



# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

### **(ESRS Concept Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 12/22/2022 | Report No: ESRSC03078



## BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Western and Central Africa		P180085	
Project Name	Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa (HISWACA) - SOP 2		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Poverty and Equity	Investment Project Financing	5/8/2023	7/20/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Central African Republic, The Republic of Cameroon, The Republic of Congo, Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) / DPEMF, The Gabonese Republic, The Republic of Chad	National Institute of Statistics, Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales (ICASEES), Institut National de la Statistique, des Études Économiques et Démographiques (INSEED), Direction General de la Statistique, National Institute of Statistics		

### Proposed Development Objective

The development objective of this series of projects is to improve the statistical performance, harmonization, and data access of participating countries and regional bodies in Western and Central Africa and to support the modernization of their statistical systems.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	360.00



**B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?**

No

**C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]**

The key aspects of the Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa (HISWACA) Project Development Objective (PDO) are the improvements of (i) the statistical performance of the National Statistical Systems (NSSs); (ii) harmonization of statistics and (iii) data access. The project also aims to support the modernization process of the regional statistical systems. The focus area of the statistical performance component of the NSSs relates to their ability to generate data based on international standards, in a timely manner, and their wide availability and use. The harmonization component of the PDO aims to enhance statistical cooperation in the region to produce comparable and quality statistics which means that the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) (a) are provided with common regional guidelines and (b) have trained staff with adequate skills to implement them. Another requirement to produce these harmonized statistics is the availability of financial resources at country levels to undertake statistics operations needed to implement the provided regional guidelines. The data access component focuses on making widely available statistical products and reports and micro-data to users.

This means the project aims to improve the Western and Central Africa's (AFWs) performance of the statistical systems of participating countries and regional bodies to produce statistics needed for decision-making and support the modernization process of the statistical systems.

Thus, progress toward achievement of the PDO will be measured and monitored through the following PDO-level indicators:

- a. Improved Statistical Performance Index (SPI) of project participating NSOs: Average score for the customized / (modified on the variables the project will influence by country).
- b. Share of harmonized core economic and social statistical products including national accounts, price, household survey statistics produced and published following international standards (percentage, custom).
- c. Number of countries that are using improved data collection methods and computerized data checking to improve data quality. (number).
- d. Number of comparable core economic and social statistics indicators produced and available for open access following predetermined release calendar (number).
- e. Number of United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) Minimum List of gender indicators available using data collected within the past 5 years (Number).

The activities for this project are grouped into four components:

Component 1: Harmonization and production of core statistics using harmonized methodologies. This component will support the production of harmonized tools (classifications, methodologies, etc.) at the continental and sub-regional levels and will support the production of core statistics using the previous harmonized tools. Activities under this component aim to improve data sources and data infrastructure of the SPI where participating countries are doing poorly in terms of statistical performance. Harmonization will help adoption of international standards, the



production of core set of economic, social, and demographic statistics is needed to meet users' demand on statistics. Activities implemented through this component will also be instrumental to ensuring performance of the NSSs regarding availability of indicators needed to monitor most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, the produced statistics will inform the design and implementation of regional integration policies and reforms.

Component 2: Support institutional reforms, improve data access, dissemination and use and human capital. All the participating countries have a Statistics Act that underpins the collection, management, and dissemination of official statistics. These Statistics Acts are largely in line with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and African Charter on Statistics. However, most of the Statistics Acts lack provisions for sustainable funding of statistical activities. The key principles of institutional reforms are to finance technical assistance for participating countries to update their Statistics Act. The component also supports data access and dissemination, harmonized time series at the continental and sub-regional levels and time series and micro-data at the national level. This component also invests in human capital, academic training in statistics, and on-the-job training of staff, when skills need to be improved. This will help address the shortage of statisticians with expertise and skills in specialized areas faced by countries in both sub-regions (such as in national accounts, agricultural statistics, household surveys, trade statistics, financial statistics, and price statistics).

