaborate and coordinate with partners with significant comparative advantages on relevant topics.** It brings substantial cross-country experience in topics under implementation as part of this project. It is also working closely with the following strategic partners in supporting the development of statistics in the region and in implementation of the project's activities:

(a) **50x2030 Initiative.** This is a program jointly launched by the World Bank's Development Data Group, FAO, and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to support countries to strengthen national agricultural data systems by bridging data gaps and promoting evidence-informed decision-making. The initiative helps countries sustainably produce foundational agricultural survey data necessary to monitor indicators under the second SDG (Zero Hunger) and other national and regional development agendas such as the CAADP. Specifically, the 50x2030 Initiative will provide TA in the design and implementation of an integrated annual agricultural survey aligned with the priorities and needs of participating countries. Likewise, the initiative will help countries build capacity and promote and facilitate the use of agriculture survey data in policy making and research.

(b) **PARIS21.** The PARIS21 consortium is at the forefront of statistical advocacy and SNDS processes. The collaboration with this consortium will be developed in advocacy for increased involvement of national stakeholders in statistical development and enhancing the status of statistics in major international initiatives.

(c) **IMF/AFRITAC Central.** The Regional Technical Assistance Center (RTAC) in Central Africa (IMF AFRITAC Central) is one of the IMF's nine RTACs worldwide. Its goal is to strengthen the human and institutional capacity of Central African member countries to formulate and implement policies that promote growth and reduce poverty. IMF AFRITAC has and continues to provide TA to the countries in the region to improve their macroeconomic statistics, in coordination with the IMF headquarters. The project activities will be implemented in close collaboration with the IMF, especially in the areas of National Accounts, price, GFS and on critical SDDS-related aspects of the program. AFRITAC and its roster of experts will be available to advise and provide TA.

(d) The **EU** plans to strengthen economic statistics, including enterprise statistics, population census, and agricultural statistics in some countries such as Cameroon. The project is designed to be complementary to these interventions. The EU is also currently implementing, with the AU, a pan African statistics program, to support the AU and its members' statistical systems. This program covers a range of social and economic statistics, including National Accounts.

(e) **Bank of Central African States (*Banque des États de l'Afrique Centrale*, BEAC).** On the statistical level, it has the mandate to develop monetary statistics and participates in the preparation of the BoPs of the member states. At the subregional level, BEAC is an important player in the statistical system as a leading user of national and regional statistical productions for the conduct of monetary policy. To this end, it is a member of the Subregional Committee for Statistics in CEMAC, a committee set up by the Council of Ministers of the Economic Union of Central Africa on the proposal of CEMAC. There will be no flow of funds to BEAC; rather, BEAC will benefit from some TA. For example, as part of the HISWACA - SOP2, BEAC will be a beneficiary of activities designed to strengthen BOP statistics.

F. Lessons Learned and Reflected in the Project Design

122. **The design of HISWACA - SOP 2 builds on lessons learned from the World Bank's experience** in the design of HISWACA - SOP 1 – P178497 and implementing regional statistics projects in West Africa: the WAEMU – P153702 regional household survey harmonization project[36] and the ongoing Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa (HISWA)[37] – P169265 as well as ongoing and completed statistics projects in three HISWACA - SOP 2 participating countries: Chad (P159434), the Central African Republic (P165062), and Cameroon (Component 4 in the governance project P151155). These lessons were complemented with some global lessons and guidance on the next generation of projects.

123. **Lessons learned from ongoing and completed regional and national projects** include significant delays in the initiation and implementation of project activities and are documented in collaboration with the regional organizations. The activities of the WAEMU household survey harmonization regional project

[36] The project covers Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. It was approved in 2016 and started its activities in 2017. The project is expected to close in end October 2023.

[37] The project covers Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Togo, in addition to ECOWAS and AU Commission. The project was approved in 2020 and is expected to close in December 2025.

started with a 15-month delay affecting implementation at critical stages of the project. In addition, the implementation of activities by ECOWAS and AU under the HISWA Project (P169265) is facing similar challenges. These delays were primarily due to limited capacity and knowledge of World Bank procedures and processes by the implementing agencies. The design of the HISWACA - SOP 1 (P178497) and SOP 2 was built on the comparative advantage of project participating countries and regional organizations signing a separate Financing Agreement with the World Bank. This will resolve the problem of delays in transferring funds to participating countries that can affect implementation, especially since it is the first time for CEMAC to implement a World Bank-financed project.

124. **Strong client commitment, ownership, and accountability are critical to sustainability of the project.** To ensure participating countries' willingness and readiness to undertake project activities, the project had a set of criteria by which noncompliant countries could be excluded from participation. These included (a) the availability of statistics laws that govern open data clients to publish their information (for the data production and use component); and (b) the availability of land and a title deed by the Government to allow for the construction and/or rehabilitation of the NSOs or statistics schools once a request is submitted.

125. **The participation of a wide range of stakeholders is essential for statistical development in the subregion.** It confers ownership, secures buy-in, and supports implementation. The project therefore intends to fully involve stakeholders at the national and regional levels. Awareness raising among both internal and external stakeholders in the participating countries has also been identified as a key activity of the project.

126. **Statistical coordination at various levels should be maintained.** Coordination promotes mutual reinforcement, avoids duplication of efforts and nonoptimal utilization of resources available for statistics, and improves data quality through promotion of statistical standards. Statistical coordination between CEMAC and its member states, within the participating NSSs and within data-producing agencies, is a strategic success driver that can be used to build consensus on common methodologies that allow comparability.

127. **Investment in building appropriate physical infrastructure contributes to long-term organizational efficiency and the establishment of a safe, secure, and conducive work environment.** Many participating countries and task teams recognized the lack of safe and secure working space as a key constraint. The project's design included modernizing office spaces and training schools along with purchasing ICT equipment as a long-term investment. This will further enhance data security solutions through access, integrity, privacy, and protection in participating countries.

128. **Formulation of the results framework is informed by the diagnostic paper on result indicators for statistical capacity-building projects and World Bank general guidance on results frameworks.** The recent paper "A review of Result Indicators Used in World Bank Statistical Capacity Building Projects" that reviewed 33 World Bank statistical capacity building projects across different countries highlighted some key elements to inform the formulation of Results Framework for statistics projects. The preparation of a results framework for the HISWACA - SOP 2 reflects these lessons in the following ways. The HISWACA - SOP 2 uses the statistical performance index, a diagnostic framework developed by the World Bank to assess the capacity of a country's statistical system tailored to focus on the variables the project can

influence. As far as possible, the indicators are quantitative, and disaggregated by participating countries and gender where appropriate. Together, the indicators and their descriptions provide as many specifics as possible to avoid ambiguity to users. The HISWACA - SOP 2 also includes citizen engagement indicators at both intermediate and outcome levels.

129. **The project activities operationalize the modernization agenda of NSOs and NSSs in line with next generation statistical capacity-building project principles outlined by the Poverty and Equity Global Practice:** (a) to improve governance and effective management of the NSS to meet emerging data needs, the project will work closely with NSOs to strengthen their coordinating role in the NSS and will engage them with international statistical communities on standards, methods, and reporting requirements; (b) to improve effective management principles to improve data quality, the project will support the application of quality principles through TA, and helping increase the number of professional statisticians in NSS through training and scholarships; (c) to improve capabilities and modernize technology platforms and applications, the project will support the establishment and update of sampling frames and invest in NSS IT capacity for data storage and processing; and (d) to improve quality and range of statistical outputs, the project will support the development and implementation of core statistical products and work with NSOs to produce data dissemination policies and strategies, to improve and increase their use.

130. **Access to microdata is limited.** The Europe and Central Asia World Bank Team for Statistical Development, in their completion report (FY2018–2019), mentioned that limited access to country microdata continued to pose a challenge since several countries that collect data have restricted access to the data. This challenge remains true for the project participating countries, and without access to (recent) data for all countries, teams are limited in their ability to provide a full picture of what is happening to poverty and shared prosperity in the region as well as allow comparability with the world. Therefore, the project will ensure that there will be access to participating countries microdata.

III. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

131. **The HISWACA - SOP 2 entails implementation of activities at regional and country levels within a coordinated regional framework.** CEMAC activities financed through the regional IDA grant will be implemented through a dedicated regional PIU that will be established at the CEMAC Commission (Figure 10). National-level PIUs will implement activities financed through the national and regional IDA Credits and Grants. Periodic meetings will be held between the national and regional PIUs and technical experts for knowledge exchange and coordination during the project's implementation. The project's activities will also be implemented through a strong partnership and collaboration with many technical institutions with significant comparative advantage on relevant topics, to leverage from their expertise as described above and in Annex 6.

Regional-Level Implementation Arrangement

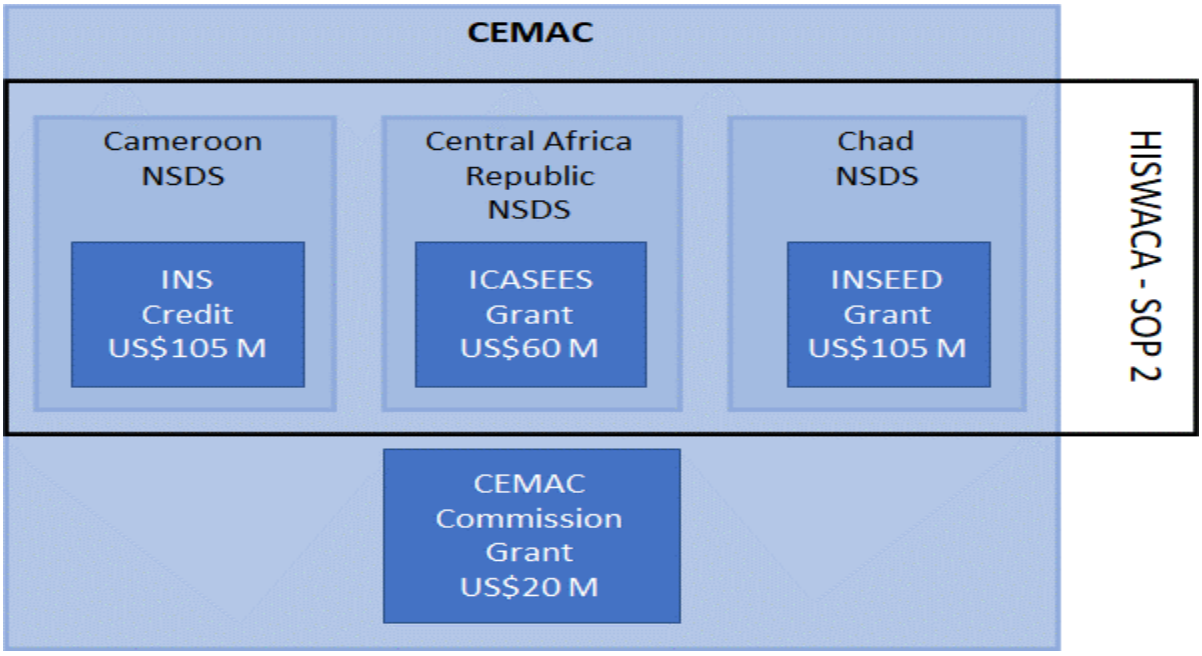
132. **The Directorate of Statistics at the CEMAC Commission will be the project's implementing entity at the CEMAC level.** A dedicated PIU with fiduciary responsibilities will be established, staffed with key

fiduciary and technical experts to support the day-to-day implementation and coordination of project activities. Technical experts will include specialists in key statistical areas for which harmonization and coordination activities will be implemented.

Regional Project Coordination Committee

133. **A Regional Project Coordination Committee (RPCC) will be established by CEMAC to coordinate the project's implementation, particularly as it relates to the achievement of the PDO.** The existing CEMAC Specialized Committee on Statistics (CEMAC-SCS) will be the backbone of the RPCC. Indeed, the CEMAC-SCS, comprising the Director General of NSOs and ISSEA, is an institutional CEMAC body that meets regularly to discuss regional statistical development issues and implementation of the regional statistics program. The RPCC will include representatives of all participating countries and Regional Bodies (that is, also AU), as well as representatives of the Association and other entities as further described in the POM. The activities of the RPCC include, (a) development, coordination, and follow up on implementation of statistical harmonization activities; and (b) review of project progress reports prepared by the secretariat, project Results Framework, social and environmental aspects of the project, and related project activities. The RPCC meeting will be chaired annually by one Director General of project participating countries.

Figure 10: Schematic of Proposed Regional Operation Implementation Arrangement



Country-Level Implementation Arrangement

134. **In Cameroon, Chad, and the Central African Republic, the NSOs are the implementing agency within which a dedicated project implementation/management unit will be established.** In all project participating countries, the PIUs will be responsible for (a) the day-to-day management and

implementation of the Project; (b) the preparation, adjustments and implementation of the Project management tools, including inter alia, the POM, Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B), and procurement plans; (c) coordinating fiduciary, technical, environmental and social aspects; (d) the preparation of a consolidated report on the implementation of the Project components; and (e) the coordination with the statistical units/departments in other sectoral Ministries and agencies to monitor and supervise the statistical activities carried out by the other sectoral Ministries.

135. **A Steering Committee will be established to coordinate the project's implementation at the national level and support the PIU in each project participating country.** The Steering Committee will (a) oversee and assist in the project implementation; (b) facilitate the project M&E; and (c) approve the AWP&B. Technical Committees will be established for specific technical activities—such as the PHC and household surveys—to ensure the technical consistency of project activities. The project will cover the operating costs of the Steering and Technical Committees. The Technical Committees' composition will also leverage expertise from different partners. Annex 2 provides a detailed summary of the country-level project implementation arrangement.

B. Implementation Support Plan

136. **The project entails implementation of activities at the regional and country levels within a coordinated regional framework.** The activities financed through the regional IDA grant will be implemented through the regional PIU at the CEMAC Commission (Figure 9). National-level PIUs will implement activities financed through the national and regional IDA credit and grants. Periodic meetings will be held between the national and regional PIUs and technical experts for knowledge exchange and coordination during the project's implementation. The project's activities will also be implemented through a strong partnership and collaboration with many technical institutions with significant comparative advantages on relevant topics.

137. **The project will require significant implementation support.** Implementation support missions (ISMs) will be carried out twice a year for the project spans a wide variety of mutually reinforcing technical areas in the three components. It also involves multiple stakeholders in each country and at the regional level and involves a combination of TA. The number and variety of project activities will require close monitoring and adherence to timelines to avoid implementation delays, as well as careful sequencing of dependent activities. The project requires additional hands-on and proactive support from the World Bank team and coordination of missions and interventions. The implementation support will be advisory to ensure project ownership remains with the participating countries and regional organizations.

138. **Financial Management (FM).** For FM, implementation support missions will be carried out at least twice a year for Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, and CEMAC given the FM residual risk has been rated Substantial. The FM team will explore every opportunity to conduct implementation support more frequently given the project's emergency nature. Implementation support will also include desk reviews, such as the review of Interim Financial Reports (IFRs) and internal and external audit reports. In-depth reviews and forensic reviews may be done where deemed necessary. The FM implementation support will be an integral part of the project's implementation reviews.

139. **Procurement**: The World Bank will review contracts as agreed in the Project Procurement Strategy for Development (PPSDs) and the Procurement Plans. All contracts not covered under prior review by the World Bank shall be subject to post review during implementation support missions and/or special post-review missions, including missions by consultants hired by the World Bank. Two semiannual missions are envisaged for procurement implementation support for the project.

140. **Environment and Social:** For environmental and social risk management implementation support will be provided by at least two implementation support missions per year in each participating country and regional institution. This will be complemented by just-in-time support as needed both virtually and in person by both environmental and social regional Accountability and Decision Makers (ADM) and environmental and social country assigned specialist. The implementation support will also encompass environmental and social, Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), and monitoring and reporting capacity training, reviews of ESF instruments and the status of their implementation, review of the quarter reports including review of the status of implementation of consultation throughout the project life cycle as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and quarterly reviews of the grievance mechanism registry to ensure timely resolution of grievances and address systemic challenges as required.

C. Results Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

141. **The M&E system is designed to assess whether implementation of HISWACA - SOP 2 is on track to achieve its objectives and expected results.** Progress to achieve project results will be measured by tracking the indicators established in the project Results Framework, as detailed in section VII. The PDO and project outcome and output indicators are standardized across the three project participating countries. Country-level PIUs will bear the primary responsibility for M&E and will establish standard formats and guidelines for data collection and reporting and organize training sessions for project stakeholders on their use. They will be responsible for biannual data collection and reporting for country-level indicators according to procedures outlined in POMs. The regional PIU will be responsible for biannual data collection and reporting on regional-level indicators. Progress in conducting project activities will be documented in progress reports that the PIUs will prepare at both the country and regional levels. In addition to reporting on project outcome and output indicators, progress reports will include information on disbursements, FM, procurement, and environmental and social policies and guidelines applications, as well as an updated annual work plan and budget (AWP&B). Mechanisms will be established to ensure cooperative arrangements between country PIUs and the CEMAC PIU to enhance information sharing and effective use of resources. M&E will be embedded in various components of the project to ensure that results are properly monitored.

D. Sustainability

142. **The HISWACA - SOP 2 project design for regional statistics emphasizes the creation of economies of scale** that facilitate the introduction and expansion of innovations and peer-to-peer reviewing and learning as well as provide important opportunities for participating countries' NSOs to strengthen their statistical systems in the production, dissemination, and use of core economic and social statistics. Country Statistical Development Plans should make provision for both financial sustainability (ensuring that future financial resources are available for statistical activities) and technical sustainability (ability to continue training, attracting, and motivating staff and sustain improved capacity to manage the

NSS). It is important that factors that can lead to sustainability of statistical activities and operations are identified, evaluated, and leveraged. To that end, it was identified that the project should aim for the following:

(a) **Ensure political will at the highest levels.** This is about keeping statistics on the political agenda through ongoing high-level statistical advocacy, among high-level policy and decision-makers including legislators. The focus is about greater awareness creation regarding the importance and role of statistics to society and development, demonstrating the power of statistics and making the case for national governments to invest more in statistical production as a 'national good' and statistical development. Better success is achieved when statistical development is made an integral part of the overall National Development Strategy.

(b) **Build partnerships for statistics.** This is about building trust and networks and encouraging collaboration among stakeholders to fill critical data gaps using traditional and new data sources and ensuring that data are accessible and usable for development. The partnerships will represent a range of data producers and users, including partner state governments, the private sector, civil society groups, international organizations, academic institutions, foundations, statistics agencies, and data communities. In this regard, data accessibility and relevance will be increased while statistical literacy will be improved in government and civil society. Use of statistics will be advocated, for example, by taking advantage of the African Statistics Day. Together, this will enhance demand for statistics and lead to sustainable government financing of statistics to sustain the evidence base required for policy making and monitoring.

(c) **Build national statistical capacity.** Statistical capacity is about the ability of a country or an organization to produce and disseminate data that is 'fit for purpose'. The main elements of statistical capacity that need to be enhanced to ensure sustainability of systems include statistical legislation, standards and classifications, frameworks, statistical methods, guidelines, business registers, sampling frames, quality assurance, database structures, GISs, and statistical policies. An important aspect of statistical capacity building is training in various areas of statistics including emerging areas. The project's activities include many such elements of sustainability.

(d) **Production of statistical resources.** A further contribution to sustainability of the project activities will be the production of regional statistical resources including guidelines, regulations, tools, and systems to be used by NSOs to continue producing quality statistics. The project provides for these types of resources to ensure continuity when there is a change of staff in NSOs and so on.

(e) **Comparative advantage of existing opportunities for statistical development.** Many opportunities exist for statistical development in the region. These include national and regional statistical training centers, periodic thematic training activities undertaken by pan-African institutions—AfDB and UNECA—and periodic training activities of the IMF AFRITAC and UN agencies.

IV. PROJECT APPRAISAL SUMMARY

A. Technical, Economic and Financial Analysis (if applicable)

(i) Strategic Relevance

143. **The project activities are strategically relevant and timely.** Investing in a solid and reliable statistical system capable of producing periodic, timely, and high-quality data will, for instance, enable the respective governments to design good policies, understand the impact of policies, and improve program administration and service delivery and encourage development. Without strong data systems in place to support data analysis in relevant applications, much of the potential for data to improve outcomes is unrealized. In addition, both at the continent and regional levels, there is awareness of the necessity to produce a wide range of comparable, accurate, and timely statistical information for policy makers and the public, as is apparent in the AU SHaSA2 (2017–2026), which addresses constraints in statistical production, harmonization, and availability to promote the regional integration agenda.

(ii) Technical Soundness

144. **The project takes a regional approach to address the gaps between regional requirements and aspirations on the harmonization and national production of statistics.** The overarching strategies of AU, ECOWAS, WAEMU, and CEMAC for harmonization of statistics provide a framework and guidance. However, the results rely on the member country NSOs and General Directorate of Statistics' ability to produce the necessary data in a harmonized and timely manner while meeting a minimum quality standard. A regional approach will facilitate strengthening the technical capacity of regional bodies while lifting production and dissemination obstacles at the country level. Progress on the harmonization of statistics will be assessed according to compliance frameworks for each of the guidelines. A regional approach will also facilitate cross-fertilization and create economies of scale, as training can be conducted more efficiently in regional schools, reducing training costs. This will also expand the pool of skills in the region as more statisticians receive training on common standards, methods, and tools.

145. **The most significant components in this project are planned to support and strengthen the technical capacity and institutional quality of regional statistics systems and NSSs while supporting the production, harmonization, and timely dissemination of statistics at the national level.** Training and peer-to-peer learning will build more capacity at beneficiary NSOs. The project will also support investment in human capacity (staffing and training) and physical infrastructure, such as upgraded IT systems. Finally, the project will support timeliness and increase the demand and use of statistical information.

146. **To ensure the project is technically sound, activities will follow international best practice and established principles as well as regional harmonization standards and compliance frameworks.** More specifically, the overall project activities will be guided by the World Bank's SPIs. Increasing the SPI is the explicit goal of the project. Technical quality and comparability of statistics will be guaranteed through adherence to international best practices and regional harmonization standards and compliance frameworks.

147. **The project implementation will follow a fully participatory approach, especially when it comes to technical methods and tools for use in the region.** The NSOs of participating countries will be fully involved from the beginning to the end of the process to adopt any common method or tool to be used by all. In addition, the project considers the training of the NSOs' professionals on any agreed method or tool before its implementation as an integral component of the statistics harmonization process. The process success will not rely on the production of guidelines and regulations but most importantly on building the capacity of those who will implement them. Furthermore, countries should use technology to increase support for frequent household surveys as well as establish a set core of surveys and censuses (population, agriculture, and enterprise) that can feed evidence-based policy.

(iii) Economic and Financial Analysis

148. **As indicated in WDR 2021, because of the nontrivial data and the implications for their limitless reuse, it is inherently difficult to place an economic value on data, although many attempts have been made to do so.** In view of today's increasingly sophisticated application of machine learning and artificial intelligence to drive data-based innovations, it is quite conceivable that the economic value of unanticipated secondary uses of data may far exceed the value of the use for which they were originally collected. Furthermore, the project does not lend itself to a conventional economic cost-benefit analysis due to the public good nature of its output. However, it is important to note that improved quality and relevance of statistical production contribute to more informed evidence-based decision-making related to the different sectors covered by the project. This may also lead to the reduction of risks inherent in inadequate economic policy decisions. Official statistics are expected to be a public good, and data production does not generate any direct financial benefit. Therefore, only the public sector has an incentive to provide them. In fact, while the private sector can and does collect specific statistics, it is unlikely to invest in a complete statistical system. Left to the market, there would be significant underinvestment in statistics, thereby foregoing the benefits of better statistics. However, official statistics are key to evidence-based decision-making and can generate and leverage multiple economic and social benefits in and across countries. For this reason, the project is not amenable to financial analysis.

149. **Furthermore**, **several studies have now shown the importance for economies, particularly in developing countries, to promote open data and free access to microdata and metadata of various sources, including National Accounts data, price data, business survey data, and social sectors data.** A 2019 study by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, titled 'Enhancing Access to and Sharing of Data', presented the available evidence of the direct and indirect economic and social benefits of data access and sharing. The diverse types of benefits include greater transparency and empowerment of users, new business opportunities, competition, and cooperation within and across sectors and nations, crowdsourcing, user-driven innovation, and increased efficiency. Evidence also shows that data access and sharing can generate positive social and economic benefits for data providers (direct impact), their suppliers and data users (indirect impact), and the wider economy (induced impact). However, even if quantifying the overall benefits of data access and sharing is difficult to assess or measure, studies by sector (public versus private sector) provide a rough estimate of the magnitude of the relative effects of data access and sharing. They suggest that data access and sharing can increase the value of data to holders (direct impact), but it can help create 10–20 times more value for data users (indirect impact) and 20–50 times more value for the wider economy (induced impact). Finally, these

studies suggested that data access and sharing can help generate social and economic benefits worth between 0.1 percent and 1.5 percent of GDP in the case of public sector data and between 1.0 percent and 2.5 percent of GDP (in some studies up to 4.0 percent of GDP) when also including private sector data.

150. **In the case of participating countries in this project, most of the advantages enumerated above apply.** Cameroon has the ambition to use the opportunity to take all the actions that will allow them to reach the IMF Special Norms and Standards initiative. The project in contributing to the production of accurate, more reliable, and quality and shared data will help the countries attain their goals and, most particularly, the availability of data can help, for instance, countries to have access to international financial markets (Eurobonds) at a better interest rate, as the project will induce, among others, better rating of these countries by agencies such as Standard and Poor's and Moody's. At a regional level, the project will assist in accelerating indicator production to meet CEMAC's convergence criteria.

(iv) Paris Alignment Mitigation Goals and Managing Risks

151. **The operation is aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement on both adaptation and mitigation.**

152. **Assessment and reduction of adaptation risks.** The operation contributes to climate resilience, and adaptation design considerations limit the exposure to a low level of residual risk. The main climate and disaster risks likely to affect the SOP 2 project participating countries are flooding and expected increases in temperature. The project design considers the extreme heat, precipitation, and flooding risks that threaten the project's outcomes. Specifically, the project will adapt to the climate change risks and vulnerability to floods and extreme heat by including harvesting rainwater and storing it for non-potable applications to adapt against drought and carefully designing and elevating buildings, including data centers, in flood-prone areas. Statistical activities that will be conducted in climate and disaster hazard areas will be carefully planned to mitigate any risk that could arise during data collection activities.

153. **Assessment and reduction of mitigation risks.** The project design will have little to no impact on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The project will also support the adoption of mitigation measures/lower-carbon alternatives and practices, such as green building design, energy-efficient equipment, and use of renewable energy sources, where technically feasible, economically viable, and developmentally appropriate. Construction and rehabilitation are small scale, and they are not expected to be carbon intensive. The building designs including data centers, will also use the IFC's EDGE green building certification system to make buildings more resource efficient including in their use of heat-resistant construction materials to minimize the embodied energy in building materials and reduce the building's energy use and water use. All data centers, which could lead to increased GHG emissions, will be green, establish energy efficiency requirements and follow international good practices. Moreover, innovative design and energy-efficient measures will be considered for the installation of data servers. Annex 8 on Climate Vulnerability and Related Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Activities provides additional details on the climate risks, vulnerabilities, and the risk reduction measures.

B. Fiduciary

(i) Financial Management and Disbursement

154. **In line with the FM practices and related guidelines issued by the Financial Management Sector Board on March 1, 2010, and as last revised on September 7, 2021, an FM assessment of the respective country proposed implementing agencies was conducted** for the INS in Cameroon, the ICASEES in the Central African Republic, and the National Institute for Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (*Institut National de la Statistique, des Études Économiques et Démographiques*, INSEED) in Chad. At the regional level, the FM assessment was conducted for the regional PIU at CEMAC.

155. **The objective of the FM assessment was to determine whether the respective selected implementing agencies of the project in Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Chad and CEMAC have adequate FM arrangements to ensure that** (a) project funds will be used for purposes intended in an efficient and economical way; (b) the project financial reports will be prepared in an accurate, reliable, and timely manner; (c) the project's assets will be safeguarded; and (d) the project is subject to a satisfactory auditing process and arrangements that are acceptable to World Bank. The assessment covered existing FM systems that include budgeting, staffing, financial accounting, financial reporting, fund flow and disbursements, and internal and external audit arrangements. This assessment also reviewed the fiduciary oversight arrangements, scope, design, and FM's ability to facilitate speedy implementation and effective monitoring of the operation given the prevailing conditions.

156. **The overall conclusion of the FM Assessment is that the project's FM arrangements in place meet the World Bank's (IDA) minimum FM requirements under the World Bank Investment Project Financing (IPF) Policy and Directive** and, therefore, are adequate to provide, with reasonable assurance, accurate and timely information on the status of the project required by the World Bank (IDA). The initial risk rating of the project is High, and after considering proposed mitigation measures, the overall residual risk is considered Substantial. At the implementing agency level, this risk is deemed Substantial for CEMAC, Cameroon, Chad, and the Central African Republic.

(ii) Procurement

157. **For all implementing agencies in the various countries, procurement will be carried out in accordance with the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers** dated November 2020; the 'Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants', dated July 1, 2016; and beneficiary disclosure requirements; as well as other provisions stipulated in the project Legal Agreements.

158. **Each country will use the World Bank's Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement (STEP),** an online planning and tracking system that will provide data on procurement activities, establish benchmarks, monitor delays, and measure procurement performance. The use of STEP is mandatory for all procurement transactions subject to post and prior review under the project.

159. **All procuring entities as well as bidders and service providers, that is, suppliers, contractors, and consultants,** shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of

contracts financed under the project in accordance with paragraph 3.32 and Annex IV of the Procurement Regulations. When procurement is done in the national market, as agreed in the Procurement Plan, the country's own procurement procedures may be used with the requirements set forth or referred to in paragraphs 5.3–5.6 in Section V of Procurement Regulations related to National Procurement Procedures. For all works contracts, procurements that apply standard procurement documents (SPDs) will adopt provisions of the World Bank related to environmental, social (including sexual exploitation and abuse [SEA] and gender-based violence [GBV]), health, and safety risks and impacts. This includes codes of conduct that include prohibitions against sexual harassment (SH) and sexual abuse.

160. **Project Procurement Strategy for Development (PPSD) and Procurement Plan.** The PPSD and Procurement Plan covering the first 18 months of project implementation had been prepared by all project participating countries and CEMAC and approved by the World Bank. The Procurement Plan includes for each contract (a) a brief description of the activities/contracts; (b) the selection methods to be applied; (c) reasonable cost estimates reflecting the prevailing market price; (d) reasonable time schedules for procurement processing and contract duration; (e) the World Bank's review requirements; and (f) any other relevant procurement information in accordance with the road map provided in the World Bank's online procurement planning and tracking tools. In accordance with paragraph 5.9 of the Procurement Regulations, the recipient shall use the World Bank's online procurement planning and tracking tools to prepare, clear, and update its procurement plans and conduct all procurement transactions.

161. **Consistent with the above procurement arrangements, procurement capacity and risk assessments have been carried out for three project participating countries and one regional organization** by the World Bank procurement specialists in accordance with the World Bank Procurement Risk Assessment and Management System (PRAMS). The implementing agencies are as follows:

(a) **At the regional level**, CEMAC will coordinate the implementation of the regional program at the CEMAC level.

(b) **At the national level**, Cameroon INS, the Central African Republic ICASEES, and Chad INSEED.

162. **A procurement capacity assessment was done as required for the implementing agency as per the World Bank's IPF instrument.** The completed procurement assessments and suggested measures to address identified inadequacies and risks is given as follows: (a) procurement staff with the experience required to effectively implement procurement actions on time and in line with World Bank procurement policies and procedures are insufficient; (b) administrative routines may result in procurement delays with the potential to affect project implementation; (c) procurement in fragile areas with few bidders can restrict competition and possibly increase prices and collusion risks for some countries; (d) insufficient capacity can lead to poor contract management and administration of big contracts; and (e) poor filing of documents may lead to the loss of documents.

163. **The overall procurement risk is High for CEMAC and Cameroon, and Substantial for the Central African Republic, and Chad.** After the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures below and detailed in annex, the risk will be Substantial for CEMAC and Cameroon and Moderate for the Central African Republic, and Chad. These measures include, for each designated implementing agency, (a) hiring on a competitive basis or assigning a procurement specialist who is qualified and experienced and familiar

with World Bank procurement procedures and policies, to be located in each implementing agency; (b) training all project staff involved on Procurement Regulations; (c) developing a section on procurement procedures as part of the POM to clarify roles for each team member involved in the procurement process, define the maximum delay for each procurement stage (specifically with regard to review and approval systems and the signing of contracts), and define measures to fast-track procurement in eligible countries; (d) developing contract management plans for prior and post review contracts; and (e) improving the filing system to ensure compliance with the World Bank procurement filing of documents in STEP.

C. Legal Operational Policies

	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

D. Environmental and Social

164. **The project environmental and social risk rating has been maintained as Moderate for both environmental and social risks.** Key environmental concerns are related to the implementation of activities under Component 3 (Construction, Upgrading and Modernization of Physical Infrastructure). Under this component, the project will support the modernization of NSO buildings and statistical schools by building or upgrading office complexes with modern facilities and providing needed office furniture and equipment for the entire statistical cycle from production through dissemination: in the Central African Republic (Bangui), Chad (N'Djamena) only renovation of existing infrastructures, and Cameroon (only renovation of existing building and technical studies for future buildings). Although potential risks and impacts might differ for each country as per the scope of activities that will be undertaken, typical environmental risks and impacts during construction and/or rehabilitation activities include but are not limited to noise and vibration, soil erosion, dust and air quality deterioration, solid waste (including asbestos, construction debris, and e-waste), hazardous materials and waste, land contamination, occupational health and safety (including injury and accidents during construction and installation of furniture and equipment), and community health and safety. Main sources of impacts during operations and maintenance are labor management, national censuses, and surveys, which entail risks of traffic-related accidents and injuries to workers and local communities due to discarding old equipment; improper disposal of electronic waste and others; management of other wastes and wastewater.

165. Key social concerns for all project activities relate to:

(a) Ensuring that any statistical guidelines and frameworks established under the project include considerations of digital data protection and security both within the country and the region, including requisite ethical and data security protocols for the collection of physical specimens (sampling populations for HIV surveillance for example).

(b) Possible exclusion risks related to inadequate stakeholder engagement at the regional and national level with all stakeholders, including civil society and vulnerable groups (such as IDPs, refugees, persons with disabilities, women, the elderly) in a manner that is culturally appropriate, accessible, and transparent and sufficiently explains the benefits and impacts of the activities.

(c) Exclusion risks for Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLCs) if surveys/census do not take into consideration their social, economic, and cultural institutions and norms; (iv) some SEA/SH risks during implementation depending on the scale and scope of the construction and census/surveys.

(d) Security/fragility risks for activities that will be implemented in FCV contexts such as Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Chad.

(e) Risks to vulnerable groups such as pregnant women/girls, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities in conflict prone areas IDPs, refugees, returnees, sexual and gender minorities, and IP/SSAHUTLCs may be placed at risk (including exclusion from school, subject to prosecution under the law, conflict and violence, stigmatization due to cultural norms or exclusion from benefits) if data is collected or shared inappropriately. Moreover, IP/SSAHUTLCS and other communities practicing traditional livelihoods such as transhumance pastoralism (including those who may move cross-borders) may also be at risk from exclusion from the project in the census/survey activities due to seasonal migration and movement as a result of their seasonal livelihood activities, lack of access to electricity and IT to receive notifications through electronic media such as radio, television and the internet, low literacy rates, and census questions which may not recognize their identities, livelihoods, lands, among others.

166. **The overall project risk level for SEA/SH is substantial with the country specific risks varying from substantial for Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, and Chad; and low for the regional CEMAC PIU.** The risk levels and based on GBV prevalence and acceptance in each country, the legal framework and capacity of national actors to address GBV as well as risks related to project activities (especially surveys and construction) and capacity of the clients to identify and mitigate those risks.

167. **An Umbrella Environmental and Social Management Framework (U-ESMF) was prepared to meet the requirements of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework.** These include the Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) on the Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts (ESS1), as well as the environmental and social risk management laws and regulations of the countries concerned and of CEMAC. The three countries concerned and CEMAC have also prepared an Umbrella Labor Management Framework (U-LMF) to meet the requirements of the standard regarding employment and working conditions (ESS2), as well as an Umbrella Stakeholder Engagement Framework (U-SEF) to meet the requirements of ESS10 regarding stakeholder mobilization and information. Although ESS6 is considered not relevant for the project, a code of conduct has been prepared for census activities around and inside protected areas existing in most countries involved in the project. This code prevents wildlife collision by drivers and poaching and consumption of bushmeat by census agents or more largely by project workers.

168. **The U-ESMF, together with its U-LMF and U-SEF, guides the preparation of specific plans by the institutions responsible for NSSs in the three countries concerned and by CEMAC.** Each of these entities will prepare distinct Environmental and Social Management Plans for all building construction or modernization activities, a specific Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and specific Labor Management Procedures.

169. **To manage the environmental and social risks and impacts of the project, the PIUs will maintain or recruit qualified personnel and mobilize the resources required, including an environmental specialist and a social specialist.** The PIU will also mobilize, as needed, specialists/consultants in GBV, indigenous people, and security. All these specialists/consultants will have qualifications and experience acceptable to the World Bank.

170. **The U-ESMF also provides the budget structure for the preparation and implementation of the project's environmental and social risk management instruments for the five years of the project.** It also includes all mitigation measures entailing costs. Each national PIU and CEMAC PIU will specify their respective costs when implementing the project.

171. **Each PIU has also prepared an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) with the support of the World Bank.** The ESCPs include a timeline and a commitment to prepare and disclose any additional instruments as required. The ESCPs also include capacity building and assessment activities of all PIUs. The World Bank disclosed the ESCPs on August 4, 2023[38] and the clients disclosed them with links dates of disclosure as described in Table 4.

Table 4: Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) disclosure links

	Disclosure date	Link
Cameroon	August 2, 2023	*Cameroon NSO website:* *https://ins-cameroun.cm/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Cameroon_ESCP-Final.pdf*
Central African Republic	August 1, 2023	Central African Republic NSO website: *https://icasees.org/index.php/car-escp-final-environnemental-and-social-commitment-plan-escp-negotiated-2/view-document*
Chad	August 2, 2023	Chad NSO website: *https://www.inseed.td/index.php/component/jdownloads/send/12-documents-et-publications-autre/478-chad-escp-final*
CEMAC	August 2, 2023	CEMAC website: *https://cemac.int/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Version-finale-CEMAC_ESCP-Final.pdf*

172. **The project environmental and social risk rating has been maintained as Moderate for both environmental and social risks.** Key environmental concerns are related to the implementation of activities under Component 3 (Construction, Upgrading and Modernization of Physical Infrastructure). Under this component, the project will support the modernization of NSO buildings and statistical schools by building or upgrading office complexes with modern facilities and providing needed office furniture and equipment for the entire statistical cycle from production through dissemination: in the Central African Republic (Bangui), Chad (N'Djamena) only renovation of existing infrastructures, and Cameroon

[38] *https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099080423115548519/p1800850a622b40d8084ce082f7990d4145*

(only renovation of existing building and technical studies for future buildings). Although potential risks and impacts might differ for each country as per the scope of activities that will be undertaken, typical environmental risks and impacts during construction and/or rehabilitation activities include but are not limited to noise and vibration, soil erosion, dust and air quality deterioration, solid waste (including asbestos, construction debris, and e-waste), hazardous materials and waste, land contamination, occupational health and safety (including injury and accidents during construction and installation of furniture and equipment), and community health and safety. Main sources of impacts during operations and maintenance are labor management, national censuses, and surveys, which entail risks of traffic-related accidents and injuries to workers and local communities due to discarding old equipment; improper disposal of electronic waste and others; management of other wastes and wastewater.

173. Key social concerns for all project activities relate to:

(f) Ensuring that any statistical guidelines and frameworks established under the project include considerations of digital data protection and security both within the country and the region, including requisite ethical and data security protocols for the collection of physical specimens (sampling populations for HIV surveillance for example).

(g) Possible exclusion risks related to inadequate stakeholder engagement at the regional and national level with all stakeholders, including civil society and vulnerable groups (such as IDPs, refugees, persons with disabilities, women, the elderly) in a manner that is culturally appropriate, accessible, and transparent and sufficiently explains the benefits and impacts of the activities.

(h) Exclusion risks for Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLCs) if surveys/census do not take into consideration their social, economic, and cultural institutions and norms; (iv) some SEA/SH risks during implementation depending on the scale and scope of the construction and census/surveys.

(i) Security/fragility risks for activities that will be implemented in FCV contexts such as Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Chad.

(j) Risks to vulnerable groups such as pregnant women/girls, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities in conflict prone areas IDPs, refugees, returnees, sexual and gender minorities, and IP/SSAHUTLCs may be placed at risk (including exclusion from school, subject to prosecution under the law, conflict and violence, stigmatization due to cultural norms or exclusion from benefits) if data is collected or shared inappropriately. Moreover, IP/SSAHUTLCS and other communities practicing traditional livelihoods such as transhumance pastoralism (including those who may move cross-borders) may also be at risk from exclusion from the project in the census/survey activities due to seasonal migration and movement as a result of their seasonal livelihood activities, lack of access to electricity and IT to receive notifications through electronic media such as radio, television and the internet, low literacy rates, and census questions which may not recognize their identities, livelihoods, lands, among others.

174. **The overall project risk level for SEA/SH is substantial with the country specific risks varying from substantial for Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, and Chad; and low for the regional CEMAC PIU.** The risk levels and based on GBV prevalence and acceptance in each country, the legal framework and

capacity of national actors to address GBV as well as risks related to project activities (especially surveys and construction) and capacity of the clients to identify and mitigate those risks.

175. **An Umbrella Environmental and Social Management Framework (U-ESMF) was prepared to meet the requirements of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework.** These include the Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) on the Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts (ESS1), as well as the environmental and social risk management laws and regulations of the countries concerned and of CEMAC. The three countries concerned and CEMAC have also prepared an Umbrella Labor Management Framework (U-LMF) to meet the requirements of the standard regarding employment and working conditions (ESS2), as well as an Umbrella Stakeholder Engagement Framework (U-SEF) to meet the requirements of ESS10 regarding stakeholder mobilization and information. Although ESS6 is considered not relevant for the project, a code of conduct has been prepared for census activities around and inside protected areas existing in most countries involved in the project. This code prevents wildlife collision by drivers and poaching and consumption of bushmeat by census agents or more largely by project workers.

176. **The U-ESMF, together with its U-LMF and U-SEF, guides the preparation of specific plans by the institutions responsible for NSSs in the three countries concerned and by CEMAC.** Each of these entities will prepare distinct Environmental and Social Management Plans for all building construction or modernization activities, a specific Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and specific Labor Management Procedures.