Component 3: Support physical and statistical modernization. The working environment, and the availability of adequate equipment are important pillars for strengthening statistical capacity. They are important factors in the productivity of each NSS institution and its performance. On the other hand, big data is increasingly becoming an important development that has the potential to significantly impact the activities of NSOs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, NSS were confronted with significant challenges in carrying out their activities using traditional statistics-gathering methods. As such, NSOs resorted to opportunities in other emerging sources of data to continue responding to some users' data needs. Big data has shown the potential to be used to complement official statistics in many areas to enable NSOs to execute their mandate of providing users with the necessary information. To harness this potential, NSOs must modernize their methods and their organization to keep pace with possibilities, especially in using advanced technologies and developing new, cost-effective methods to integrate data from a variety of sources. In this regard, the aim of this component is to improve the working environment and the modernization process of the NSOs.

Component 4: Project management, monitoring, and evaluation. This includes cost of staff of the PIU and costs related to project coordination (steering committee), operating costs, external auditing costs, and other expenses needed. At the national level, NSOs will be the main implementing agencies of the project in each country and will be responsible for its technical management and coordination. Depending on the specific institutional arrangements of each country, a PIU will be established either in the NSO or somewhere else. This component would cover the cost of staff of the PIU and costs related to project coordination (steering committee), operating costs, external auditing costs, and other expenses needed to make the project successful. This component's output includes the operations manual, annual work plans, bi-annual updates on the Results Framework, audits, procurement plans, and interim financial reports. Similar arrangements will be put in place at the regional level. The relevant body Economic and Monetary Community for Central Africa (Communaute Economique et Monetaire de l'Afrique Centrale, CEMAC) will be in charge of project implementation at the regional level. The CEMAC commission will be represented by the existing department in charge of statistics. More specifically, CEMAC Commission aims to conduct four main activities: (i) hire consultants to develop methods, standards and guidelines that will be the basis for harmonization of statistics



in the region; (ii) hire consultants to work with the Economic and Statistical Observatory Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT) to facilitate workshops during which staffs from CEMAC NSSs will be trained on the methods, guidelines and standards developed; (iii) play key role in disseminating data and reports, including via a CEMAC dedicated platform to be developed under this project and; (iv) lead implementations of activities related to the sub-regional Institute for Statistics and Applied Economics (Institut Sous-Régional de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée, ISSEA), which includes organizing learning trips for ISSEA lecturers to improve their capacity, and refurbishment and expansion of its existing facilities including purchase of Information Technology (IT) related equipment, establishment of library and data centers.

#### Relationship to CPF

Despite some progress, performance of the statistical systems in participating countries remains insufficient to effectively support evidenced-based development planning in each country. The limited availability of quality statistics in Africa remains one of the main obstacles to better monitoring poverty reduction strategies, economic progress and managing for development results. Furthermore, the production of harmonized statistics and their alignment to international standards and classifications are prerequisites to producing quality data needed for informing evidence-based policy making, a fundamental objective of the World Bank in supporting statistical capacity building in developing countries.

The project will also inform two main strategies recently launched in the Africa region. First, the project will support the World Bank Groups updated Regional Integration and Cooperation Assistance Strategy (RICAS 2021-2023) through data production and analytics. This strategy aims to help strengthen regional integration in Africa and to reinforce its support to the continent's recovery from the Coronavirus Disease (COVID)-19 pandemic and to realize its economic transformation. More particularly, through data production and analytics in the West and Central African Region, the project will support the recently launched 2021-2025 regional strategy "support a resilient recovery" which aims to address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing climate change, through restoring 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.

#### Rationale for a Regional Series of Projects (SOP)

The project will use a regional approach to facilitate coordination among NSOs by introducing and expanding innovations, peer-to-peer reviewing, and learning that can generate positive externalities. 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 or storage, measurement, and analysis can be developed and tested 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. It can also spread beyond the program's beneficiaries if they are proven to work. Training can be conducted more efficiently by utilizing regional schools, 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.