177. **To manage the environmental and social risks and impacts of the project, the PIUs will maintain or recruit qualified personnel and mobilize the resources required, including an environmental specialist and a social specialist.** The PIU will also mobilize, as needed, specialists/consultants in GBV, indigenous people, and security. All these specialists/consultants will have qualifications and experience acceptable to the World Bank.

178. **The U-ESMF also provides the budget structure for the preparation and implementation of the project's environmental and social risk management instruments for the five years of the project.** It also includes all mitigation measures entailing costs. Each national PIU and CEMAC PIU will specify their respective costs when implementing the project.

179. **Each PIU has also prepared an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) with the support of the World Bank.** The ESCPs include a timeline and a commitment to prepare and disclose any additional instruments as required. The ESCPs also include capacity building and assessment activities of all PIUs. The World Bank disclosed the ESCPs on August 4, 2023[39] and the clients disclosed them with links dates of disclosure as described in Table 5.

[39] *https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099080423115548519/p1800850a622b40d8084ce082f7990d4145*

Table 5: Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) disclosure links

	Disclosure date	Link
Cameroon	August 2, 2023	*Cameroon NSO website:* *https://ins-cameroun.cm/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Cameroon_ESCP-Final.pdf*
Central African Republic	August 1, 2023	Central African Republic NSO website: *https://icasees.org/index.php/car-escp-final-environnemental-and-social-commitment-plan-escp-negotiated-2/view-document*
Chad	August 2, 2023	Chad NSO website: *https://www.inseed.td/index.php/component/jdownloads/send/12-documents-et-publications-autre/478-chad-escp-final*
CEMAC	August 2, 2023	CEMAC website: *https://cemac.int/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Version-finale-CEMAC_ESCP-Final.pdf*

E. Gender

180. **The project will pay attention to filling gender data gaps in project participating countries.** It will work with the Strengthening Gender Statistics (SGS) project to integrate and improve gender data collection, analysis, and dissemination with a focus on asset ownership, work and employment, and entrepreneurship. Specifically, the project will share guidance documents and support capacity-building activities to improve questionnaires and field protocols of the project-supported surveys. It will also build on the experience of the Measures for Advancing Gender Equality initiative, which is developing and validating a new set of tools to measure women's control over assets, decision-making, time use, and agency.

181. **The type of surveys financed under the project affects the number of available gender indicators at the project's end.** About 60 percent of the 52 UNSD minimum list of gender indicators can be calculated from HIESs especially indicators on economic participation (90 percent of indicators of this domain) and education (80 percent of the domain). The DHSs collect data on 50 percent of all the indicators. This share is higher in some domains including human rights (100 percent of the UNSD minimum list of gender indicators related to human rights are provided by DHSs), education (80 percent), and health (70 percent). Compared to HIESs and DHSs, PHCs and LFSs provide fewer gender indicators with 40 percent of UNSD minimum list indicators (including 80 percent of education indicators for the PHCs and 60 percent of economic participation indicators for the LFSs). Some indicators can be drawn from several types of surveys (for example, 20 percent of all indicators and 80 percent of education indicators can be calculated from data from HIESs, LFSs, DHSs, or PHCs). About 30 percent of indicators related to economic participation can only be calculated with data from HIESs, and 50 percent of health-related indicators can only be drawn from DHSs data. Table 6 summarizes the surveys to be supported by the project in the participating countries. The estimation of indicator statuses at the project midterm and at the end of the project is based on these surveys.

Table 6: Surveys Used to Estimate Gender Data Gaps at the End of the Project in Participating Countries

Country	Midterm (by the end of 2026)	End of the Project (by the end of 2029)
Cameroon	HLSS, DHS/MICS	HLSS, DHS/MICS
Central African Republic	LFS/PHC, DHS/MICS	HLSS, DHS/MICS
Chad	HLSS, DHS/MICS	HLSS, DHS/MICS

182. **Producing more gender-disaggregated statistics will be at the center of the integrated household surveys program.** To that end, the project will work with SGS Project[40] and the World Bank Gender Group and build on other recent initiatives such as the WAEMU harmonization project to make sure that gender issues are addressed in household surveys. The project will also share good practice examples and guidance on how to reduce proxy responding on gender statistics (which currently stands at 44 percent on average in the education and health module and 39 percent in the employment module according to data from the 2018/2019 harmonized HLSS and Harmonised Household Living Standard Survey (*Enquête Harmonisée sur le Conditions de Vie des Ménages,* EHCVM). Proxy responding has severe implications for data quality and accuracy, and the aim is to reduce it to at most 20 percent. In addition, the project will contribute to the availability of individual-level asset data, specifically with respect to nonagricultural land which is currently collected at the household level—without information on owners making it impossible to produce sex-disaggregated statistics at the individual level.

F. Citizen Engagement

183. **Cross-cutting citizen engagement mechanisms are incorporated in the project design.** The project will conduct consultations with key stakeholders and implement satisfaction surveys to solicit feedback to refine project activities throughout the implementation. Baseline user satisfaction surveys will be conducted in participating countries during the first year of the project and follow-up surveys at midterm and a year before the end of the project. Citizen engagement will be built on awareness and outreach activities through effective and inclusive information dissemination. Citizen's feedback will inform the project activities on how accessible statistical data have become following the project interventions. Given the nature of the project, civil society organizations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the academia are considered as the target 'citizens' from whom the project will seek feedback. The second mechanism will be a satisfaction survey conducted during the project midterm.

184. **Specific interventions will, among others, include the following:** (a) a participatory and consultative approach on new statistical products produced using surveys aligned with the CEMAC harmonization manual and other administrative data (under Component 1), leveraging public forums that bring together various stakeholders (including NGOs, universities, and laboratories); (b) surveys through digital observatory to identify specific barriers to statistic access and adoption to inform the prioritization

[40] The World Bank SGS project supports gender data collection and reporting on access to economic opportunities, specifically on access to more and better jobs, assets ownership, and entrepreneurship. The project (funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) provides capacity building to beneficiary countries in three components: (a) data production, (b) data analysis, and (c) communication and dissemination. The TA provided through SGS will support the NSOs' efforts to close gender data gaps during the upcoming years.

of specific regulations or programs; (c) inclusive awareness campaigns and outreach on various project interventions to inform the key stakeholders (under Component 2); and (d) increased user engagement forums between producers and users as well as trained NSS staff to be involved in new statistics production (under Subcomponent 3.1). Periodic consultations will also address the findings of the social and environmental assessments conducted for the project, incorporating discussions on the impacts and benefits derived from project activities and measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential risks of exclusion and/or adverse impacts. Beyond the abovementioned consultations, the project will establish an inclusive project grievance redress mechanism (GRM) with accessible uptake locations and transparent procedures to allow for receiving and addressing stakeholders' grievances within the set standards and GRM time frame.

G. Climate Change and Disaster Risk

185. **This project has been screened for short- and long-term climate change and disaster risks.** The project's design aims to close climate data gaps by improving the production, availability, and use of climate change statistics to better inform climate change drivers, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation in the project participating countries. This will be done through its Subcomponent 1.2: Demographic and Socio-Economic Statistical Production and Subcomponent 1.4: Agricultural and Climate Change Statistical Production, which includes implementation of an integrated system of agricultural sample censuses and geospatial, remote sensing, and climate data collection. The project's infrastructure activities will also consider climate change resilience. For example, under Subcomponent 3.1: Construction and Infrastructure Upgrading of Selected NSOs and Statistical Schools, the construction activities aim to build structures resilient to flooding and extreme heat and for lower energy consumptions and high energy efficiency. In addition, the project aims to support governments to follow sustainable design and construction for greater efficiency by using the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE)—green building certification system. Details of the anticipated impact of the project on climate change are described under Annex 8.

V. GRIEVANCE REDRESS SERVICES

186. Grievance Redress. Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a project supported by the World Bank may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance mechanisms or the Bank's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the Bank's independent Accountability Mechanism (AM). The AM houses the Inspection Panel, which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of Bank non-compliance with its policies and procedures, and the Dispute Resolution Service, which provides communities and borrowers with the opportunity to address complaints through dispute resolution. Complaints may be submitted to the AM at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the attention of Bank Management and after Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the Bank's Grievance Redress Service (GRS), please visit http://www.worldbank.org/GRS. For information on how to submit complaints to the Bank's Accountability Mechanism, please visit *https://accountability.worldbank.org*.

VI. KEY RISKS

186. **The overall risk rating for this project is assessed as Substantial.** For details of the risk category ratings, check the SORT in the Datasheet.

187. **Political and governance risk: High.** Political and governance relations are based on personalized relationships that diminish chances for economic expansion and stability. Project mitigation measures include establishing a PIU at a central government agency that will assume responsibility for the project and help address potential governance challenges. The PIU will also set up a mechanism for transparent monitoring of project activities and implementation. The residual risk remains High.

188. **Technical design of the project: Substantial.** The project's technical design poses major risks to achieving the PDO. Some of the technical challenges lie in the transition to the digitalization of the PHC cartography and CAPI for the administration of the censuses and surveys in different countries. Significant resources are dedicated in Subcomponent 1.2 to ensure a successful transition. The World Bank has expertise in supporting this transition from its experience in many other countries, including FCV countries. Another dimension of technical risk stems from limited capacity in some NSOs involved in the project, particularly weak data processing ability. Even though in all participating countries Statistics Acts provide strict provisions protecting individual data collected during statistical operations, the use of digital devices such as mobile phones, tablets, or laptops for data collection constitutes a source of additional risk related to data privacy and protection to be considered. Solid, well-designed TA will be necessary, including data privacy protections. This risk will be mitigated through the formation of a Steering Committee in each participating country. The Steering Committee will involve all the relevant agencies, ensuring a coordinated reporting mechanism for project implementation and monitoring. At the regional level, the existing regional statistics committee, includes the following members: Director General in charge of statistics for all CEMAC countries and a representative of ISSEA, BEAC, World Bank and will be expanded to other stakeholders to play the role of Steering Committee or RPCC. A needs assessment on data protection will also be conducted in each participating country to identify gaps, and a data privacy protocol will be developed for the project activities and provide recommendations. Nevertheless, the residual risk remains Substantial.

189. **Institutional capacity and sustainability risk: Substantial.** One of the main weaknesses of statistical systems is their insufficient ability to create demand for statistics from their governments, due to, among others, lack of human resources, weak institutional capacity, and weak data access and dissemination. If this demand exists, governments will make greater efforts to secure financial resources for NSOs. The availability of future financial resources is also a concern and a potential threat to sustainability of project outcomes. Project activities designed to strengthen the human and technical abilities of NSOs and align deliverables with the priorities contained in their respective SNDS to restore their positive image will mitigate this risk. In addition, the World Bank will signal to donors the long-term engagement of statistical institutions in these countries and beyond through this regional initiative to reduce the risk of continued reliance on ad hoc donor financing.

190. **Fiduciary risks: Substantial.** Fiduciary responsibility rests with the PIU—the experienced implementing agency—that develops FM capacity and prepares/submits annual World Bank acceptable

project audits. The project will involve many statistical agencies, and some are better endowed in human resources than others. The PIU must have the capacity to implement World Bank-funded projects, sufficient staff, and establish appropriate audit controls and procedures. The mitigating measures include hiring or appointing enough qualified staff to handle procurement, FM, social and environment, and M&E tasks and provide them with adequate training when the project is implemented.

VII. RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND MONITORING

Results Framework

COUNTRY: Western and Central Africa

Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa - Series of Projects Two (HISWACA - SOP 2)

Project Development Objectives(s)

The Project Development Objective is to improve country statistical performance, regional harmonization, data access and use, and to enhance modernization of the statistical system in participating countries.

Project Development Objective Indicators

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
			1	
Improved stat. perf. indic. of partic. countries tailored on variables the project will influence				
Increase in statistical performance indicators of project participating countries tailored on variables the project will influence. (Percentage)		41.90	51.30	63.00
Cameroon (Percentage)		49.70	61.60	72.30
Central African Republic (Percentage)		31.90	42.40	52.80
Chad (Percentage)		44.20	50.00	64.00
Improved quality of data access and use				
Increase in users who are satisfied with the accessibility of statistical products as determined		0.00	3.00	10.00

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
			1	
by the user satisfaction survey (percentage) - disaggregated by participating countries. (Percentage)				
Cameroon (Percentage)		0.00	3.00	10.00
Central African Republic (Percentage)		0.00	3.00	10.00
Chad (Percentage)		0.00	3.00	10.00
Reports produced using statistics/datasets/indicators supported by the project and new data sources (Number)		0.00	3.00	6.00
Cameroon (Number)		0.00	1.00	2.00
Central African Republic (Number)		0.00	1.00	2.00
Chad (Number)		0.00	1.00	2.00
Improved regional harmonization and comparability of core statistics				
Harmonized core economic and social statistics produced according to the applicable regional standards and made publicly available on national or regional websites (Number)		0.00	3.00	9.00
Cameroon (Number)		0.00	1.00	3.00
Central African Republic (Number)		0.00	1.00	3.00
Chad (Number)		0.00	1.00	3.00
Enhanced modernization of national statistical systems (NSSs)				
New statistical products produced through the project financing using improved data collection and computerized data checking methods		0.00	3.00	6.00

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
			1	
(Number)				
Cameroon (Number)		0.00	1.00	2.00
Central African Republic (Number)		0.00	1.00	2.00
Chad (Number)		0.00	1.00	2.00

Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
			1	
Component 1: Harmonization and production of core statistics using harmonized methodologies				
Regional harmonization manuals for CPI, National Accounts, Poverty survey, and other statistics produced by CEMAC (Number)		1.00	2.00	4.00
New statistical products produced using surveys aligned with CEMAC harmonization manual and other new data sources (Number)		0.00	6.00	15.00
Cameroon (Number)		0.00	2.00	5.00
Central African Republic (Number)		0.00	2.00	5.00
Chad (Number)		0.00	2.00	5.00
UNSD minimum list gender indicators available using data collected under the project within the past five years (Number)		27.00	112.00	117.00
Cameroon (Number)		10.00	39.00	39.00
Central African Republic (Number)		8.00	34.00	39.00

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
			1	
Chad (Number)		9.00	39.00	39.00
Component 2: Statistical modernization, institutional reforms, human capital, data accessibility/use				
National platforms are upgraded to enable newly produced data generated by the project are made publicly accessible and stored in a secure data archive (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes
Cameroon (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes
Central African Republic (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes
Chad (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes
Provisional reports released on census and surveys financed by the project (Percentage)		0.00	30.00	100.00
Cameroon (Percentage)		0.00	30.00	100.00
Central African Republic (Percentage)		0.00	30.00	100.00
Chad (Percentage)		0.00	30.00	100.00
Forums conducted between producers and users to discuss survey design, findings and policy implications (Number)		0.00	6.00	15.00
Cameroon (Number)		0.00	2.00	5.00
Central African Republic (Number)		0.00	2.00	5.00
Chad (Number)		0.00	2.00	5.00
Female - Trained National Statistics System staff to be involved in new statistics production (Number)		0.00	50.00	105.00
Cameroon (Female) (Number)		0.00	35.00	70.00
Central African Republic (Female) (Number)		0.00	5.00	15.00
Chad (Female) (Number)		0.00	10.00	20.00

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
			1	
Male - Trained National Statistics System staff to be involved in new statistics production (Number)		0.00	150.00	400.00
Cameroon (Male) (Number)		0.00	100.00	200.00
Central African Republic (Male) (Number)		0.00	20.00	100.00
Chad (Male) (Number)		0.00	30.00	100.00
Female - Scholarship students who succeed in graduating (Number)		0.00	5.00	8.00
Central African Republic (Female) (Number)		0.00	2.00	3.00
Chad (Female) (Number)		0.00	3.00	5.00
Male - Scholarship students who succeed in graduating (Number)		0.00	11.00	35.00
Central African Republic (Male) (Number)		0.00	5.00	10.00
Chad (Male) (Number)		0.00	6.00	25.00
Data Quality Frameworks adopted the United Nations Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes
Cameroon (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes
Central African Republic (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes
Chad (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes
User satisfaction surveys conducted in participating countries (Yes/No)		No	Yes	Yes
Cameroon (Yes/No)		No	Yes	Yes
Central African Republic (Yes/No)		No	Yes	Yes
Chad (Yes/No)		No	Yes	Yes
Component 3: Construction, Upgrading and Modernization of Physical Infrastructure				

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	Intermediate Targets	End Target
			1	
Physical and/or ICT infrastructure upgraded and operational (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes
Cameroon (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes
Central African Republic (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes
Chad (Yes/No)		No	No	Yes

Monitoring & Evaluation Plan: PDO Indicators

Indicator Name	Definition/Description	Frequency	Datasource	Methodology for Data Collection	Responsibility for Data Collection
Increase in statistical performance indicators of project participating countries tailored on variables the project will influence.	The statistical performance indicators (SPI) is a diagnostic framework developed by the World Bank to assess the capacity of a country's statistical system across five pillars, namely, i)data use, ii) data services, iii) data products, iv) data sources, and iv) data infrastructure. The modified SPI focuses only on the variables the project will be able to influence. Please	Bi-annual	NSOs, SDG Custodian Agencies, Websites	Update to SP datasheet	NSOs

	refer Annex 4 for details.				
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					
Chad					
Increase in users who are satisfied with the accessibility of statistical products as determined by the user satisfaction survey (percentage) - disaggregated by participating countries.	Baseline user satisfaction surveys will be conducted in participating countries during the first year of the project and follow-up surveys at mid-term and a year before the end of the project. The indicator will measure if there was a 10 percentage points increase in users who expressed satisfaction with the quality of accessibility of core economic and social statistics produced by NSSs from the baselines. A common survey methodology agreed upon by the World Bank will be used by all participating countries. Please refer to Annex 4 for details on the measures of quality of access.	Bi-annual	Civil Society Organizations, academia, media	Review of survey reports	NSOs

Cameroon					
Central African Republic					
Chad					
Reports produced using statistics/datasets/indicators supported by the project and new data sources	Statistics/datasets/indicators produced by the project as well those from new data sources collected through cell phones, internet, satellite, remote sensors, consumption statistics etc. are in use when they inform analytical reports, national plans, sector strategies and other policy documents for the participating countries.	Bi-annual	NSOs, other government agencies, universities, research centers, NGOs, Civil Society organizations	Review of reports , national plans, sector strategies and other policy documents produced for each country	NSOs
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					
Chad					
Harmonized core economic and social statistics produced according to the applicable regional standards and made publicly available on national or regional websites	The core economic and social statistics to be considered by each participating country may include the following: (i) CPI (ii) National Accounts iii) Poverty Survey and iv) other statistics (business statistics, public finance, state	Bi-annual	Guidelines and survey documentation	Desk review	CEMAC

	financial transaction, trade statistics). Publicly available means available to the users on a website. Statistics are harmonized when produced using regional standard Methodologies produced by CEMAC.				
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					
Chad					
New statistical products produced through the project financing using improved data collection and computerized data checking methods	This refers two new statistical products produced by each participating country through project financing and using new technologies such as CAPI	Bi-annual	Project progress reports and statistical products	Desk review and mission reviews	NSOs
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					
Chad					

Monitoring & Evaluation Plan: Intermediate Results Indicators					
Indicator Name	**Definition/Description**	**Frequency**	**Datasource**	**Methodology for Data Collection**	**Responsibility for Data Collection**
Regional harmonization manuals for CPI, National Accounts, Poverty survey, and other statistics produced by CEMAC	This output relates standards under data infrastructure pillar of the SPI and regional harmonization efforts. Regional harmonization manuals refer to documents consisting internationally accepted statistical concepts, definitions and standards customized for African realities and produced by CEMAC. The harmonization manuals may cover updated CPI, National accounts, Poverty survey, and other statistics (such business statistics, public finance: state financial transaction, trade statistics). The updated CPI will be produced in year one of the project.	Bi-annual	CEMAC	Desk Review	CEMAC
New statistical products produced using surveys aligned with CEMAC harmonization manual and other new data sources	This intermediate result relates to data products and data source pillars of SPI. It covers the production of	Bi-annual	NSOs, Surveys and documentations	Desk review	NSOs

	five statistical products across social, economic, environmental and institutional aspects as per the CEMAC regional harmonization manuals as well as those accessed from administrative data, geospatial data, private sector data and citizen generated data by each project participating country.				
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					
Chad					
UNSD minimum list gender indicators available using data collected under the project within the past five years	This intermediate result relates to data products and data source pillars of SPI. It covers the UNSD minimum list gender Indicators collected under the project within the past five years and released by each participating country.	Bi-annual	NSOs and websites	Desk and website review	NSOs
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					

Chad					
National platforms are upgraded to enable newly produced data generated by the project are made publicly accessible and stored in a secure data archive	The indicator relates to data services pillar of the SPI and refers to the availability of information to users at national level. It covers the functionality of national platforms (could be website, database or data access portal). The upgraded platforms will enable access, archiving and dissemination of newly produced data generated by the project.	Bi-annual	Websites	Review of websites	NSOs
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					
Chad					
Provisional reports released on census and surveys financed by the project	Provisional reports released by participating countries 12 months after completion of data collection on census and surveys financed by the Project.	Bi-annual	NSOs and survey reports	Desk review	NSOs
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					