A regional Series of Projects (SOP) provides a flexible instrument for providing tailored support to the needs of diverse Borrowers, while supporting the achievement of a common regional objective that requires a longer-term perspective of improving quality, availability and usage of statistics. As noted below, supporting the performance of national and regional statistical systems in AFW will require support at both the country and regional level. The SOP financing instrument allows for a modular design approach that enables sequenced and scaled support over time within a harmonized framework. The SOP will provide a platform for long-term World Bank engagement and support that can sustain national and regional dialogue and build capacity over time. The SOP approach also allows flexible program design with course correction to achieve the ultimate project objective by establishing a strong feedback loop to capture lessons learned from a project to identify interventions for subsequent projects. The solid common monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework will inform the design of regional and national interventions to be supported under subsequent SOPs and help identify where dedicated support would be most required. The modular design and sequencing associated with an SOP also provides an opportunity for learning between projects – this would enable effective and dynamic adaptation of the program, both to potential changes in a volatile and fragile regional context and to new countries or regional bodies that join in subsequent series. Finally, given that countries in the region have in common the underperformance of their respective statistical systems, using an SOP will allow building consensus around a common set of objectives and overall framework that is expected to be easily replicable, not only within AFW but in the broader Africa continent as per the operationalization of the African Union's Second Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA2) (2017-2026) in coordination with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The high-level objective of the HISWACA SOP is to support countries in AFW jointly to improve the statistical performance of national and regional statistical systems, especially data sources and data infrastructure, while ensuring that data produced are harmonized and made more comparable. This project will be implemented into two series of operations, with countries aligned with sub-regional organizations. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (SOP1): Benin, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and The Gambia; and Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale, CEMAC) (SOP2) : Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Gabon, and Republic of Congo (ROC). A comprehensive regional approach to harmonize and compare data is required to improve not only regional, but also national statistical performance objectives more effectively and rapidly.

Phase 1 of the SOP (HISWACA-SOP1) (P178497) will focus on supporting the following West African countries, such as, Benin, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and The Gambia. HISWACA-SOP1 will also support the (ECOWAS) Statistics Department, the AU's Statistical Institute (STATAFRIC), and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), in their coordination and advocacy roles to improve comparability and harmonization of statistics. This SOP1 will complement the ongoing Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa Project (HIS WA) (P169265), which is providing support to seven West African Countries: Cabo Verde, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo; as well as ECOWAS and AU's STATAFRIC, to strengthen their statistical systems and harmonize, produce, disseminate, and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics.

This project, HISWACA-SOP2 (P189985), is Phase 2 of the SOP. It will cover Central African countries including CAR, Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, and ROC. In addition, CEMAC will join SOP 2 as a regional organization. Interest in harmonized and comparable data is high in the region and expected to grow. National International Development Association (IDA) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) contributions to support activities that are more national in nature will also inform the design and composition of subsequent SOPs, which is



consistent with findings and recommendations to develop and support a regional and continental data harmonization and methodology.

The SOP includes all the specific indicators highlighted above in the sectoral context where participating countries share common performance weaknesses as well as country specific weaknesses. However, the selection criteria for activities are not only based on whether the country is not well performing on the dimension, but also on the potential impact of the said activities on other SPI indicators. That is for instance the cases for the population census, poverty survey, labor force survey (LFS) and DHS/MICS. The availability of which, not only accounts for the pillars 4 (data sources) and 5 (data infrastructure), but also has significant impact on the pillar 3 (data products related to availability of the SDGs' indicators).

## **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

HISWACA-SOP2, includes five Central African countries: Chad, Cameroon, CAR, Gabon, RoC and one sub-regional entity, Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). Phase 1 which is currently under preparation includes three regional partners: Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS; Statistics Department, the Secretariat the African Union's Statistical Institute (AU-STATAFRIC); the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU); and seven countries in West Africa (Benin, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Mali).

While the E&S risks and impacts of the activities are considered Moderate for both phases activities include census and other survey data collection, limited construction activities, no physical and/or economic displacement, limited environmental impacts, and most countries have had experience implementing previous Bank-funded statistics projects, the scale and scope of the activities across these multiple countries and the complex institutional arrangements will make implementation and supervision support more difficult. In addition, the security situation in some of the Central African countries (CAR, Cameroon, RoC and Chad) is fluid and includes large movements of people and social tensions among some ethnic groups, internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants, and refugees. Security incidents have increased across the region which may make census/survey enumeration challenging and unsafe for project workers and respondents. There are various actors operating in the project area, including extremist groups, non-state armed groups, military forces, police, private security forces and UN peacekeepers. In Cameroon, terrorist attacks by Boko Haram in the Far North, the secessionist insurgency in anglophone regions, and the recent resurgence of inter-ethnic violence between Arab Choa and the Mousgoum communities have led to the internal displacement of more than 500,000 people and numerous deaths. If the security of personal data is not well managed in this project, the socially fragile context in the participating countries can exacerbate conflict risks and community and individual safety of vulnerable groups in the project area such as IDPs, refugees, ethnic minorities, sexual and gender minorities, HIV-AIDs affected persons, unwed pregnant girls/women, and, persons with disabilities.