Chad					
Forums conducted between producers and users to discuss survey design, findings and policy implications	This indicator relates to the use of data pillar of the SPI. It refers to the extent of relevance of the statistics produced and disseminated. It covers five forums between producers and users on design and dissemination of statistical products findings and policy implications by each participating country.	Bi-annual	NSOs, other government agencies, universities, research centers, NGOs, Civil Society organizations	Review of progress reports	NSOs
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					
Chad					
Female - Trained National Statistics System staff to be involved in new statistics production	The number of staff who are trained to: produce welfare and macro economic statistics; use CAPI in data collection of census, CPI, national accounts, labor statistics, agricultural production, household, enterprises, agriculture, etc; and other training topics identified by each participating country NSO.	Bi-annual	NSOs/Project progress reports	Desk review	NSOs

	The staff could include candidates from NSOs and line ministries within the statistical system.				
Cameroon (Female)					
Central African Republic (Female)					
Chad (Female)					
Male - Trained National Statistics System staff to be involved in new statistics production	The number of staff who are trained to: produce welfare and macro economic statistics; use CAPI in data collection of census, CPI, national accounts, labor statistics, agricultural production, household, enterprises, agriculture, etc; and other training topics identified by each participating country NSO. The staff could include candidates from NSOs and line ministries within the statistical system.	Bi-annual	NSOs/Project progress reports	Desk Review	NSOs
Cameroon (Male)					
Central African Republic (Male)					
Chad (Male)					

Female - Scholarship students who succeed in graduating	Scholarships refer to diploma or degree level statistics related courses offered to candidates from each participating country with full funding to study in local or regional statistics schools. The students are those who succeed in graduting from the statistical school.	Bi-annual	NSOs/PIUs/Project progress reports	Desk review	NSOs
Central African Republic (Female)					
Chad (Female)					
Male - Scholarship students who succeed in graduating	Scholarships refer to diploma or degree level statistics related courses offered to candidates from each participating country with full funding to study in local or regional statistics schools. The students are those who succeed in gradating from the statistical school.	Bi-annual	NSOs/PIU/Project Progress reports	Desk review	NSOs
Central African Republic (Male)					
Chad (Male)					
Data Quality Frameworks adopted the United Nations Quality Assurance	United Nations Quality Assurance Frameworks	Bi-annual	NSOs	Desk review	NSOs

Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics	Manual for Official Statistics (UN NQAF Manual) is applied. The manual is found at: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/dataquality/				
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					
Chad					
User satisfaction surveys conducted in participating countries	Baseline user satisfaction surveys will be conducted in participating countries during the first year of the project and follow-up surveys at mid-term and a year before the end of the project. A common survey methodology agreed by the Bank will be used by all participating countries.	Bi-annual	Civil society organizations, Academia, Media	Review of survey reports	NSOs
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					
Chad					
Physical and/or ICT infrastructure upgraded and operational	This output relates to upgrading of physical infrastructures, curriculum of statistics schools; and use	Bi-annual	NSOs and Statistical Schools	Progress reports and direct review	NSOs

	of IT solutions by NSOs. It may include both building and rehabilitation of physical infrastructure and enhancement of ICT infrastructure for NSOs and Statistical Schools. Physical construction does not apply for Cameroon.				
Cameroon					
Central African Republic					
Chad					

ANNEX 1: Description of Project Activities

Table A1.1: Country-Specific Activities under Components 1–4

	CEMAC and ISSEA	Cameroon	Central African Republic	Chad
Component 1: Harmonization and Production of Core Statistics using International Data Quality Standards (US$194.5 million)				
Subcomponent 1.1: Regional Coordination and Adoption of Harmonized Data Quality Standards (US$12.0 million)				
Statistical Standards Harmonization	●			
Regional Coordination Meetings and Workshops	●			
Capacity Building through Regional Workshops	●			
Peer Review of Statistical Productions and Systems	●			
Peer to Peer Learnings/Exchange of Experiece	●			
TA from Peers	●			
TA from CEMAC	●			
Subcomponent 1.2: Demographic and Socio-Economic Statistical Production (US$94.3 million)				
Population and Housing Census		●	●	●
Household Income and Expenditure Survey		●	●	●
Annual Labor Force Survey		●	●	●
Quarterly Labor Force Survey		●	●	●
Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)		●		●
Demogarphic and Health Survey (DHS)		●	●	●
Other on-demand and Non-annual Surveys		●	●	●
Subcomponent 1.3: Real and Fiscal Sector Statistical Production (US$28.9 million)				
Source Data Collection and Adoption of Improved National Accounts Standards				
Enterprise Census		●	●	●
Enterprise Surveys		●	●	●
Informal Cross Border Trade Survey		●	●	●
Other Data Collection		●	●	●
Rebasing of national Accounts		●	●	●
Capacity Building on 2025 SNA		●	●	●
Electronic DSF Platform Development		●	●	●
Improvement of Balance Of Payments		●	●	●
Quarterly National Accounts Improvement		●	●	●
Regional National Accounts		●	●	●
Satellite Accounts		●		●
Modernization and Adoption of Improved CPI Standards				
CAPI Adoption for Data Collection		●		
Rebasing of CPI		●	●	●
Implementation of CEMAC Harmonized Methodology		●	●	●
Expansion of CPI Geographical Coverage		●	●	●
Adoption of the Latest COICOP		●	●	●
Improved Government Finance Statistics Standards				
Adoption of the GFS Manual 2014		●	●	●
Production of debt statistics				●
Subcomponent 1.4. Agricultural and Climate Change Statistical Production (US$40.5 million)				
Implementation of an Integrated System of Agricultural Sample Censuses and Surveys				
Agriculture Census		●	●	●
Integrated System of Annual Agriculture Surveys		●	●	●
Geo-spatial, Remote Sensing and Climate Data Collection				
Collection and production of core climate change statistics		●	●	●
Use of Geo-spatial Data		●	●	●
Subcomponent 1.5: Sectoral and Sub-national Administrative Data Curation (US$18.9 million)				
Heath Statistics				●
Education Statistics			●	●
Agriculture Statistics		●		●
Labor Statistics		●		●
Other Administrative Data		●	●	●
Capacity building of NSO Regional offices		●	●	●

	CEMAC and ISSEA	Cameroon	Central African Republic	Chad
Component 2: Statistical Modernization, Institutional Reform, Human Capital, Data Accessibility and Use (US$30.6 million)				
Subcomponent 2.1: Statistical Modernization of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) (US$1.1 million)				
Production of statistics using new data sources		●	●	●
Subcomponent 2.2: Institutional Reforms for Selected National Statistical Systems (NSSs) (US$3.1 million)				
Establishment of a Statistics Fund Technical Assistance		●	●	
Establishment of a Data Quality Framework		●	●	●
Drafting of NSDS		●	●	●
Assessment of the National Data Protection Framework		●	●	●
Drafting of Data Protection Framework		●	●	●
Subcomponent 2.3: Enhance Human Capital (US$7.9 million)				
On the Job Trainings		●	●	●
Scholarships for Students		●	●	●
Support to Statistics Schools	●			●
Subcomponent 2.4: Data Accessibility and Dissemination (US$3.5 million)				
Implementing an Open Data System		●	●	●
Establishment of Microdata Access Plateform		●	●	●
Improvement of the IMF Data Dissemination Standards		●	●	●
Subcomponent 2.5: Data Use and Analysis to Inform Public Policy (US$15.0 million)				
Establishment of a Social Accounting Matrix		●	●	●
Implementation of BOOST		●	●	●
Macroeconimic Modelling/Forecasting		●	●	●
Data Literacy Campaigns/Workshops		●	●	●
Monitoring/Evaluation of National Development Plan		●	●	●
Component 3: Construction, Upgrading and Modernization of Physical Infrastructure (US$48.8 million)				
Subcomponent 3.1: Construction and Infrastructure Upgrading of selected National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and				
Construction of New Buildings for NSOs			●	●
Construction of New Building for National Statistical School				●
Rehabilitation of exisiting Building	●*	●		
Furnishing of new or existing Buildings	●	●	●	●
Subcomponent 3.2: Modernization of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Statistical Infrastructure				
Procurement of IT Equipment	●	●	●	●
Setting Up of Data Center	●**	●	●	●
Procurement of Software	●	●	●	●
GIS and CAPI Equipment	●	●	●	●
Video-Conferencing Equipment	●	●	●	●
Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation (US$16.2 million)				
Subcomponent 4.1: Project Management (US$13.7 million)				
Project Management	●	●	●	●
Subcomponent 4.2: Project Results and User Satisfaction Monitoring (US$1.5 million)				
Project Results and User Satisfaction Monitoring		●	●	●
Subcomponent 4.3: Perform-based financing – Central African Republic - ICASEES (US$1.0 million)				
Perform-based financing			●	

* The renovation activity is only in ISSEA and not in CEMAC.

** Data center will be set up only in CEMAC and not in ISSEA.

ANNEX 2: Implementation Arrangements and Support Plan

Regional-Level Implementation Arrangement

1. **CEMAC.** The Directorate of Statistics will provide a convening platform at the subregional level; support country NSOs by making harmonization tools (protocols, standards, and concepts) and platforms (data warehouses and communication tools) available; provide training activities and workshops to facilitate peer learning and institutional cooperation; and lead subregional data dissemination, communication, and use. Within the Directorate of Statistics, a dedicated PIU will be established to manage the project activities to be implemented by CEMAC. The Director of Statistics of CEMAC will be the project coordinator, with fiduciary responsibility. The following qualified PIU staff will be hired or assigned and/or maintain at all times during the implementation of the Project: (a) an M&E specialist; (b) an FM specialist; (c) a procurement specialist; (d) an accountant; (e) a communication specialist; (f) an environmental specialist; (g) a social specialist; (h) a GBV consultant; (i) a communication specialist; and (j) a security risk consultant (on aa as needed basis); all with terms of reference (ToR), qualifications and experience satisfactory to the World Bank and as further defined in the POM. The PIU shall be responsible for: (i) day-to-day management and coordination of the implementation of activities under the project; (ii) the preparation, adjustments, and implementation of the project management tools, including inter alia, the POM, AWP&B, and procurement plans; (iii) the preparation of a consolidated report on the implementation of the project components; and (iv) for compliance with ESS and fiduciary aspects of the Project.

Country-Level Implementation Arrangement

2. **Cameroon.** The INS will be the implementing agency of the project in Cameroon. The General Director of INS will be the coordinator and responsible for overseeing the project's implementation. The following qualified PIU staff will be hired or appointed and thereafter maintained at all times during the project implementation: (a) a project operations manager; (b) an M&E specialist; (c) an FM specialist; (d) an accountant; (e) a procurement specialist; (f) an assistant procurement specialist; (g) a communication specialist; (h) an internal auditor; (i) a social specialist with experience on indigenous people; (j) an environmental specialist; (k) a GBV specialist; (l) a security risk consultant to oversee the implementation of the security management plan (SMP); and (m) any other staff needed, all with ToR, qualifications and experience satisfactory to the World Bank. Several NSS stakeholders will be involved in implementation, including the INS technical directorates, the BUCREP, the National Bureau of Civil Status (*Bureau National de l'Etat Civil, BUNEC)*, and the National Institute of Cartography (*Institut National de la Cartographie, INC)*, as well as selected sectoral ministries. The INS will oversee (a) the day-to-day management and execution of activities supported under the project components and subcomponents; (b) the preparation of annual activities and Procurement Plans; (c) the drafting of contract documents; and (d) the preparation of consolidated reports on the implementation and M&E of the project components. In the beneficiary agencies and sectoral ministries, a focal point will be designated to coordinate implementation.

3. **The Central African Republic.** Based on the experience in managing ongoing projects and given the scope of activities under this regional project, a PIU will be established within ICASEES. The Director General of ICASEES will provide overall coordination of project activities. As the PIU of the ongoing statistical project (P160717): the Central African Republic Data for Decision Making, ICASEES has strong project implementation experience. As a result, it will continue to serve as the PIU of this project and will

operate under the coordination of the Director General of ICASEES. The existing PIU of the ongoing statistics project will be strengthened, and the following PIU staff positions will be maintained at all times during the project implementation: (a) a Project operations manager; (b) a M&E specialist; (c) a procurement specialist; (d) a procurement assistant; (e) a FM specialist; (f) an internal auditor; (g) an accountant; (h) an assistant accountant; and (i) social specialist; (j) an environmental specialist; (k) GBV specialist; (l) a security consultant; (m) an Indigenous Peoples' consultant; and (n) any other staff needed all with ToR, qualifications and experience satisfactory to the World Bank. ICASEES will be responsible for (a) the day-to-day implementation of activities supported under these project subcomponents; (b) the preparation of annual activity and Procurement Plans; (c) the drafting of contract documents; and (iv) the preparation of a consolidated report on the implementation of the project components. Since the project will also be supporting sectoral ministries, a focal point will be identified in each of these sectoral ministries for the monitoring and day-to-day supervision of their activities.

4. **Chad.** Given its successful experience in implementing a World Bank project (P159434), INSEED is the Project Implementing Entity (PIE) and shall establish a PIU for this regional project. The Director General of INSEED is the project coordinator, with fiduciary responsibility. INSEED will (a) recruit and thereafter maintain at all times throughout Project implementation (i) a senior FM specialist; (ii) an accountant; (iii) a procurement specialist; (iv) a M&E, (v) a communication specialist; and (vi) a social specialist with experience with working with traditional pastoralist communities; (v) an environmental specialist; (vi) a GBV specialist; (vii) a security risk consultant; and (viii) any other staff needed; and (b) appoint and thereafter maintain at all times throughout project implementation a project operations manager; all with ToR, qualifications and experience satisfactory to the World Bank. Some activities may be outsourced to third parties through contract agreements acceptable to the World Bank. Implementation will be the responsibility of the NSS actors, INSEED's technical directorates, the National Statistics Council, and the beneficiary sectoral ministries. This responsibility will include (a) the day-to-day management and execution of activities supported under the project subcomponents; (b) the preparation of annual activity and Procurement Plans; (c) the drafting of contract documents; and (d) the preparation of a consolidated report on the implementation of the project components. Since the project will also be supporting the Director of Statistics of sectoral ministries, a focal point will be identified in each of these sectoral ministries for the monitoring and day-to-day supervision of the activities implemented for these sectoral ministries.

ANNEX 3: Financial Management and Procurement

I. Financial Management

1. To ensure readiness for implementation and to maintain an adequate FM system in each of the selected PIUs, the following FM action plan for the project is proposed, with the entity responsible for each action and the completion date (Table A3.1).

Table A3.1: Financial Management Action Plan

Issue/Topic	Action Recommended	Responsible	Completion Status/Date
All countries and CEMAC			
External auditing	Recruitment and appointment of an external auditor	Respective governments/CEMAC	Within six months of project effectiveness
All countries and CEMAC			
Administrative, accounting, and financial procedures	Adopt the FM procedures as part of the POM.	Respective governments/ CEMAC	Before project effectiveness
Central African Republic; and CEMAC			
Internal auditing	Recruit or assign an internal auditor.	Respective governments/CEMAC	Within six months of project effectiveness
Specifics			
Cameroon			
Staffing	Recruit an FM specialist.	Government of Cameroon	Within six months of project effectiveness
	Recruit an accountant.	Government of Cameroon	Within six months of project effectiveness
Information system accounting software	Purchase, install, and configure accounting software to consider the specificity of the project.	Government of Cameroon	Not later than three months after project effectiveness
Chad			
Staffing	Recruit a senior FM specialist and an accountant.	Government of Chad	Before project effectiveness
Information system accounting software	Customize the accounting software to consider the specificity of project activities.	Government of Chad	Within three months of project effectiveness
Internal auditing	Recruit an internal auditor	Government of Chad	Within three months of project effectiveness
Central African Republic			
Staffing	Maintain the current team and recruit/appoint an operations officer and FM specialist.	Government of the Central African Republic	Within three months of project effectiveness
Information system accounting software	Customize the accounting software to take into account the specificity of the project activities.	Government of the Central African Republic	Within three months of project effectiveness

Issue/Topic	Action Recommended	Responsible	Completion Status/Date
CEMAC			
Staffing	Recruit an FM specialist.	CEMAC	Before project effectiveness
	Recruit an accountant.	CEMAC	Before project effectiveness
	Recruit a procurement specialist.	CEMAC	Before project effectiveness
Information system accounting software	Purchase, install, configure and thereafter maintain and use, an accounting software with parameters that take into consideration the specificity of the project.	CEMAC	Within three months of project effectiveness

(a) Budgeting Arrangements

2. **The national PIUs in Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, and the Statistical Directorate of CEMAC will each prepare an AWP&B in accordance with the core activities for their countries and organizations, in line with the project design.** Project beneficiary implementing entities will submit their budgets to the respective national and regional lead implementing entities for review and consolidation. The AWP&B will then be approved by respective Project Steering Committees of each participating country and submitted to the World Bank not later than November 30 of each calendar year throughout project's implementation. For CEMAC, the AWP&B will be validated by the RPCC and adopted by the Recipients' College of Commissioners after the World Bank's no objection.

3. **The implementing entities will monitor the project's execution through the project accounting software in accordance with the laid-out budgeting procedures specified in the FM procedures as part of the POMs.** Entities will report on budget variances between approved budget and actual budget line expenditures along with quarterly or semiannual unaudited IFRs. The budgeting system will forecast the anticipated funds to be spent each fiscal year, which will be tracked monthly. Only budgeted expenditures will be committed and incurred to ensure that resources are used within the agreed-upon allocations and for the intended purposes. The quarterly IFRs will be used to monitor the execution of the AWP&B. At the same time, the budgets will be as flexible as possible to enable better response to any new relevant issues that may arise during implementation.

(b) Accounting Arrangements

4. **Accounting policies, procedures, and information system.** Overall, accounting procedures are adequate for the selected project implementing entities of the three countries and CEMAC (see Table A3.1).

5. **Accounting staff.** To accommodate the new project in the existing FM system in place within the selected implementing entities, several actions are recommended. All accounting staff will be trained in

the World Bank FM and disbursement procedures as well as in the use of the project accounting software where needed (see Table A3.1).

6. **Accounting standards and basis.** The project's financial statements will be prepared using any acceptable national and international accounting standards, considering IDA/IBRD requirements and specificities related to external-financed investment projects. Information about the project cash receipts, project cash payments, and project cash balances of an entity will be necessary for accountability purposes. It will also provide inputs useful for assessment of the project's ability to assess how much cash it will receive and the level of expenditures from the same.

(c) Internal Control and Internal Audit Arrangements

7. **Internal controls.** The internal control procedures will be documented in the FM procedures as part of the POM for each of the project implementing entities, considering gaps in their existing FM procedures/regulations to ensure that project FM arrangements are in line with the Financing Agreements. These efforts will ensure that the new project has an effective internal control system covering the procedures required to support activities under the four components, including those that will be carried out with subnational and local actors. A review of the internal control systems noted no major internal control or accountability issues. The PIUs in Chad, and the Central African Republic will update the existing FM procedures as part of the POM, before the project effectiveness to fit the needs of the new project. The INS in Cameroon will elaborate the POM, including fiduciary procedures, before effectiveness, while CEMAC will develop administrative, accounting, and financial procedures as part of the POM before effectiveness.

8. **Internal audit.** Robust internal audit arrangements are in place in all implementing entities. The agreed internal audit arrangements for each of the selected implementing entities are as follows:

(a) **Cameroon.** The organization of INS includes an inspection of services in charge of auditing.

(b) **Chad.** INSEED will recruit and maintain an internal auditor, within three months after effectiveness.

(c) **The Central African Republic.** INS will recruit or appoint and maintain an internal auditor, within six months after effectiveness.

9. **Internal auditors in each of the implementing entities will be required to conduct a periodic risk-based fiduciary review of the project, including time-bound action plans to strengthen the internal control environment.** In each PIU, except in Cameroon, and Chad, the project's internal auditors will be required to generate semiannual internal audit reports which should be shared with relevant stakeholders, including the World Bank, within 45 days after the calendar semester. In the PIUs in Cameroon and Chad, the internal auditors will conduct the audit mission quarterly, and the internal audit reports will be submitted to the World Bank within 45 days after the end of the calendar quarter. CEMAC will submit its respective semiannual internal audit reports not later than 45 days after the end of the period covered by the said reports. An action plan should be issued by the internal auditors as an annex to their semiannual reports, to ensure timely implementation of the key actions recommended by the internal auditors.

(d) Governance and Anti-Corruption Arrangements

10. **All countries' implementing entities and the regional organization will follow their institutional rules/regulation/guidelines/policies and procedures.** FM arrangements will ensure that there are internal control systems in place and audits conducted to prevent and detect fraud and corruption. Transparency and accountability are highly encouraged by putting the project budget and audited financial statements on the project implementing entity's websites where applicable. The implementing entities will take all appropriate measures to prevent fraud and corruption in connection with the use of loan proceeds, including (but not limited to: (a) adopting appropriate fiduciary and administrative practices and institutional arrangements to ensure that the proceeds of the loan are used only for the purposes for which the loan was granted and (b) ensuring that all of its representatives involved with the project and all recipients of loan proceeds with which it enters into an agreement related to the project receive a copy of the World Bank's IPF Anti-Corruption Guidelines and are made aware of its contents to immediately report to the World Bank any allegations of fraud and corruption in connection with the use of loan proceeds that come to their attention. Complaint-handling mechanisms should also be set up by the project implementing entities so that beneficiaries who are not receiving services as planned have a mechanism to raise their complaints and ensure that they are followed up and addressed. This will involve putting a system in place to record all complaints received, directing them to the person responsible for addressing them, and record when a response is sent to the complainant.

(e) Funds Flow and Disbursement Arrangements

11. **Designated and project accounts.** Each of the PIUs, including the PIU at CEMAC, will open a Designated Account (DA) at a Commercial Bank denominated in CFA francs under terms and conditions satisfactory to the World Bank.