As the project is national in scope for each of the participating countries, nomadic and semi-nomadic hunter-gatherer communities who would be considered as Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLCs) are present in the project area in Gabon, CAR, RoC, and Cameroon. They mostly live rural areas, although some may live partly in towns/villages and partly in forests and the savannah. In all four countries, they are represented by traditional, local, national, and sub-regional representational networks





and organizations and will need to be consulted to ensure the project addresses possible risks and impacts IPs/SSAHUTLCs may face, which may include inter-ethnic conflict, breaches of data privacy that can result in personal and/or community safety risks, inaccessibility of project information, among others.

#### D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The institutional capacity for all countries and regional institution to implement the program under the ESF is varied but overall considered weak given the expanded scope of the ESF. None of the PIUs/RIU that will be involved in this project has any previous experience implementing a project under the ESF although all except CEMAC have experience with the World Bank safeguards and operational policies. At the regional level, the CEMAC, will have the overall responsibility for environmental and social risk management and compliance for sub-regional level activities and will require capacity building in order to adequately manage the various census activities which require harmonization of data across the various countries. Capacity building activities will be included for the RIU in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). These will be identified during preparation along with a timeline and budget and will be proportional to the risk level and scale of the project financed activities.

At country level, National Statistic Offices (PIUs) will be the main implementing agencies of the project in each country and they will be responsible for the technical, fiduciary and E&S risk management, coordination, and results monitoring. Each PIU will have a core staff that includes a project management team that will coordinate project activities, manage reporting and auditing activities, and ensure compliance with fiduciary policies and procedures. In terms of the country level experience, all of the participating countries have some previous experience with the World Bank Operational Policies, while CEMAC does not. A review of their technical staffing will also be carried out during preparation and recommendations regarding how to ensure they have adequate technical support for project implementation and capacity building on the ESF, monitoring and reporting will be organized for all PIUs in the participating countries and reflected in the ESCPs and ESMFs. At the regional level (CEMAC), one environmental specialist and one social specialist will be recruited. At national level, each PIU will recruit one environmental and one social specialist to support managing project environmental and social impacts and risks. GBV risk assessments per participating country will be conducted during preparation, where it will be determined if a GBV consultant will also be recruited for some or all clients.

## II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

### A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

#### Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The project environmental risk rating is Moderate at concept stage. The assessment may be revised or confirmed in the appraisal stage Environmental and Social Review Summary (A-ESRS), once additional technical details regarding project financed activities and scope are well known. Key environmental concerns are related to the implementation of activities under Component 3 (Support physical and statistical modernization). Under this component 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: in CAR (Bangui), Chad (N'Djamena), RoC (Brazzaville), Gabon (Libreville), and Cameroon (four different regions outside of Yaoundé). Although potential risks and impacts might differ for each





country as per scope of activities that will be undertaken, typical environmental risks and impacts during construction and/or rehabilitation activities include but 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. Mitigation measures to minimize/eliminate such E&S risks during construction/rehabilitation activities should be identified in C-ESMP, prepared for each site. Moreover, the design of the facilities and schools shall be in line with requirements of an international Life and Fire Safety (L&FS) standard, as well as universal access. Under Component 3, statistical infrastructure involves technological infrastructure and software needs (e.g., internet connectivity, computers, statistical software and packages, data archiving, storage, and retrieval facility) in most of the countries. Data archiving and storage might require substantial amount of electricity use and cooling. Such facilities should be designed in a way that energy efficiency should be in place, and ozone depleting substances (ODS) are not used for cooling. Special attention should also be given to Life and Fire Safety of these buildings/units. The potential adverse risks and impacts on human populations and/or the environment are not likely to be significant; they are predictable and expected to be temporary and/or reversible, low in magnitude, and site-specific, without likelihood of impacts beyond the actual footprint of the project. As per agreed on SOP1, an umbrella ESMF will be prepared during appraisal stage to address potential risks and impacts, screening methodologies to guide how to prepare additional country specific ESF instruments, and main mitigation measures.

### Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The Social Risk Rating is considered Moderate at concept stage. Key social concerns relate to: (i) 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); (ii) there is adequate stakeholder engagement at the regional and national level with all stakeholders, including civil society and vulnerable groups (IDPs, refugees, returnees, 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; (iii) any technical assistance that will take place in areas in which Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLCs) are present in, or have collective attachment to, the project area will be required to take into account their specific needs and interests and be conducted in a way that reflects their cultural and social norms and imperatives; (iv) some construction related impacts such as limited labor influx and social disruption due to construction and traffic and nuisances such as noise and dust; (vi) some limited SEA/SH risks during construction depending on the scale and scope of the construction and census/surveys; and (v) security/fragility risks for activities that will be implemented in FCV contexts such as CAR, Chad, and RoC; and risks to vulnerable groups such as pregnant women/girls, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities in conflict prone areas internally displaced persons, 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.

## B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered



## **B.1. General Assessment**

### **ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

#### ***Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:***

The potential E&S risks identified above will need to be further assessed during project preparation and actively mitigated throughout the project's lifecycle. The project is likely to generate low to moderate direct and indirect environmental and social risks for project workers, surrounding communities. The main environmental risks are expected to be related to: (i) waste management, including management of asbestos (from rehabilitation of buildings), electronic waste (e-waste), due to the short lifespan of electronic equipment and devices, but also stemming from the provision of new computers and electronic equipment, environmental impacts associated with civil works; (ii) Occupational and community health and safety during civil works and operations (including but not limited to Life and Fire Safety of the buildings, and security); iii) energy efficiency, GHG and ODS (as a result of operation of data storage centers). During project implementation before start of any work each PIU will prepare a Construction ESMP (C-ESMP) and other plans such as Waste Management Plan (including hazardous and e-waste), Traffic Management Plan, Security Management Plan (SMP), occupational health and safety plan (OHS Plan) or Construction Health and Safety Plan (CHS plan), L&FS plan, Emergency Response, Plan, etc.), that includes operation and decommission phases.

In terms of direct social risks associated with the project, the PIUs/RIUs will need to ensure that data collected is maintained only for the intended use in line with good international, regional and ethical guidelines and standards for statistical practice and that confidentiality/data protection. These risks are best addressed through the design of the project to ensure they are fully incorporated into the project (i.e. data collection practices, cybersecurity and privacy protocols and good practices). as well as ESF capacity training to identify, manage and monitor such risks.

In order to address these E&S risks, an umbrella Environmental and Social Management Framework (U-ESMF) will be prepared to cover all SOP1 countries and CEMAC. This U-ESMF will be cleared by the Bank and disclosed before project Appraisal. Requirements for pollution management (ESS3) (including GHG estimation), and Community Health and Safety (ESS4), including security risks, will be further assessed during project preparation and included in in country specific documents to be prepared as recommended by the approved U-ESMF. SEA/SH risk mitigation measures that will be tailored according to each country and the RIU. Risk levels determined in the SEA/SH risk assessments will also be included in the ESMF to guide the preparation of country specific ESMPs. The U-ESMF will also include guidance regarding the reporting of emergency incidents.

As part of the Financial Agreement, the RIU and each PIU will also prepare an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) with the support of the Bank. The ESCP will include a timeline and a commitment to prepare and disclose any additional instruments as required. Capacity building and assessment activities will be included in the ESCPs of the RIU and national PIUs.

#### **Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:**

The use of Borrower Framework is not being considered.

### **ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**



Successful project implementation will require regular inputs from different stakeholder groups, including those directly and indirectly affected. Stakeholder mapping will be conducted as part of the client specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans. Key stakeholders are likely to include: relevant government departments and ministries; national statistics offices; academics (universities who may work on issues related to statistics and use of data); development partners; NGOs and CSOs at both the national and regional level addressing issues related to data protection and security, use of statistics; NGOs and intergovernmental organizations as well as organizations representing IPs/SSAHUTLCs and other vulnerable groups (IDPs, refugees, women/girls, those with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities). For FCV countries, stakeholders will also include bilateral organizations, other MDBs and NGOs and international organizations that are working in the same sub-regions and are involved in security risk management.