12. **Disbursements.** All project implementing entities in the three participating countries (Cameroon, Chad, and the Central African Republic) and CEMAC will access funding from the World Bank, using the disbursement methods described in the World Bank Disbursement Handbook (that is, advance, direct payment, reimbursement, and special commitments). Detailed disbursement procedures will be documented in FM procedures as part of the POM. Upon credit/grant/loan effectiveness, each implementing entity will be required to submit a withdrawal application for an initial deposit to the DA, drawn from the IDA credit/grant and IBRD loan in an amount to be agreed to in the Disbursement and Financial Information Letter. Further deposit of funds from IDA/IBRD to the DAs will be made upon evidence of satisfactory utilization of the advance, reflected in Statements of Expenditure for all the implementing entities. Any of the selected implementing entities could switch to the report-based disbursement method if needed upon the approval of the World Bank.

13. **If ineligible expenditures are found to have been made from the designated and/or project accounts, the borrower will be obligated to refund the same.** If the DA remains inactive for more than three months, the World Bank may reduce the amount advanced. The World Bank will have the right, as reflected in the Financing/Loan Agreement, to suspend disbursement of the funds if significant conditions, including reporting requirements, are not complied with. Additional details regarding disbursement will be provided in the disbursement letters.

14. **The General Conditions require the borrower/recipient to retain all records (contracts, orders, invoices, bills, receipts, and other documents) evidencing eligible expenditures and to enable the World**

Bank's representative to examine such records. They also require the records to be retained for at least one year following receipt by the World Bank of the final audited financial statement required in accordance with the Legal Agreement or two years after the closing date, whichever is later. The borrower is responsible for ensuring that document retention beyond the period required by the Legal Agreement complies with its government's regulations.

(f) Financial Reporting Arrangements

15. **PIUs in Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, and CEMAC will prepare quarterly unaudited IFRs in form and content satisfactory to the World Bank, which will be submitted to the World Bank within 45 days after the end of the calendar quarter to which they relate.** The frequency, formats, and contents of the IFRs agreed between the World Bank and the country representatives. The contents of the IFR for all implementing entities will include the following information to account for project funds:

- Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds
- Statement of Uses of Funds by Project Activity/Component
- DA Activity Statement
- Disbursement Forecast
- Bank statements for both the DA and related Bank reconciliation statements
- Summary statement of DA expenditures for contracts subject to prior review
- Summary statement of DA expenditures not subject to prior review.

16. **All the above selected implementing entities will also prepare annual financial statements for the project within three months after the end of the accounting year.** These financial statements will comply with SYSCOHADA or any international accounting standards acceptable to the World Bank. In the three countries, regardless of the accounting standards used, the project's financial statements would comply with the World Bank requirements. The audited financial statements must be submitted to the World Bank within six months after the fiscal year-end.

(g) External Auditing Arrangements

17. **All the selected implementing entities will use private audit firms that are acceptable to the World Bank; the project will meet the costs of hiring a private audit firm.** All audits will be carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. ToR for each implementing entity in the above three countries will be agreed with the World Bank.

18. **For the three countries (Cameroon, Chad, and the Central African Republic) and CEMAC,** the audit reports for the project accounts, together with management letters, should be submitted to the World Bank within six months after the end of the Government's fiscal year (December 31).

19. **All the audit reports will be publicly disclosed by the World Bank in accordance with the World Bank disclosure policy.** The respective recipients/borrowers shall ensure that the PIUs recruit, not later

than six months after the effective date, an external auditor, under ToR and with qualifications and experience satisfactory to the World Bank, to annually audit the project's financial statements.

Table A3.2: Financial Management Activity and Its Frequency

FM activity	Frequency
Desk reviews	
IFRs review	Quarterly
Audit report review of the project	Annually
Review of other relevant information such as interim internal control systems reports or internal audit/General Inspectorate of Finance (*Inspection Générale des Finances*, IGF) reports	Continuous as they become available
On-site visits	
Review of overall operations of the FM system	At least twice a year for each PIU
Monitoring of actions taken on issues highlighted in audit reports, auditors' management letters, internal audit, and other reports	As needed
Transaction reviews (if needed)	As needed
Capacity-building support	
FM training sessions	During implementation and as needed

II. Procurement

20. **Procedures.** For all implementing agencies in the three countries and the regional organization, procurement under the proposed project will be carried out in accordance with the Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated November 2020 (as amended from time to time); the 'Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants' dated July 1, 2016; and beneficiary disclosure requirements, as well as other provisions stipulated in the project Legal Agreements.

21. **Goods and non-consulting services will be procured** in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in 'Section VI. Approved Selection Methods: Goods, Works, and Non-Consulting Services of the Procurement Regulations', and consulting services will be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in 'Section VII. Approved Selection Methods: Consulting Services of the Procurement Regulations'. All these requirements have been reflected in the PPSD and the procurement plans to be approved by the World Bank.

22. **All procuring entities as well as bidders and service providers, that is, suppliers, contractors, and consultants,** shall observe the highest standard of ethics during procurement and execution of contracts financed under the project in accordance with paragraph 3.32 and Annex IV of the Procurement Regulations. When procurement is done on the national market, as agreed in the Procurement Plan, the country's own procurement procedures may be used with the requirements set forth or referred to in paragraphs 5.3–5.6 related to National Procurement Procedures. For all works (Central African Republic, and Chad) contracts, procurements that apply SPD will adopt provisions of the World Bank related to environmental, social (including SEA and GBV), health, and safety risks and impacts. This includes codes of conduct that include prohibitions against SH and sexual abuse.

23. **Procurement capacity assessments.** Consistent with the above procurement arrangements, different procurement assessments have been carried out for the six implementing agencies in the various countries/regional organization by the respective World Bank procurement specialists in accordance with the World Bank PRAMS. The implementing agencies are as follows:

(a) **At the regional level.** CEMAC will coordinate the implementation of the regional program at the CEMAC level.

(b) **At the national level.** Cameroon INS, the Central African Republic ICASEES, and Chad INSEED.

24. **The procurement capacity assessments** were carried out as required for any implementing agency for an IPF. The detailed procurement assessments and suggested measures to address identified inadequacies and risks are presented below and summarized in the tables.

CEMAC

25. **CEMAC will be responsible for implementing procurement activities under the regional program at the CEMAC level.** A new procurement specialist will be hired to assist and advise on the implementation of the procurement activities with the support of the procurement specialist of CEMAC.

26. **The risk associated to the procurement is High.** The main risk is related to the weak experience of CEMAC in managing World Bank-funded projects that may lead to several issues such as (a) cases of mis-procurement; (b) delays in the procurement processes and implementation of contracts; (c) lack of adherence to procedures due to inadequate understanding of Procurement Regulations; and (d) inadequate use of STEP.

27. **Based on the findings of the risk assessment, the overall procurement risk rating for CEMAC is High.** The risk can be reduced to a residual rating of Substantial upon considering successful implementation of the mitigation measures provided in Table A3.3.

Table A3.3: Project Procurement Risk Factors and Action Plan for CEMAC

Risk/issue	Action	Responsibility	Timeline
No experience and understanding of the World Bank procurement procedures	Trainings on the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for the CEMAC Team	World Bank's Procurement Team	At the early stage of the project implementation
No experience of the CEMAC procurement specialist on the World Bank's Procurement procedures	Recruit an experienced procurement specialist	CEMAC	Before project effectiveness
Lack of adherence to procedures due to inadequate understanding of the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers	The World Bank will provide constant support to staff to ensure adherence to the Procurement Regulations. Both PIU staff and key actors involved in project implementation will receive training on the Procurement Regulations.	World Bank's Procurement Team	During project implementation

Risk/issue	Action	Responsibility	Timeline
Inadequate use of STEP resulting in many activities being flagged as delayed or pending implementation	The project PIU staff will be trained on the use of STEP. The PIU will ensure that STEP is adequately used, including timely uploading of required documentation once the stages of the processes are completed.	World Bank's Procurement Team PIU	During project implementation
Managing fraud, corruption, and noncompliance	Ex-ante due diligence of firms selected will be attempted using databases available in country and externally. Post review of contracts will be scheduled immediately on award of contracts.	PIU World Bank's procurement team	During project implementation

Cameroon

28. The assessment carried out by the World Bank procurement specialist for INS, in December 2022, based on the PRAMS principles showed that the main issues/risks concerning the procurement activities for the project's implementation are as follows:

(a) The public procurement code is not sufficiently improved to comply with international best practices. This affects the quality of the SPDs, POM, and other regulatory instruments used.

(b) The agency has difficulties in preparing realistic Procurement Plans with realistic budgets.

(c) Staff involved in the project may not have sufficient knowledge of the New Procurement Framework (NPF) and/or there is a risk of confusion with previous sets of guidelines.

(d) There is a lack of proficient procurement staff to implement actions on time and in line with the NPF.

(e) In addition to administrative routines, inadequate communication and interaction between the stakeholders may lead to delays in procurement processes.

(f) The agency has difficulties in producing and keeping a written record of all contracting and implementation activities.

(g) There are corruption risks in the procurement of high-value contracts.

(h) There are weaknesses in contract management.

(i) There is limited knowledge of the target markets.

29. **The overall procurement risk is rated High.** All these risks can cause mis-procurement, delays in the evaluation of bids and technical proposals leading to implementation delays, poor quality of contract deliverables, and reputational risks to the World Bank and the project. The proposed mitigation measures are listed in Table A3.4 to address these risks. The residual risk will be Substantial after implementing this action plan.

Central African Republic

30. **The national-level procurement will be done by the implementation unit within the ICASEES.** The ICASEES has relevant experience managing projects financed by the World Bank. This includes the Data for Decision Making project (P160717) and additional financing. The unit is staffed with an experienced procurement specialist trained in various aspects of the NPF including the selection of consultant firms and individuals. The procurement specialist gained relevant experience in implementing specific procurement activities statistics survey, trainings, and data collection. However, some weaknesses are noted particularly in contract implementation leading to delays in the execution. The risks associated with the contract's implementation will be properly identified in the PPSD for each large contract as well as the mitigation measures. In addition, an assistant will be recruited to assist and support the procurement specialist who will also be engaged in the ongoing project's implementation.

31. **The risk associated with procurement is Substantial.** The main risk is related to the weak capacity of the PIU in contract management leading to delays in the implementation of contracts. In addition to this, (a) inadequate use of STEP; (b) cases of mis-procurement; (c) delays in the procurement processes, and so on are noted.

32. The residual risk is expected to be Moderate once the mitigation measures in Table A3.4 are implemented.

Chad

33. **Institutional arrangement.** The new PIU will be established in INSEED and will be responsible for implementing all fiduciary activities comprising procurement for the current project.

34. **Procurement risk assessment.** The last procurement performance rating of the Chad Statistical Development Project (PDST) project was Moderately Satisfactory. A summary procurement risk assessment of the PIU was carried out. The main issues/risks concerning the procurement activities for the project's implementation are associated with the current country procurement system, delays experienced in various World Bank-financed projects with approval of bids evaluation reports, and possible delays in the approval of contracts. Other risks are (a) insufficient procurement staff to conduct procurement activities; (b) the PIU not having enough experience in the new Procurement Regulations; (c) overall poor management of contracts; (d) lack of acceptable procurement procedure as part of the POM, and (e) poor filing which can lead to loss of documents. The World Bank team recommends the following measures for the speedy implementation of project activities and to expect to reduce this risk: (a) reinforcing the procurement specialist in place by recruiting an additional senior procurement specialist and junior procurement specialist; (b) training the procurement team on the New Procurement Policy for investment projects and technical experts involved in project implementation in World Bank basic procurement procedures; (c) putting in place a contract management plan and contract execution mechanism; and (d) improving the filing system to ensure compliance with the World Bank procurement filing system (STEP).

35. **The overall procurement risk is rated Substantial.** The residual risk is expected to be Moderate once the mitigation measures in Table A3.4 are implemented.

Table A3.4: Project Procurement Risk Factors and Action Plan for Countries

	Risk/Issue	Action	Responsibility	Timeline
CAMEROON	Staff involved in the project may not have sufficient knowledge of the NPF, and administrative routines may increase delays in procurement.	Capacity building will be provided to the team and members of the Special Tenders Board by the World Bank on NPF procurement.	World Bank/client	During project implementation
	Public procurement code is not sufficiently improved to comply with international best practice.	The World Bank's procurement regulations for IPF borrowers will be applied.	PIU or client	During project implementation
	Lack of proficient procurement staff to implement actions on time and in line with the NPF	A procurement specialist with good knowledge of the World Bank's NPF including STEP certification will be recruited.	Client	Before project effectiveness
		An assistant procurement specialist with good knowledge of the World Bank's NPF including STEP certification and contract management will be recruited.	Client	No later than six months after project effectiveness
	The agency has difficulties in producing and keeping a written record of all contracting and implementation activities.	Documents and data will be recorded in STEP as activities are implemented.	PIU or client	During project implementation
	Corruption risks in the procurement of high-value contracts.	The procurement process for high-value and high-risk contracts will be followed closely.	World Bank	During project implementation
	Weaknesses in contract management.	Develop a contract management plan for project.	PIU and client	No later than six months after project effectiveness
	Limited knowledge of the target markets.	A market analysis will be conducted at least for each high-value or high-risk contract.	PIU or client	No later than one month after project effectiveness
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	Slow procurement processing and potential delays, due to limited capacity to conduct specific procurement related to consultant services and heavy workload.	Training on procurement for works will be organized (monthly procurement clinics are organized for the portfolio by the World Bank's procurement team). A procurement assistant will be recruited. The PIU will put in place mechanisms for regular follow-up and monitoring of procurement processes.	PIU	During project implementation Before project effectiveness During project implementation

	Risk/Issue	Action	Responsibility	Timeline
	Inadequate use of STEP resulting in many activities being flagged as delayed or pending implementation.	The PIU will ensure that STEP is adequately used, including timely uploading of required documentation once the stages of the processes are completed. Training on the use of STEP will be provided if needed, particularly on contract administration.	PIU World Bank's Procurement Team	During project implementation During project implementation
	Delays and/or unsuccessful completion of contracts due to inadequate contract management capacity.	The PIU will use the Contract Management Module recently introduced in STEP for efficient monitoring and tracking of milestones. Key staff involved in project implementation will receive contract management training to enhance their capacity. Establishment within the PIU of a contract administration team composed of different profiles (procurement specialists, M&E specialist, FM specialist, statisticians, and so on)	PIU PIU PIU	During project implementation
	Managing fraud, corruption, and noncompliance.	Ex-ante due diligence of firms selected will be attempted using databases available in country and externally. Post review of contracts will be scheduled immediately on award of contracts.	PIU World Bank's Procurement Team	During project implementation
	Loss and/or unauthorized access to procurement records due to poor record management.	The PIU will maintain all procurement records and will put in place dedicated staff to manage the records.	PIU	During project implementation
CHAD	Staff involved in the project may not have enough knowledge of the NPF and Procurement Regulations, and/or there is risk of confusion with the former guidelines.	Recruit and maintain a senior procurement specialist and a junior procurement specialist.	PIU	Within three months after project effectiveness
		Recruit and maintain a procurement specialist.	PIU	Before project effectiveness
		Put in place a Special tenders Board Committee within the PIU to fast-track procurement activities.	PIU	During project implementation

	Risk/Issue	Action	Responsibility	Timeline
	The PIU has not enough experience in the new Procurement Regulations.	Provide procurement training in the World Bank procedures for identified staff and the members of Tender Board Committee and other partners involved in the procurement process during the life of the project.	PIU/World Bank	During project implementation
	Poor contract management and administration of contracts.	Putting in place contract management plan and contract execution mechanism	PIU	During project implementation
	Lack of acceptable procurement procedures as part of the POM.	Elaborate and submit to IDA, for agreement, a satisfactory version of the POM comprising a section on procurement for use by the project.	PIU	Before project effectiveness
	Poor filing which can lead to loss of documents.	Improving the filing system to ensure compliance with the World Bank procurement filing documents in STEP	PIU/procurement specialist	During project implementation

36. **Procurement documents.** For international competitive procurement for works, goods, non-consulting services, and consulting services, the borrower shall use the World Bank's SPDs with minimum changes, acceptable to the World Bank, as necessary, to address any project-specific conditions.

37. **Procurement information and documentation—filing and database.** Procurement information will be recorded and reported as follows:

(a) Complete procurement documentation for each contract, including bidding documents, advertisements, bids received, bid evaluations, letters of acceptance, contract agreements, securities, and related correspondence, will be maintained at the level of respective ministries in an orderly manner and be readily available for audit.

(b) Contract award information will be promptly recorded, and contract rosters, as agreed, will be maintained.

(c) Comprehensive quarterly reports will be prepared indicating (i) revised cost estimates, where applicable, for each contract; (ii) status of ongoing procurement, including a comparison of originally planned and actual dates of the procurement actions, preparation of bidding documents, advertising, bidding, evaluation, contract award, and completion time for each contract; and (iii) updated Procurement Plans, including revised dates, where applicable, for all procurement actions.

38. **General Procurement Notice, Specific Procurement Notices, requests for expression of interest**, **and results of the evaluation and contracts award** should be published in accordance with advertising provisions in the Procurement Regulations. For requests for bids and requests for proposals that involve international bidders/consultants, the contract awards shall be published in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) in line with the provisions of the Procurement Regulations.

39. **Training, workshops, study tours, and conferences.** The training (including training material and support), workshops, and conferences attendance based on individual needs, as well as group requirements, and on-the-job training, will be carried out based on an approved annual training and workshop/conference plan that would identify the general framework of training activities for the year. A detailed plan and ToR providing the nature of training/workshop, number of trainees/participants, duration, staff months, timing, and estimated costs will be submitted to IDA for review and approval before initiating the process. The appropriate methods of selection will be derived from the detailed schedule. After the training, each beneficiary will be requested to submit a brief report indicating what skills have been acquired and how these skills will contribute to enhance his/her performance and contribute to attainment of the PDO. Reports by the trainees, including completion certificate/diploma upon training completion, shall be provided to the project coordinator, kept as parts of the records, and shared with the World Bank if required.

40. **Procurement procedure.** Procurement arrangements, roles and responsibilities, methods, and requirements for carrying out procurement shall be elaborated in detail in the procurement procedure, which will be a section of the POM. The fragile context of countries and the capacity constraints will be considered, and simplified procurement arrangements will be designed accordingly. The POM shall be prepared by the recipients and agreed with the World Bank before effectiveness.

41. **PPSD and Procurement Plan.** The PPSD and the Procurement Plan covering the first 18 months of the project implementation had been prepared and approved by the World Bank for project's three participating countries and CEMAC and approved by the World Bank.

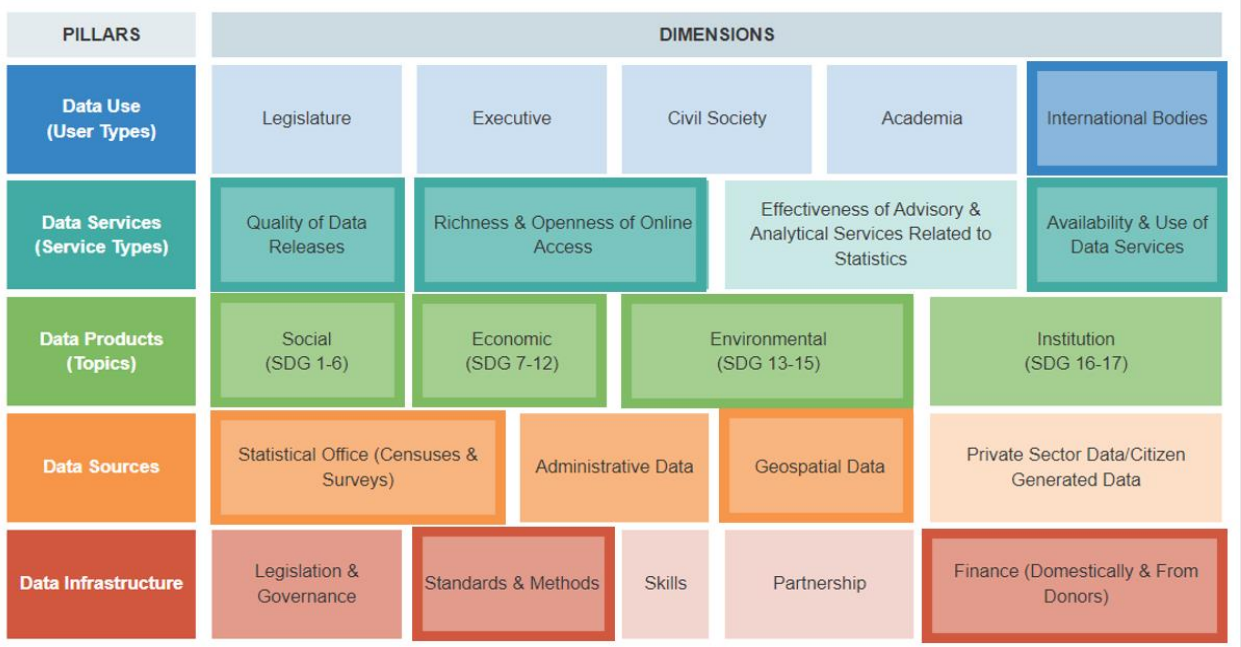
ANNEX 4: The Statistical Performance Indicators (SPIs)

1. **The SPI was developed by the World Bank and provides an open-source framework for assessing the performance of statistical systems and the efforts to improve them.** This framework assesses the maturity and performance of NSSs in five key areas, called pillars. The five pillars are data use, data services, data products, data sources, and data infrastructure. Each of these pillars is supported by four or five dimensions and uses defined methods and indicators. Indicators and methods have not yet been developed for all the dimensions identified or in some cases are not included in the index due to lack of data for a significant number of countries.

2. **For use in monitoring the HISWACA - SOP 2 project, two types of modifications have been made to the SPI.** First, the SPI has been modified by dropping certain dimensions that are not applicable to the project and reweighting the other dimensions within that pillar. Second, scores on the various SPI components will be updated more frequently and with less lag than in the publication of official SPI results.

3. **Details of the SPI and modifications made for monitoring the HISWACA - SOP 2 project is provided by each pillar below.** If a dimension is retained, all indicators within the dimension are used (although some may be less directly influenced by project activities). Scoring of the indicators and their weighting within the dimension are exactly as for the SPI (full documentation available at *https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/statistical-performance-indicators*). The weights for the remaining dimensions within the pillar are adjusted, and each of the five pillars is weighted equally as in the main SPI. More details on scoring are included in the description of each pillar in Figure A4.1.

Figure A4.1: Overview of SPI and Tailored SPI



Note: Light-colored dimensions do not yet have developed indicators in the SPI. The dimensions that have a box are included in the tailored SPI for HISWACA - SOP 2 monitoring.

4. **Data use.** Statistics have value only if they are used. So, the first pillar is data use. A successful statistical system produces data that are widely and frequently used. The SPI framework envisions dimensions for five types of data users: 1.1 (legislature), 1.2 (executive), 1.3 (civil society), 1.4 (academia), and 1.5 (international bodies). Currently, the SPI only has indicators for the last (international bodies).

Dimension 1.5: Use of Data by International Bodies

5. The score for this dimension is based on five indicators:

- Availability of comparable poverty headcount ratio at US$1.90 a day (World Bank)
- Availability of mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births) data meeting quality standards according to United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME).
- Quality of debt service data according to the World Bank.
- Availability of safely managed drinking water data (World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program).
- Availability of labor force participation rate by sex and age (%) (International Labour Organization, ILO).

6. **Each indicator is assigned a value between 0 and 1 based on the quality and frequency of data available for the country in the database maintained by the designed international body.** The five indicators are weighted equally to give the score for the dimension. There is only one dimension for this pillar.

7. **Data services.** A range of services connect data users to producers and facilitate dialogues between them, thus building trust and a sense of value. The SPI framework has four dimensions under this pillar: 2.1 (quality of data releases), 2.2 (richness and openness of online access), 2.3 (effectiveness in Advisory Services and Analytics), and 2.4 (availability and use of data services). No indicators have been developed for dimension 2.3.

Dimension 2.1: Quality of Data Releases

- Subscribing to IMF SDDS Plus or SDDS (score of 1) or GDDS (score of 0.5)

Dimension 2.2: Richness and Openness of Online Access

- Machine Readability Score
- Non-Proprietary format Score
- Download Options Score
- Metadata Available Score
- Terms of Use Score

- ODIN[41] Open Data Openness score.

8. The scores for each indicator are taken from Open Data Watch (odin.opendatawatch.com) which looks at the availability and ease of access of dozens of key statistics on the NSO website using a well-defined methodology. List of all key statistics and their acceptable substitutes are available at *https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MBK0hN6MoQrii7_E1bmRXmsUcE8Fbb-Q32nxm8d8qTw/edit#heading=h.7fdjgvc0rpby. Each of these six indicators is assigned a score between 0 and 1, and then the average of these scores gives the score for the dimension.*

Dimension 2.4: Availability and Use of Data Services

- Statistical systems must be open and transparent about their methods and procedures (inspection of NSO websites).

9. This dimension is assigned a value of either 0 or 1, based on the SPI team's inspection of the website.

10. For pillar 2, the three dimensions are weighted equally.

11. **Data products.** The dialogues between users and producers drive the design and range of statistical products and their accuracy, timeliness, frequency, comparability, and levels of disaggregation. The products signal whether countries can produce indicators related to the 17 SDGs. The indicators are grouped into four dimensions by the SDGs, and scores reflect the fraction of indicators in the global SDG database (*https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal*) with a value produced by countries' statistical system. Dimension 3.4, covering SDGs 15–17 (institutions), is not included in the tailored SPI for HISWACA - SOP 2 monitoring, as the project does not focus on data collection in these areas.

Dimension 3.1: Social

- No poverty
- Zero hunger
- Good health and well-being
- Quality education
- Gender equality
- Clean water and sanitation.

Dimension 3.2: Economic

- Affordable and clean energy
- Decent work and economic growth
- Industry, innovation, and infrastructure

[41] ODIN = Open Data Inventory.

- Reduced inequalities
- Sustainable cities and communities
- Responsible consumption and production.

Dimension 3.3: Environmental

- Climate action
- Life on land.

12. A list of all SDG indicators is available at *https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/.*

13. *Each SDG is assigned a score between 0 and 1 based on the fraction of SDG indicators produced by the country's NSS. For this pillar, each SPI indicator is weighted equally (rather than each dimension), so the weight for each dimension is proportional to the number of SDG goals included in each dimension.*

14. **Data sources.** To create useful products, the statistical system needs to draw on sources inside and outside the Government. Data collection thus goes beyond the typical censuses and surveys to include administrative and geospatial data and data generated by private firms and citizens. There are four dimensions defined here by data producer: 4.1 (Statistical Office [Surveys and Censuses]), 4.2 (Administrative Data), 4.3 (Geospatial Data), and 4.4 (Private Sector / Citizen Generated Data). Of these, no indicators have been developed for the fourth, and the second is excluded from the modified SPI as the types of administrative statistics measured are not those supported by the HISWACA - SOP 2 project.

Dimension 4.1: Statistical Office (Surveys and Censuses)

- Population & Housing Census
- Agriculture census
- Business/establishment census
- Household Survey on income, and so on
- Agriculture survey
- Labor Force Survey
- Health/Demographic survey
- Business/establishment survey.

15. For each type of survey/census, scores are assigned between 0 and 1 based on either the date of the last census or the number of surveys conducted within the last 10 years. The average of these scores gives the score for the dimension.

Dimension 4.3: Geospatial Data

- Indicator data availability at subnational levels.

16. The score is based on Open Data Watch, as for dimension 2.1, looking at the availability of the data at the first administrative level for all the key statistics, and it is assigned a value between 0 and 1.

17. In the SPI, censuses and surveys are given separate weights, so dimension 4.1 receives twice the weight of the other dimensions. This is maintained in the tailored SPI with dimension 4.1 receiving a weight of 2/3 and dimension 4.3 receiving a weight of 1/3 to give the score for the pillar.

18. **Data infrastructure.** A mature statistical system has well-developed hard infrastructure (legislation, governance, and standards) and soft infrastructure (skills and partnerships) as well as the financial resources to deliver useful—and widely used—data products and services. There are five dimensions under this pillar: 5.1 (legislation and governance), 5.2 (standards and methods), 5.3 (skills), 5.4 (partnership), and 5.5 (finance). No indicators have been developed under dimensions 5.3 and 5.4. In addition, dimension 5.1 is dropped from the modified SPI for HISWACA - SOP 2 monitoring as it is outside the scope of the project. Dimension 5.5 is included in the SPI dashboard, but not the official SPI score. It will be included in the tailored SPI for HISWACA - SOP 2 monitoring.

Dimension 5.2: Standards and Methods

- National accounts base year
- Classification of national industry
- CPI base year
- Classification of household consumption
- Classification of status of employment
- Central government accounting status
- Compilation of GFS
- Compilation of monetary and financial statistics
- Business process.

19. For each indicator, scores are defined between 0 and 1 based on the methodology/standard currently in use by the NSO. The average is taken over the nine indicators to give the score for the dimension.

Dimension 5.5: Finance

- National statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation.

20. For the modified SPI, a score of 0.5 will be assigned to countries with a national statistical plan that is at least 80 percent funded and under implementation.

21. Each of the two dimensions is given equal weight in calculating the score for the pillar.

22. The score for the tailored SPI based on the scores of the retained dimensions can thus be calculated as

$$SPI_{tailored} = \frac{1}{5}\left\{(D_{1.5}) + \left(\frac{D_{2.1} + D_{2.2} + D_{2.4}}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{3D_{3.1} + 3D_{3.2} + D_{3.3}}{7}\right) + \left(\frac{D_{4.1c} + D_{4.1s} + D_{4.3}}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{D_{5.2} + D_{5.5}}{2}\right)\right\}$$

where D_n is the score of dimension *n*, including *s* for surveys and *c* for censuses for dimension 4.1.

23. The official SPI scores are updated annually, and the various websites and databases on which they rely are often only updated every six months or every year. Thus, there can be a significant delay between when, for instance, new poverty estimates are produced and submitted to the World Bank and when those numbers are reflected in the World Bank's database, and then again as to when the SPI time checks the World Bank's database and releases new SPI scores. To reduce these lags, the modified SPI will update scores for dimension 1.5 (international bodies), pillar 3 (data products), and dimension 4.3 (geospatial data) once the data are submitted to the custodial organization. Also, dimensions 2.2 (online access) and 2.4 (data services) will be assessed every six months using the ODIN methodology. Dimensions 4.1 (censuses and surveys), 4.2 (administrative data), 5.2 (standards and methods), and 5.5 (finance) will be updated every six months based on information submitted by the NSOs and validated by the task team leader/IMF.

ANNEX 5: Population and Housing Census: Risks and Mitigations

1. **Given the large scale of the census, this project reviews the key risks associated with the activity and identifies mitigation measures to help reduce the likelihood and/or severity of these risks.** Table A5.1 presents the risk assessments in conducting the census of the Central African countries participating in the project.

Table A5.1 PHC Risk Rating by Country

	Cameroon	Chad	Central African Republic
Governance	Moderate	Moderate	High
Budget planning	High	Substantial	Substantial
Political risks	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial
Security risks	High	Substantial	High
Technical and managerial capacity	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Transition to digital censuses	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Data privacy	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Note:
Governance. Procurement risks due to large contracts for equipment and recruitment of large numbers of enumerators and FM risks for payments to enumerators.
Political risks. Results could be used for politically sensitive purposes (elections and allocation of significant funds), process/results could be contested by opposition parties, and results might be politically manipulated.
Budget planning. Unrealistic budget planning because of the high uncertainty (actual number of enumeration areas hard to predict) and budget gaps.
Security risks. Possible danger to mappers/enumerators; may not be able to collect data in all parts of the country.
Technical and managerial capacity. Self-explanatory.
Transition to digital census. Additional risks to procurement (need for tablets), budgeting (high cost of tablets), and technical capacity.
Data privacy. Risk associated with access to personal data.

A. Main Risk Associated with the Implementation of a PHC in Central Africa

2. **PHCs have certain unique characteristics.** Funding the census therefore presents certain risks to statistical capacity-building projects. The first is simply their scale: "A traditional census is among the most complex and massive exercises a nation undertakes."[42] An exercise of this scale requires the mobilization of significant financial and human resources. For countries conducting a census, the costs depend on government financing and other development partners and are usually the largest component of the project, but even these substantial contributions rarely cover the full cost.

3. **This creates financial risks.** Disbursement will be severely affected if the census does not take place. There is also the risk that significant funds could be spent toward a census that still does not successfully happen due to a lack of funding from other sources. Mobilizing the human resources necessary for a census means hiring tens (or hundreds) of thousands of individuals to assist in the

[42] United Nations. 2017. "Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3."

enumeration and paying them for their work. This creates a procurement risk in terms of fair and transparent employment systems and FM risk as the systems are needed to transmit large sums of money quickly for individual payments.

4. **Pressures on census design are leading to longer questionnaires and exacerbating these issues.** The demand for lower-level administrative data (rather than relying on administrative data) puts pressure on the design of lengthy questionnaires, contrary to international recommendations. In addition, the need to rationalize the statistical operations results in grafting the agricultural/enterprise census' modules in the PHC questionnaire. All these factors result in significantly longer questionnaires, which in turn makes the process even more expensive and complicated. It also creates a risk of under-coverage if the number of households per enumerator and/or length of enumeration period are not adjusted.

5. **Comprehensively budgeting and planning the entire census in the first place is also a great challenge.** Much of the cost of the census will depend on the number of enumeration areas delimited after the cartography stage; countries often significantly underestimate this due to poor planning or suboptimal management of the cartography process. Moreover, external price or supply shocks may also affect census budgets by NSOs, thereby disrupting the census activities timelines. This could result in substantial increased financing halfway through the census activities. Delays in procuring additional resources may disrupt the census schedule. Another issue linked to budgeting and planning is the timely execution of each activity. If the period between the end of the cartography phase and the actual census enumeration is too long (for example, more than six months), the cartography might become obsolete (especially in large cities where population movements could be rapid or in case of high population mobility because of insecurity for instance), and there may be a need for this to be redone.

6. **Censuses also present significant political risks.** Census results can be used for redistricting and drawing of new electoral boundaries and in funding allocation formulas. This presents temptations to influence the results. Censuses are also the most high-profile statistical exercise and may be a subject for boycotts by certain regions of the country, which can seriously undermine the credibility of the data and even present a danger to the field teams. This is particularly the case when a census is being implemented around an election period.

7. **Censuses face significant security risks in some countries.** Because of conflicts, 'undercounting' individuals can have critical consequences for the welfare of affected populations. In conflict areas, populations tend to lose trust in the Government and are less likely to participate in the census. Additionally, censuses can be delayed because of fighting between local militias and Government forces, affecting the ability of census enumerators to safely travel and collect data. A census necessarily involves the deployment of a substantial number of personnel, making it difficult to monitor their locations and ensure their safety. From a statistical perspective, the most important risks are associated with the different methods used to mitigate these impacts—combining paper and digital collection or estimating populations in certain areas.

8. **Censuses require a high technical and managerial capacity to be successfully implemented.** The numerous activities involved—cartography, pilot, data collection, and analysis—require both detailed technical knowledge and managerial skill to ensure efficient allocation and utilization of resources (financial, human, and physical). In some countries, capacity is limited, thereby introducing the significant risk of poor-quality census. Moreover, unlike other activities that are conducted more frequently, the census is taken once every 10 years (in many cases longer) and does not leave much room for learning

from experiences. In many countries, the interval between two censuses is so large that a new team is formed every time a census is conducted, thereby affecting the opportunity to leverage experience.

9. **The transition to digital censuses presents some new challenges.** Preparing for a successful digital census takes longer than for a paper-based census, increasing the need for careful, advance planning. It is also dependent upon a massive amount of hardware and tens or hundreds of thousands of tablets. Procuring these tablets for each country is prohibitively expensive, as well as time consuming, especially given disruptions to global supply chains. The World Bank and other partners such as the UNFPA and UNECA are facilitating the loan of tablets from one country to another, but this is also subject to delays and political risk.

10. **Indigenous and nomadic populations in the PHC.** Population censuses, by their exhaustive nature, are opportunities to capture the headcount and characteristics of the entire populations living in a country. This picture of the population follows a certain well-rehearsed methodology of which the CEMAC countries have strong experience, most countries being at least on their fourth census. Nevertheless, there are risks of double counting or missing indigenous and nomadic populations. In the censuses that will be financed by the project, a special emphasis will be put in place to cover the indigenous and nomadic populations across the countries. In countries where certain indigenous communities have become sedentary, the classic methodology of enumeration will be combined with a specific strategy consisting of crisscrossing the known parts of the country where these populations usually live. Through CEMAC, associations of indigenous and nomadic peoples of the CEMAC region will play a critical role in raising awareness and improving the data collection strategy. In addition, for fieldwork, the recruitment of enumerators will be done in the indigenous communities, and the use of guides will be systematized.

11. **A final risk in being able to use the data optimally for policy decisions comes from concerns about data privacy, which is increasingly a concern of NSOs.** This presents new challenges in how to anonymize and grant access to microdata to make the best use of the data gathered from such a substantial investment of time and resources while respecting these concerns.

B. Proposed Mitigations Measures

12. **Significant risks remain, but there are steps that can be taken to mitigate each of these risks.** The first is the need for comprehensive, coordinated, flexible advance planning and budgeting. There should be flexibility, especially during implementation, and a comprehensive and realistic timeline and plan should be drawn up and reviewed by all relevant authorities and partners. Funding commitments from the Government and other development partners should be specified, considering any time restrictions on funding (for example, funding from UN agencies to be disbursed within a certain calendar year). The budget should consider that the total number of enumeration areas delimited may exceed initial estimates and for possible external shocks affecting costs. If a budget gap is found to remain, there must be a decision regarding the useful scope of work that can be completed based on the funds available. This might mean, for instance, reviewing the size of the questionnaire and focusing on the key information needed for a census (other information might come from other data sources such as specific surveys), deviating from the full traditional census by collecting population estimates during the cartography phase, relying on satellite imagery and/or complementing either of these with a sampled approach to enumeration, or ensuring the funds mobilized are sufficient to cover the key activities (cartography, enumeration, and post-census survey). Agreements should also be made in advance regarding the type

of data access provided to funding, and technical partners can provide appropriate TA and ensure the work's quality. Planning should also address human resources and FM systems needed for recruitment, deployment, and compensation of census fieldworkers. In addition, under the Financing Agreements for Cameroon and Chad, a disbursement condition has been established for purposes of implementation of census enumeration, which shall only take place once the World Bank has received satisfactory evidence of (a) a successful implementation of the census cartographic mapping; and (b) a detailed dated program of census enumeration activities; all in accordance with the POM.

13. **Management of the political risks will require coordination with other development partners and civil society organizations as necessary to mitigate political risk.** The potential uses and political implications of census data must be understood beforehand. This may entail engaging with civil society groups concerned with elections and governance, opposition political parties, or representatives of underrepresented or marginalized communities. An inclusive and transparent oversight of the census process should be encouraged. If significant political risks are found to exist, the World Bank (in concert with other funders or technical partners) may need to play a coordinating role, ensuring the concerns of all groups are heard and validating each step of the process.

14. **Coordination with development partners (providing financial and/or technical support) is critical to managing all the technical, financial, and political risks.** The World Bank should engage early and regularly with all partners to identify risks and develop strategies to mitigate them. It may be advisable to communicate with the Government or issue joint statements as needed. Addressing the risk of technical and managerial capacity requires leveraging the extensive experience of partners such as the UNFPA, which typically have been the lead UN agency supporting the implementation of censuses. Engaging with such partners early on to provide oversight support in implementing various activities and capacity-building training will be central to minimizing the risk from limited capacity in some participating countries. In this regard, the project will establish a partnership with this agency. In addition to benefiting from the TA of the UNFPA, this partnership plans for regular technical and strategic consultations.

15. **Regarding data privacy risks,** the existing statistics law in each participating country as well as the UN Fundamental Principles of National Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics all ensure that individual data collected by NSOs for statistical compilation are confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes. Additionally, the project will provide TA and financial resources to strengthen electronic data protection in each participating country.

16. **A PHC is an essential component of a statistical system and a key input for many other statistical projects.** As the World Bank is increasingly involved as a funder of censuses through statistical capacity-building projects, it is crucial to understand and act to address the risks that this presents.

ANNEX 6: Role of Partners

1. **To achieve one main ambitious objective of this project, which is to bring poorly performing countries in terms of statistical performance on par with upper-middle income countries in five years,** the project will develop partnerships that leverage the statistical subject matter expertise of development partners including the FAO and 50x2030 Initiative (agriculture), IMF/AFRITAC (National Accounts and the real sector), UNFPA (PHCs), AFRISTAT (harmonization), and the Regional Statistics School in Yaoundé—ISSEA. This will help countries adapt international standards in a way that is appropriate for the context, create regional economies of scale through the project, and provide even strong comparability across the region, increasing the usefulness of the statistics generated, in addition to availability of quality trained human resources. The role of each partner and how the partnership is expected to be implemented are described as follows.

Partnership with FAO and 50x2030 Initiative

2. **The 50x2030 Initiative is a program jointly launched by the World Bank, the FAO, and the IFAD.** More specifically, it aims to provide TA in the design and implementation of integrated annual agricultural surveys as well as to help countries build capacity and promote and facilitate the use of agriculture survey data in policy making and research. Given that the project also aims to support participating countries to improve their agriculture statistics through agriculture census and surveys, the technical partnership with the 50x2030 Initiative seeks better coordination and collaboration in the implementation of these activities. This partnership will ensure that funding from the project is complementary to the TA that the initiative plans to provide in each participating country and is also onboarded by the initiative. In particular, the partnership will ensure that project activities on agriculture surveys are in phase with the initiative's TA program. No financing from the project will be directed to the initiative, which on the contrary will bring its own financial resources to provide TA to participating countries, while the project, for instance, will support countries in financing data collection costs.

3. The partnership between the project, the 50x2030 Initiative, and the FAO will also go beyond the countries' activities.

Partnership with IMF/AFRITAC

4. **AFRITAC is IMF's RTACs in Africa (one in West Africa and another in East Africa), and part of the IMF's nine RTACs worldwide.** Their goal is to strengthen the human and institutional capacity of African member countries to formulate and implement policies that promote growth and reduce poverty. IMF AFRITAC provides TA to the countries in the region to improve their macroeconomic statistics and data dissemination standards in coordination with the IMF headquarters. In this regard, the partnership between the project and AFRITAC is of a similar nature as with the FAO/50x2030 Initiative but in the areas of macroeconomic statistics and data dissemination standards. The partnership seeks to enhance coordination and leverage from the technical expertise available at the IMF technical centers. For instance, when it comes to organizing regional or national workshops on national accounts, CPI, and GFS, the project will seek participation/advice from the IMF/AFRITAC experts to ensure alignment of trainings and harmonization works with best practices and standards advised by the IMF. The project will not finance the AFRITAC or IMF experts but will support the cost associated with the participation of the country representatives.

Partnership with UNFPA

5. **UNFPA is the leading UN agency in providing TA on the PHC and civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS).** It has a comparative advantage in the census implementation and is recognized as a provider of quality TA in all aspects of the census, from planning and implementation to data analysis and dissemination. Given that three countries in the project will be implementing the PHC and will receive support from CEMAC for that purpose, the proposed collaboration between CEMAC and UNFPA aims at supporting high-quality data generation and utilization, through multifaceted TA to CEMAC and selected participating countries to support the carrying out of the PHCs financed under the project. Challenges and opportunities faced by CEMAC in its support to countries call for more expansive UNFPA action, as it is well placed to further support and build the capacity of CEMAC, through its convening powers, to enhance both the generation and use of population data for development through synergies at the regional level. CEMAC will enter into an agreement with the UNFPA to build CEMAC's capacity to carry out its part of the project, including providing adequate trainings and TA to participating countries carrying out PHCs, and to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned between those countries. There are expectations from participating countries to work toward better comparison of PHC data as well as to receive multifaced TA and trainings from CEMAC on the implementation of digital census that many of them in the region will be implementing for the first time. This proposed arrangement is also built on lessons learned from HISWA project implementation where ECOWAS, because of its lack of expertise on the PHC, was not able to adequately address the needs of capacity building expressed by participating countries in that area, which this arrangement aims to address.

Partnership with AFRISTAT

6. **AFRISTAT is a regional organization providing TA on statistics to many African countries—specifically to WAEMU and CEMAC countries.** It has been playing a leading role in supporting WAEMU and CEMAC in their statistical harmonization work, especially in the areas of national accounts and price statistics. The proposed arrangement is for AFRISTAT to build on existing partnerships between them. AFRISTAT will provide harmonization/capacity building on economic statistics. CEMAC will enter into an agreement with AFRISTAT for similar cooperation and partnership.

Partnership with ISSEA

7. **ISSEA, previously known as Center for Training of Statisticians (1961), is a specialized institution of CEMAC.** Under this project, the support to ISSEA Yaoundé will be channeled through CEMAC. CEMAC and ISSEA will be partners for implementing some regional human resources development activities (Box 1). More specifically, the support to ISSEA will help modernize and expand its reach and contribution to sustainable development in the subregion by the development of the skills of its staff, the upgrade of its facility, improved capacity to adapt to the changing context by expanding the range of training tools employed (specifically to develop open distance learning) and expanding thematically to innovative areas (for example, the use of alternative sources for the production of statistics and the use of modern methods of statistical production).

ANNEX 7: Implementation of a System of Integrated Agricultural Surveys

	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	Situation of agricultural Statistics	Draft approach (to be confirmed during the inception phase)	Possible share of budgets between cCensus and System of Annual Surveys
Cameroon	SAMPLE CENSUS					Census of population planned in 2023, including a questionnaire on agriculture.	Preparation phase (including capacity building) in FY24 and implementation of the CORE moduel in FY25. From FY26 to FY28, implementation of the full integrated approach with one cycle for ILP, PME and MEA. Additional ot specific moduels to be added according to country's demand.	Census: US$14.6 millions
	Preparation>Pilot	CORE	CORE	CORE	CORE			Surveys: US$8.0 millions
US$22.6 millions				ILP				
				PME				
					MEA	Country has experience in conductng annual production surveys		
		Frame preparation	Additional modules or specific surveys when relevant					
Central African Republic	SAMPLE CENSUS					Censu of population planned in FY23-24 and census of agriculture planned for FY24	Preparation phase (including capacity building) in FY24 and FY25 (including preparation of a frame) and implementation of the CORE moduel in FY26. From FY27 to FY28, implementation of the integrated approach with one cycle for ILP, PME. Additional or specific modules to be added according to country's demand.	Census: US$7.0 millions
	Preparation	Preparation>Pilot	CORE	CORE	CORE			Surveys: US$2.5 millions
US$9.5 millions				ILP				
					PME	Country has experience in conductng annual production surveys		
	Frame preparation		Additional modules or specific surveys when relevant					
Chad	SAMPLE CENSUS					A mixed population and agriculture census is planned in FY24.	Preparation phase (including capacity building) in FY24 and FY25 and implementation of the CORE moduel in FY25. From FY27 to FY28, implementation of the integrated approach with one cycle for ILP and PME. Additional or specific modules to be added according to country's demand.	Census: US$5.0 millions
	Preparation	Preparation>Pilot	CORE	CORE	CORE			Surveys: US$3.4 millions
US$8.4 millions				ILP				
					PME	Country has experience in conductng annual production surveys		
		Frame preparation	Additional modules or specific surveys when relevant					

ANNEX 8: Climate Vulnerability and Related Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Activities

1. **The Central Africa region's common disasters include epidemics, droughts, floods, and storms.**[43] The Congo Basin covers, among others, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of Congo. These regions are characterized by significant social vulnerability, political instability, and poverty. The Congo Basin is naturally warm and humid and experiences only two seasons: the rainy season from March to November and the dry season from December to February.

2. **Future climate trends in the Congo Basin.** Under high emissions scenarios, average temperatures in the region are expected to increase by 2.5°C by 2050 while temperature increases are expected to be 3–5°C by 2100.[44] Furthermore, regions within the Congo Basin that have a more semi-arid climate are expected to experience much higher average temperature increases compared with those of the tropical climates.

3. Key climate impacts include loss of habitat, biodiversity, and tourism revenue; increased carbon sequestration; reduced crop yields; increased reliance on forest products; food insecurity; increased hydropower production in some seasons and reduced production in others; reduced water quality; spread of vector-borne and waterborne diseases; and heat stress.[45]

4. **Chad is part of the West Africa Sahel region,** which is one of the poorest and most environmentally degraded in the world and is considered one of the world's most vulnerable regions to climate change, as temperature increases are projected to be 1.5 times higher than in the rest of the world.[46] Most Chadians base their livelihoods on subsistence farming and livestock rearing.[47]

5. **Future climate trends in the West Africa Sahel region.** Climate projections include 3–6°C increase in temperature by 2100; increased interannual variability in rainfall with sudden oscillations between very wet and very dry years; increased occurrence of erratic rainfall; and extreme droughts, floods, and thunderstorms, and the climate impacts including crop loss/failure from drought, floods, soil erosion, and infestations; increased food insecurity; reduced water availability and quality, especially during dry season; increased water insecurity and flood risk; increased food insecurity; increased risk of famine, vector-borne diseases, and migration displacement; loss of livestock productivity; loss of rangelands and water sources; conflict between farmers and herders; increased degradation/deforestation; biodiversity loss and extinction; reduced fishery productivity; and loss of fishery habitat and biodiversity.

Climate Vulnerabilities for Project Participating Countries

6. **The World Bank's Africa's Pulse, October 2021 edition, states that the frequency of extreme weather events has increased in the region over the past four decades, and it has increased at a faster pace than in the rest of the world.** It also says that most countries in West and Central Africa have been

[43] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction https://www.undrr.org/news/central-africa-spurs-disaster-risk-reduction.
[44] Fact_sheet_Congo_Basin_Climate_Change, UN Environment Programme.
[45] USAID fact sheet, Climate Risks in the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (Carpe) And Congo Basin.
[46] USAID fact sheet.
[47] https://theconversation.com/chad-is-the-country-most-vulnerable-to-climate-change-heres-why-78423.

primarily affected by floods over the past two decades. It states that, "The rises in temperature and changes in rainfall patterns have led to the increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events across the continent." In fact, natural disasters (including drought) have increased at a much faster pace than in the rest of the world.

7. **Drought is defined as a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period (usually a season or more), resulting in a water shortage.**[48] Drought risk refers to the potential losses from hazard imposed by a drought event, and it is characterized as a function of vulnerability, hazard, and exposure. The drought risk ratio is found to be the highest in Central African countries as a consequence of vulnerability and population rise in that region.

8. **Chad alongside Niger indicates the highest drought risk ratios among other African countries, which is attributed to substantial population growth as well as increasing drought hazard due to climate change.**[49] There, close to 10 million people are vulnerable to drought while 12 percent are vulnerable and affected. In Cameroon, prolonged exposure to extreme heat, resulting in heat stress, is expected to occur at least once in the next five years. In the highlands of the west, erosion, landslides, and drought are projected to become more common. By 2050, if drastic climate change adaptation measures are not undertaken, more than 2.6 million units of livestock (71 percent of the current total) are expected to be under drought-induced stress conditions annually. The country's Sahelian North is predicted to suffer from increased drought. Its savannah zone is expected to suffer less from flooding risks, but these will increase in all three other zones. In the highlands of the west, drought is projected to become more common. In the Central African Republic, water scarcity is classified as high. This means that droughts are expected to occur on average every five years. Water availability will be affected by periods of drought in southern zones, but no serious water stress is expected for agriculture. Climate change trends in the Central African Republic are expected to increase the risk and intensity of flooding and increase the amount of heavy rainfall received during heavy rainfall events as well as increase the likelihood of aridity water scarcity for some areas, particularly the country's northeast zones. For the Central African Republic, increased aridity and drought are also expected to result in land degradation, loss in biodiversity and surface water, adverse impacts to crop production (including yield and quality), and an increased likelihood of wildfires.

9. **Flood hazard is potential loss of life, injury, and economic loss caused by future flood events.** Climate change, heavy rains, and floods take a toll on human life, property, land, and livestock. A UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report from February 2023 states that in 2022, flooding affected over 5.8 million people in 20 countries of the West and Central Africa region, which experienced one of the worst flooding disasters on record that year. For example, in Chad, 1.5 million people were affected. In Cameroon, floods affect on average about 120,000 people every year, about 0.5 percent of the total population of the country.[50] In the Central African Republic, there were multiple significant flood events including in 2012, 2017, and 2019, affecting a total of 15,750 people and causing significant

48 https://www.drought.gov.
49 *Future Drought Risk in Africa: Integrating Vulnerability, Climate Change, and Population Growth.*
50 Cameroon Disaster Risk Profile, United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction.

material and human damage. Table A8.1 shows the hazard ratings across project countries by type of hazard.

Table A8.1: Hazard Ratings by Type in Project Countries

SOP 2 Countries Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment			
	Central African Republic (US$60 million)	**Cameroon (US$105 million)**	**Chad (US$105 million)**
River flood	High	High	High
Urban flood	High	High	High
Water scarcity	High	High	High
Extreme heat	High	High	High
Wildfire	High	High	High
Earthquake	Low	Low	Very low
Landslide	Low	High	Low
Volcano	No Data	High	Very low
Coastal flood	No Data	High	No data
Tsunami	No Data	Low	No data
Cyclone	No Data	No data	No data

Source: ThinkHazard (https://thinkhazard.org/en/).

10. **Reduction of risks from climate and geophysical hazards.** Climate and disaster risks have been identified as not having a significant impact on the outcome of this project (except for the building construction investments in all project's participating countries excluding Cameroon, the project activities cover only soft components including data collection and production activities). Survey activities will still be planned according to climate data to avoid climate hazards including flash floods or heavy rainfall that could occur during data collection.

11. **Links/synergies between the project activities and any NAP or NDCs.** The project's intervention in collecting climate data will help participating countries monitor and evaluate the results of their NAPs or NDCs. For example, Cameroon,[51] the Central African Republic,[52] and Chad,[53] have recently prepared their NDC in 2021.

12. Climate adaptation priorities vary by country:

(a) **Cameroon.** Adaptation and resilience priorities include agriculture, energy, infrastructure, resilience of populations, and economic development.

(b) **The Central African Republic.** It has committed to carrying out more studies on its major sectors including energy, agriculture, forestry and other land use, industrial processes, and waste management to decrease their GHG emissions in the 2010–2030-year cycle. Based on

[51] Contribution Déterminée Au Niveau National - Actualisée (CDN), Nationally Determined Contribution-Updated (NDC), République du Cameroun, Septembre 2021

[52] Contribution Déterminée Au Niveau National (CDN) Version Révisée, République Centrafricaine, Octobre 2021.

[53] Mise a Jour de la Contribution Déterminée Nationale (CDN), République Du Tchad, Octobre 2021.

these studies, mitigation and adaptation measures will be proposed in the most vulnerable sectors which will include agriculture, energy, forestry, water resources, health, spatial planning, infrastructure, and housing.

(c) **Chad.** Priority areas for adaptation identified include agriculture and livestock, environment, and forestry; water and sanitation; renewable energy; gender and social protection; education and communication; risk management, infrastructure, and spatial planning; and fisheries resources and aquaculture.

13. Timely and reliable climate data in Central Africa are necessary to make nationwide informed climate adaptation and mitigation decisions. The UN's World Meteorological Organization's State of the Climate in Africa 2019 report shows that Africa has the least developed land-based observation network of all continents, and it is deteriorating.

14. To assess the risks that global climate change presents for urban dwellers in poor countries, it is obviously of vital importance to know enough about the locations of people who will be exposed to these hazards and for the most vulnerable among them to be identified and given priority.[54]

15. In this regard, this program is supporting capacity building and production at a larger scale of climate change statistics in all the participating countries and will contribute to improving the quality of those diagnostics, plannings, and actions on climate change.

16. **The project will select a core set of questionnaires from the UNSD climate indicators to be included in the project supported PHCs, agriculture surveys and censuses, integrated household surveys, enterprise surveys, and sectoral and subnational administrative data.** The aim of collecting similar data throughout the project participating countries is to obtain overall climate data points for the region. Additionally, each country will add specific questionnaires relevant to their individual climate risk and vulnerability to ensure country-specific climate issues are addressed.

17. **The project will also support the use of new technologies to improve climate source data.** This includes the use of geospatial data, administrative data, and other climate data sources including Google Earth Engine and Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station data.

18. **The project will provide TA to NSOs and NSSs responsible for collecting climate data on how to extract, spatially interpolate, and analyze these data.** The World Bank will leverage its vast experience in geospatial data sources to help build the project participating countries' capacity. After project intervention, NSOs and NSSs will be able to not only collect climate data but also combine and verify different data sources and make them accessible in a usable format.

19. **The project reduces the communities' overall exposure and vulnerability to climate and disaster risks and natural hazards by collecting climate data.** This will be under Subcomponent 1.2: Demographic and Socio-economic Statistical Production, which supports the PHC and Integrated Household Surveys Program; Subcomponent 1.3: Real and Fiscal Sector Statistical Production; Subcomponent 1.4: Agricultural and Climate Change Statistical Production; Subcomponent 1.5: Sectoral and Sub-National

[54] Population Dynamics and Climate Change, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), 2009.

Administrative Data Curation; Subcomponent 2.5: Data Use and Analysis to Inform Public Policy; Subcomponent 3.1: Construction and Infrastructure Upgrading of Selected National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Statistical Schools; and Subcomponent 3.2: Modernization of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Statistical Infrastructure of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Statistical Schools.

Subcomponent 1.2. Demographic and Socio-economic Statistical Production

20. **PHCs.** The challenges caused by climate changes require an understanding of how the population size, structure, and dynamics influence, and are influenced by, changing climate. The population censuses are the only data source providing this crucial needed data at a granular level and their geo-localized distribution at this level. Population censuses also play a fundamental role in providing needed data to assess population growth and the pace of urbanization in the foreseeable future that help a better understanding of the trajectory of global GHG emissions and developing and implementing adaptation plans and thus to global and national efforts to curtail this threat. The project will support the population census in all participating countries.

21. **Support the implementation of an Integrated Household Surveys Program in each country.** Integrated Household Survey Program in each participating country include DHS/MICS, LFSs, and surveys to monitor well-being and living conditions that will cover climate vulnerability. Due to the integrated nature of this survey program, each country requires a unique and coordinated planning of operations based on harmonized concepts, variables, and classifications. The program will also offer expansion of the range of data in addition to expanding the use of new technologies as well as geospatial data that cannot be collected by regular household survey. The expansion will consider the inclusion of new topics such as the modules on learning poverty, food insecurity, essential environment and climate variables, among other. In addition, the program will support the inclusion of longitudinal investigations to support evaluations of public policies especially around climate changes.

Subcomponent 1.3: Real and Fiscal Sector Statistical Production

22. Given that the project will support improved agriculture, livestock, PHC, and enterprise data, this subcomponent will support beneficiary countries to include data collection and analyses of the impact of climate change on GDP (current and future); the environmental impact on GDP (Green GDP) will also be considered. This will help improve economic analysis on the impact of climate change on the GDP indicator.

Subcomponent 1.4: Agricultural and Climate Change Statistical Production

23. **Intent for conducting agriculture censuses and annual surveys.** The proposed agriculture censuses and surveys will include metrics that measure the risk of climate change impacts on agriculture. The data will help better planning and implementing climate-related responses in the agriculture sector in the project participating countries. They will provide baseline data for M&E of activities that are under planning or under implementation. This will also help estimate the benefits of climate change policies related to agriculture in the region.

24. **This subcomponent will support other data collection activities as necessary and aims to support all participating countries to advance in the collection and production of a set of core climate change statistics and indicators relevant to the country and the region.** The UN Statistical Commission in March 2022 adopted a global set of climate change statistics and indicators as a framework to be used by countries to produce comparable climate change statistics. Indeed, this framework supports countries in preparing their own sets of climate change statistics and indicators according to their individual concerns, priorities, and resources. The framework covers the five policy areas of climate change, namely drivers, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation. Based on this global set of climate change statistics and indicators, the project will finance regional workshops to help identify a minimum set of indicators to be collected and produced by each participating country. In addition, the project will promote cooperation between national statistical offices and national authorities responsible for climate change, to strengthen the link between statistics and policy. Statistical capacity-building activities will also be done, in national and regional technical workshops on climate change statistics and indicators.

25. **The use of geo-spatial data will be supported to help identify the most vulnerable areas and population.** Indeed, geospatial data sets are growing at unprecedented speed, size, diversity, and complexity. This has created new opportunities for climate change analysis. Mapping based on accurate census location data is a powerful tool, including the potential to link spatial data with other surveys, not just household surveys. The project will encourage collaboration between NSO and other producers/users to make the most of this already available data. To that end, the project will assess available geospatial data and access within the country. Through regional organizations, this project will support, strengthen, and build the capacity of the NSO. South-South cooperation will also be encouraged among project beneficiaries to share knowledge, skills, expertise, and resources.

Subcomponent 1.5: Sectoral and Sub-National Administrative Data Curation

26. As part of this subcomponent, the project will collect a core set of questionnaires from the UNSD climate indicators which are available in the respective focal institutions. For institutions that already collect climate data on their own, the project will help support better data collection, analysis, and publication. For sectors that do not yet measure indicators, the project will provide TA and other support to help include relevant data points in their data collection. For example, ministries of Environment and Natural Resources, Forestry, Transport, Water Authority, Land, Agriculture, Tax, and Health and disaster risk reduction agencies, metrological offices, and so on are focal institutions that could provide data on some of the global set of climate change statistics and indicators. The project will support these institutions as part of this subcomponent, to include the climate indicators (if they are not yet already included) and to improve the methodology for data collection, its analysis, and publication.

Subcomponent 2.5: Data Use and Analysis to Inform Public Policy

27. Under the 50X2030 Initiative, the project will build capacity and motivation of ministries of agriculture and NSOs to use the agriculture survey data to inform policies and decisions related to agriculture, food security and sufficiency, productivity, and impact of climate change, among others.

28. **Similar efforts will be used in the other sectors including urban planning, disaster risk management, and readiness.** For example, data obtained from metrological services will be analyzed for consideration in public planning or policy design. The project will also ensure that climate-related data are accessible and considered as a public good, for planning or policy design.

Subcomponent 3.1: Construction and Infrastructure Upgrading of selected NSOs and Statistical Schools

29. This activity aims to support the modernization of NSOs' physical infrastructure and statistical schools by building or upgrading office complexes with modern facilities and providing needed office furniture and equipment for the entire statistical cycle from production through dissemination. The construction, rehabilitation, and upgrading of climate-resilient infrastructures for NSOs and statistics schools will include climate-resilient structures with resilience to flooding and extreme heat, and the buildings will be designed for lower energy consumptions, with the use of building materials with low embedded GHG emissions, construction of building structures for high energy efficiency, and addition of on-site renewable energy sources.

30. **Examples of climate resilience investments for buildings.** The project's infrastructure activities could include optimized orientation of the buildings, with optimized window openings to improve cross-ventilation and decrease heating; the use of heavyweight structures to capture solar heat; and the use of green roofs and reflective surfaces to reduce temperatures in and around buildings. As part of the buildings design, energy and water loads applied to the buildings system could be reduced by including optimized window-to-wall ratios, low-flow appliances, high-efficiency appliances, energy recovery systems, LED lighting, and so on. The buildings could also have renewable energy systems installed to supplement or entirely replace the buildings' grid energy demand. Additional adaptation to potential climate hazards could include harvesting rainwater and storing it for non-potable applications to adapt against drought; buildings could be designed carefully considering the level for new construction to adapt against flooding; and risk to extreme storms could be avoided by structurally designing higher wind loads and designing rainwater management for higher flows. The project can support clients to follow the IFC's EDGE, green building certification system focused on making buildings more resource efficient.

Subcomponent 3.2: Modernization of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Statistical Infrastructure of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Statistical Schools.

31. Data centers are energy intensive and consume considerable amounts of energy to run servers, network equipment, lighting, air distribution fans, and cooling systems.[55] Therefore, the project aims to build green data centers throughout all countries where there will be installation of data centers. The project proposes to use the IFC's EDGE Green Building Certification to assess the planned Power Usage Efficiencies and to establish minimum energy efficiency requirements for the design and operation. Energy efficient data centers based on international good practices and country context will be considered to optimize energy use. The project will also address the potential risks on mitigation by following the recommendations of the World Bank's Digital Development Sector Note on Applying the World Bank Group Paris Alignment Assessment Methods. These include (a) selecting an appropriate site for green

[55] World Bank. 2023. *Digital Development Sector Note on Applying the World Bank Group Paris Alignment Assessment Methods*.

building design; (b) using energy-efficient equipment and management practice; (c) aiming to extend the lifecycle of ICT equipment; (d) applying low-carbon cooling practices and technologies, including refrigerants with low global warming potential (GWP), such as lower GWP hydrofluorocarbons or blends; (e) using renewable energy for power or backup; and (f) reusing waste heat or wastewater.

ANNEX 9: Gender Data Gap Assessment for HISWACA - SOP2 Countries

1. **This annex presents an overview of the findings of the Gender Data Gap Assessment conducted for the HISWACA - SOP 2 project countries.** Accurate and timely gender data are needed not only to measure the real extent of existing gender disparities but also to implement and evaluate public policies aiming to address these gender disparities. For a better integration of gender dimensions in the project activities, the HISWACA - SOP 2 project will work with the *SGS* project, launched in October 2020 with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which is providing TA to 12 countries[56] globally to improve gender data collection, analysis, and dissemination with a focus on asset ownership, work and employment, and entrepreneurship. The SGS project TA includes the following three components:

(a) **Support for better gender data collection.** This component includes questionnaire reviews aiming to add questions or modules to collect missing relevant gender data. The SGS project also provides training on survey methodology with a focus on questionnaire design and field protocols to improve both the quality and the quantity of data collected.

(b) **Support for better gender analysis.** This component is provided through training workshops on gender indicator calculation.

(c) **Support for better gender data dissemination.** This component includes trainings on good practices to produce user-friendly gender factbooks, the review of existing gender factbooks to provide recommendations for improvements, and the production of gender factbooks with the NSOs.

2. **Building on the TA provided throughout its partner countries, the SGS project will work with the HISWACA - SOP 2 project to integrate gender dimension in data collection, analysis, and dissemination.** Specifically, the SGS team will share guidance documents and support capacity-building activities to improve questionnaires and field protocols of the HISWACA - SOP 2 supported surveys. To better tailor the TA to every partner country's needs, the Gender Data Gap Assessment assesses the state of gender data in every country. Below is a summary of the main findings.

3. **Methodology.** This assessment is based on the current availability status of the 52 quantitative gender indicators from the based-on survey reports, questionnaires, statistical yearbooks, press articles, and websites of government institutions. For each indicator, the following seven availability statuses are defined:

(a) Available—Meets all aspects of indicator definition and data collected within the last five years

(b) Available—Meets all aspects of indicator definition and data collected not within the last five years

[56] Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ghana, Lao, Madagascar, Mali, Somalia, and Tanzania.

(c) Partially available—Some aspects of indicator definition missing, and data collected within the last five years

(d) Partially available—Some aspects of indicator definition missing but data collected not within the last five years

(e) Unavailable—Data collected within the last five years, but indicator not calculated or published

(f) Unavailable—Data collected not within the last five years and indicator not calculated or published

(g) Unavailable—Data not collected.

4. **Gender data gaps in countries are measured by the number of indicators in the first category, which reflects the country's capacity to adequately collect timely data and properly compute the relevant gender indicators following international definitions.**

5. **Significant gender data gaps still prevail in the HISWACA - SOP 2 countries.** The gender data gap assessment conducted in the HISWACA - SOP 2 countries shows that currently 32 (out of 260) indicators from the UNSD minimum list of gender indicators are available (that is, properly calculated from data collected within the last five years) in the project partner countries. This is equivalent to an average of 6 (out of 52) indicators by country. The number of available indicators is higher in Cameroon (10 indicators available), Chad (9), and the Central African Republic (8).

6. **Limitations in data analysis are the main reason for gender data gaps.** The reasons behind gender data gaps include a lack of data or irregular data collection, or a limited data analysis and dissemination/publication. In the case of lacking data, relevant data are not collected for the respective indicators. Irregular data collection refers to those cases where the relevant data are collected but not within the last five years. Limited data analysis refers to indicators that are only partially calculated or not calculated at all despite the relevant data being collected within the last five years. In the HISWACA - SOP 2 countries, gender indicators are unavailable due to irregular data collection (37 percent of non-available indicators) followed by limited data analysis (32 percent of indicators that are not available) and lack of data (31 percent of indicators that are not available).

7. **Gender data gaps by indicators domain.** The indicators on the UNSD minimum list of gender indicators can be grouped into five domains: (a) economic structures, participation in productive activities, and access to resources (37 percent of the 52 indicators); (b) education (23 percent); (c) health and related services (21 percent); (d) public life and decision-making (10 percent); and (e) human rights of women and girl children (10 percent). In the HISWACA - SOP 2 project countries, gender data gaps are the largest in the domain of economic participation and decision-making (5 percent of indicators for each domain available in comparison to 12 percent on average). In contrast, the share of available indicators is larger for the human rights and health domains (24 percent in both domains). The reasons for gender data gaps vary across indicator domains. Gender data gaps in economic participation and education come mostly from limitation in data analysis. For decision-making, gender data gaps come from limitation in data analysis. The lack of relevant data is the major reason for gender data gaps in health and human rights.

The HISWACA - SOP 2 Project Will Contribute to Closing Gender Data in Participating Countries

8. **For each participating country, the number of indicators available at the project midterm and at the end of the project were estimated.** These estimations are based on the planned surveys for each country and on an assumption that each participating country NSO will receive training to be able to properly calculate the relevant UNSD minimum list of gender indicators. The midterm estimation of the number of available indicators is based on surveys implemented during the first three years of the project (2023, 2024, and 2025). The endline estimation uses all surveys implemented during the project's five years.

(a) For project midterm estimation, the following surveys will be supported by the project in participating countries:

- Cameroon, and Chad: HIES and DHS/MICS.
- The Central African Republic: LFS/PHC and DHS/MICS.

(b) For end-of-project estimation, the following surveys will be supported by the project in participating countries:

- Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Chad: HIES and DHS/MICS.

9. **Data collected from surveys that will be supported by the HISWACA - SOP 2 along with TA in gender indicators calculation will increase the number of UNSD** minimum list of gender indicators properly calculated using data collected within the last five years.

(a) **At the project midterm (by December 2026)**[57] the number of available indicators will increase from 32 to 190 (out of 216), equivalent to an average increase in the number of available indicators per country from 6 to 38 (out of 52).

(b) **At the end of the project (by December 2029)**[58] the number of available indicators will increase from 32 to 195 (out of 260), equivalent to an average increase in the number of available indicators per country from 6 to 39 (out of 52). The number of available indicators will vary by country as it depends on the type of survey that will be supported by the project. HIESs and DHSs/MICSs provide more gender indicators than LFSs and PHCs. Hence, gender data gaps at the midterm and at the end of the project will be the smallest in countries that will conduct HIESs and DHSs/MICSs and the largest in countries that will not implement a HIES or a DHS/MICS.

(c) **At the project midterm (by December 2026)** the number of available indicators will be 39 in Cameroon and Chad (from 10, 9, 0, and 5 initially, respectively). In the Central African

[57] These estimations are based on surveys to be implemented during the first three years of the project (2023, 2024, and 2025), and the December 2026 timeline is set to account for the time needed after survey completion for data to be available and the indicators to be calculated.

[58] These estimations are based on surveys to be implemented during the project (from 2023 to 2028), and the December 2029 timeline is set to account for the time needed after survey completion for data to be available and the indicators to be calculated.

Republic which will conduct an LFS, a PHC, and a DHS/MICS, the number of available indicators at the project midterm will be 34 (from 8 initially).

(d) **At the end of the project (by December 2029)** the number of available indicators will be 39 in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad (from 10, 8, 9, and 0 initially, respectively).

10. **At both project midterm and the end of the project, 13 indicators will remain unavailable in all participating countries.** These include (a) indicators drawn from administrative data; and (b) indicators drawn from survey data but for which improvements in existing questionnaire are needed to collect the relevant data. It is not clear yet how the HISWACA - SOP 2 project activities will affect these indicators. The numbers provided above can still be increased through support in administrative data production and questionnaire review.

ANNEX 10: Central African Republic - Performance-Based Financing for Statistics Sector

1. **PBF is a supply-side Results-Based Financing approach.**[59] It pays for outputs or results, and this is different from classical programs that focus on procuring inputs. In the statistics sector, outputs or results are predominantly produced by the national statistical institute whereas some results are produced by sectoral statistics units. Results primarily include quality statistics produced and disseminated in a timely and cost-effective manner. Income from the PBF is used by statistics producers to procure necessary inputs and to pay performance bonuses.

2. **The PBF is based on operational and tacit knowledge developed over the past 20 years in Southeast Asia and Africa.** The approach has been implemented in the statistical sector in the last five years. The PBF is mostly applied to the health sector and its effectiveness was proven through a rigorous impact evaluation in Rwanda. A PBF toolkit has been developed by the World Bank, and an English version has been available since April 2014. The PBF mechanism has recently been used in the statistics sector in countries such as Niger (Quality Data for Decision Making, P165062), the Central African Republic (Data for Decision Making, P160717), the Republic of Congo (Additional Financing - Statistics Capacity Building Project, P162345), and Mali (Improving Mali's Statistical System, P160977).

3. Certain aspects of the PBF are (a) purchasing quality data and staff performance; (b) separation of functions; (c) NSOs autonomy; (d) verification; and (e) invoicing.

(a) Purchasing Quality Data and Staff Performance

4. **The PBF purchases quality data produced in a timely and cost-effective manner.** Important notions are changing incentive structures; purchasing conditional on quality and timeliness; leveraging existing resources; and PBF pricing versus the real cost of services. The purchase is through a fee-for-deliverable payment mechanism conditional on the quality of the deliverable. Key to understanding PBF is the notion of aligning incentives with results and leveraging existing resources. These include buildings, data collection tools, cash income from other sources, and staffing.

5. **The PBF changes incentive structures at various levels in the statistics system.** The incentives need to be strong enough to influence the design and implementation of data collection and production strategies while they provide additional income to enable the statistics institute to procure missing equipment or software and to maintain and repair equipment and premises.

6. **The PBF assures value for money.** It purchases an efficient design of surveys (preventing data collection exercises that are too large) and rewards the following of operational procedures. Its budget allocation targets activities critical to ensuring that quality data are made available to users.

7. **Performance is measured and rewarded using a quantified checklist.** This checklist is custom-made to reflect the particularities of each department and data production activity. It is closely associated with the Annual Work Plan of NSOs, and performance is measured on a routine basis by the directorate

[59] Musgrove, P. 2011. “Financial and Other Rewards for Good Performance or Results: A Guided Tour of Concepts and Terms and a Short Glossary.” Washington DC.

responsible for methods, norms, studies, and research which is the first responsible unit for performance assurance at the end of a stand-alone data collection exercise by an independent reviewer. There are multiple performance measures per department/individual, and the height of the performance bonus is a function of the number of criteria that have been successfully met.

8. **PBF fees are closely related to the actual cost of data collection.** Along with the performance bonuses, the cost of data collection should also be reflected as a PBF fee. For instance, for an activity like transportation, it will be purchased under a performance contract. A PBF contract for enumerators could include a hardship element, and therefore, the fee is higher, for enumerators working in hard-to-reach or insecure areas. PBF fees and bonuses can be changed depending on budget availability—a function of savings made in the data collection program. A PBF is a cost-neutral, incentive-enhancing mechanism.

9. A simplified example of PBF is provided in Table A10.1. The bulleted list with bracketed letter that follows this paragraph shows how the performance of the Demographic Department is financed and how the financing can be used. In this example, the focus is simply on the implementation of one survey. In practice, many activities are implemented. In this case, a Commune Monography which has been costed (using conventional, pre-PBF methods) at US$149,100 is assumed. Each bracketed number refers to a performance measure in Table A10.1.

(a) **If NSOs prepare survey instruments and documentation by a given date.** In this case, there are six deliverables: two questionnaires, two manuals and one logistics plan and one sampling document.

(b) NSOs could earn US$3,000 (6 × US$500) per deliverable that is prepared.

(c) NSOs could earn US$900 for contracting 45 qualified enumerators following procedures in accordance with the manual.

(d) NSOs would earn US$9,900 as unadjusted subtotal for the data they produced with this activity.

(e) The total amount would be adjusted for timeliness. In the example in Table A10.1, this particular survey, which is critical to decision-makers would earn 20 percent more because of the difficulties it faces.

(f) The total would also be adjusted by a quality score based on a checklist administered to the data set by an independent reviewer. NSOs would earn 25 percent of what it would be entitled to because of the quality correction. The quality correction is a maximum of 25 percent of earnings.

(g) The funds earned (US$14,850 in this example) are transferred to the bank account of the facility.

(h) In this example, NSOs also have some other sources of cash revenue (US$5,000) because some donor agreed to add questions to the survey for a fee, and these are added to the PBF earnings.

Table A10.1: Simplified Example of How a PBF Works

	Number	Unit Price (US$)	Total (US$)
Revenues			
Survey instruments	6 (a)	500	3,000 (b)
Enumerators contracted and trained	45	20	900 (c)
Vehicles contracted and ready for use	15	100	1,500
Questionnaires of good quality	2,500	1	2,500
Data set made publicly available	1	1,000	1,000
Report produced on time	1	1,000	1,000
Subtotal			***9,900 (d)***
Performance bonus	+20%		1,980 (e)
Quality bonus	+25%		2,970 (f)
Total PBF subsidies			***14,850 (g)***
Other revenues (direct—insurance, and so on)			5,000 (h)
Total revenues			**19,850**
NSO expenses			
Operational costs			3,000
Consumables			1,000
Website maintenance			1,000
Repairs to NSOs building			5,000
Savings into NSOs bank account			2,000
Subtotal			***12,000***
Bonuses to staff in the facility = total expenses minus subtotal			7,850
Total expenses			**19,850**

10. **The NSO has US$19,850 in income from this activity, and the expenses section illustrates how this could have been used.** The income can be used for

(a) NSOs' operational costs, such as transport and fuel, consumables, meeting expenses, and facility maintenance and repair;

(b) Performance bonuses for NSOs' staff (up to 100 percent of the timeliness and quality bonus and 50 percent of additional revenues) according to defined criteria; and

(c) NSOs are saving to buy another vehicle for data supervision. Savings can also be used to cover contingencies.

11. As this is a survey activity, NSOs also spend on performance payments for non-NSO staff and transport, and in particular the use of enumerators. The expected performance of non-NSO staff will be defined in their contract with the wage defined at two levels: 50 percent base salary and 50 percent based on performance during the survey period.

Table A10.2: Performance Contracts with Third Parties

	Number	Unit Price (US$)	Total (US$)
Questionnaires completed	2,500	20	50,000
Transport cost	20,000	2	40,000

12. **Finally, NSOs will pay other survey expenses:** transport, printing of questionnaires, lodging for enumerators, and so on. The input costs are purchased as usual, and the total cost of the survey is the total for the three activities (US$14,850 + US$50,000 + US$84,250).

Table A10.3: Input Costs

	Number	Unit Price (US$)	Total (US$)
Printing	2,500	5	12,500
Consumables	45	200	9,000
Lodging	900	20	18,000
Peer review	5,000	1	5,000
Total input costs			**44,500**

13. **Performance bonuses for routine activities.** The performance bonus will be allocated to various NSO staff to stimulate them to produce results for routine activities such as the preparation of the CPI, the trimestral bulletin on the business cycle, the index of industrial production, and so on. This bonus will be divided into two parts: an individual part and a communal part. The individual part will be paid to all staff depending on their individual performance while the communal part is paid based on the meeting of common, NSO-wide criteria.

14. **The overall evaluation (quality and performance of NSOs) will be done quarterly by the NSOs and World Bank task team.** The evaluation criteria will be defined in the PBF manual.

- The World Bank task team assesses the performance of NSOs' management on the project activities.
- The performance of the Heads of Services is evaluated by the NSOs' management.
- The evaluation of service staff is done by the head of the department and is assisted by his/her director.

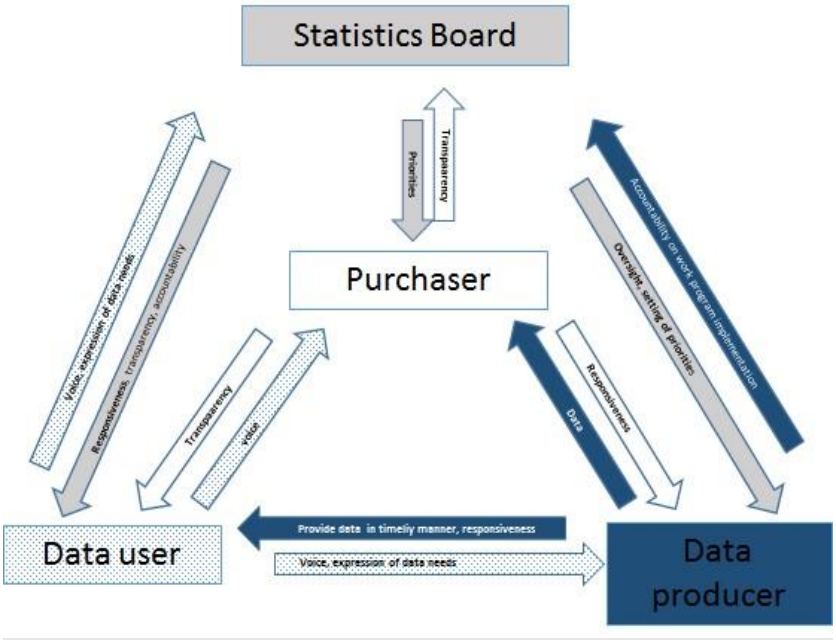
15. **The report of all evaluations is transmitted up the hierarchy; a copy is also transmitted to the financial department so that premiums can be paid.** For each evaluation, the presence of the supervisor among the evaluators is necessary to allow the hierarchical leaders to take sanctions against the evaluated.

(b) Separation of Functions

16. **A precondition for obtaining credible performance results is a separation of functions.** It is best practice to strive for a full separation of functions between the chief players: the fund-holder (project;

Ministry of Finance), the data producer (typically NSOs), the World Bank task team (oversight, quality control and priority setting, and evaluation of performance of the NSOs management), and data user (feedback on data quality and expression of data needs). In Figure A10.1, the separation of functions is illustrated, which reflects the separation of functions one expects in any statistical system. The separation of functions within the framework of this project is not limited only to the different external actor to the NSOs but also to the different services within the organization (for example, financial service, procurement, and technical service of the NSOs).

Figure A10.1: Separation of Functions and Governance Issues[60]



(c) NSOs' Autonomy

17. **The autonomy of the statistics producer (NSOs) is an important pre-requisite for PBF.** Autonomy is important in (a) management of cash resources; (b) managing of a bank account; (c) procurement of goods; (d) repairs to facility and equipment; and (e) managing of human resources. Autonomy requires a degree of professionalization of the statistics institute and the clear delineation of procedures and oversight functions. To facilitate this, the project appoints procurement and FM officers and prepares procurement, FM, and human resource manuals.

18. **Oversight from the Statistics Board is important as the autonomous data producer ultimately reports to the board.** A fully functioning board that plays an active role in providing oversight, that sets priorities, and that is responsive to suggestions from data users is important. To assure the board plays this role satisfactorily, its functioning is supported initially.

[60] Remme, M., P. B. Peerenboom, et al. 2012. *Le Financement base sur la Performance et al Bonne Gouvernance*: *Leçons apprises in Republique Centrafricaine.* PBF Community of Practice Working Paper Series WP8 ed.

(d) Verification and Counter-Verification

19. **Credible verification is at the heart of PBF systems, and three types can be discerned.**

(a) The first type is the so-called 'ex-ante verification', the verification before the data collection activity starts. It involves reviewing the instruments, logistics plans, sampling plans, and major procurements. The *ex-ante quantity verification* is typically carried out by the purchaser but may also be carried out by the data user or the board.

(b) The second type of verification is real-time verification. Most data collection activities—and certainly those using CAPI—allow the supervisor to assess how work is progressing. Are enumerators in the location where they are supposed to be? How long does data collection take? Are skip patterns and other procedures adhered to? CAPI can give enumerators near-real-time feedback on their performance, allowing enumerators to know whether they are performing or not. Enumerators are expected to be hired on a performance contract.

(c) The third type is the 'ex-post verification', the verification which is done after the data has been collected. Whereas the ex-ante verification is a checking of instruments and whether procedures have been followed, the ex-post verification checks the quality of the data that is produced. Typically, this ex-post verification will be done by a third party—often a representative from a statistical agency in the region. The verifier will assess the data quality and produce a report with recommendations for improvements to be implemented at the next data collection exercise. This report is shared not only with the data producer but also with the purchaser and the board.

(e) Invoicing

20. **The PBF needs a transparent invoicing system to pay for performance.** Performance data need to be characterized by (a) accessibility; (b) objectivity; and (c) transparency.