Prior to appraisal, a Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF) will be prepared with chapters for each country/RIU, to guide the preparation of country/RIU specific SEPs and GMs. The SEF will outline a process and approach to stakeholder consultations and disclosure for SOP2 countries/RIU. The scope and level of detail of this SEF will reflect the nature and scale of the potential risks and impacts of the project and the level of concerns of the stakeholders who may be affected by or are interested in the project. The SEF will outline the characteristics and interests of the relevant stakeholder groups and timing and methods of engagement throughout the life of the Program. Each Borrower will undertake meaningful engagement with stakeholders in order to ensure the disclosure of timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, and included in the SEF. The SEF will include a chapter on the proposed approach to engage organizations representing IP/SSAHUTLCs (Indigenous Peoples Organizations) as well as their official representatives to determine if they have any specific concerns related to data collection and security.

The SEF will also consider how the Project will address the safety of project workers and stakeholders during consultations in restricted situations (such as Covid-19) in line with national regulations policies as well as WHO guidelines, at the time of consultations.

RIUs and PIUs will also establish a functional and accessible project-level Grievance Mechanism (GM). When possible, this will be the same one that has already been established for other projects under implementation to avoid a proliferation of GMs and the need for any improvements or adjustments will be identified during a review of the performance of these GMs during preparation. Based on the experience of similar projects, possible grievances that may be expected under this project include concerns related to access to or privacy of information; concerns or questions about HIV testing and implications of results, disclosures about marital status, sexual orientation, health status, ethnicity, or pregnancy; confidentiality of sensitive data; construction related (labor influx, traffic, road safety, waste management, etc.); security, conflict and safety concerns; and harassment, among others. The GMs shall provide multiple avenues of access to a fair, transparent, confidential, and timely decision-making process, as well as recording, monitoring and reporting processes, and shall be proportional to the risks and impacts of this project.

## **B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts**

**A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.**

### **ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions**



This standard is relevant. The project includes financing for direct and contracted workers including those hired for capacity building and technical assistance, enumerators for censuses and surveys, and workers for construction and rehabilitation activities. Some of the key labor risks associated with project activities include safety and security of workers especially insecure/fragile areas, sexual harassment of workers and members of local communities, OHS, communicable disease exposure, road safety, and others.

Direct workers include full and part time workers assigned to the RIUs and PIUs and consultants hired based on project needs, such as RIU/PIU staff, contracted workers, and civil servants who are subject to the employment terms in their contracts. An umbrella Labor Management Procedures (LMP) will be prepared by the CEMAC for the project and disclosed prior to Appraisal and will be applicable to the entire Project and will contain sections relating to the labor laws of each of the countries/regional entity where the project will be implemented, as well. It will include principles for each Borrower to adopt a grievance mechanism (GM) for all categories of project workers and outline roles and responsibilities of contractors and PIUs in managing the requirements of ESS2, non-discrimination and equal opportunity, occupational, health and safety measures, prohibition of child and forced labor, a Code of Conduct (CoC), incorporation of the relevant labor requirements in the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with third parties, among others. The CoC will require that each project worker, including enumerators, is provided with SEA/SH training to guide their conduct while working in local communities, with women, and vulnerable groups. The CoC will also include prohibited behavior, a list of sanctions, minimum standards for the PIU to follow, as well as reporting requirements and complaints mechanism.

### **ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

This standard is relevant. Physical infrastructure includes building facilities and related civil work in some countries (CAR, Chad, Gabon and Cameroon). During construction and rehabilitation activities, generated non-hazardous solid waste includes excess fill materials from grading and excavation activities, scrap wood and metals, and concrete spills and construction debris. Hazardous solid waste includes contaminated soils, which could potentially be encountered on-site due to previous land use activities, or amounts of machinery maintenance materials, such as oily rags, used oil filters, and used oil, as well as spill cleanup materials from oil and fuel spills, wastewater, contaminated construction/demolition debris including asbestos. E&S risks and impacts should be identified and mitigated as per C-ESMP prepared for each work-site before start of work. Construction ESMPs (C-ESMP) and other plans such as Waste Management Plan (including hazardous and e-waste), Traffic Management Plan, Security Management Plan, OHS Plan, CHS plan, L&FS plan, etc.), should be in line with local standards as well as GIIP and WBG General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines requirements. This guidance will be included in the umbrella ESMF to guide the preparation of country and site-specific ESMPs during preparation.

During operations and maintenance of facilities and schools, activities envisioned may result in the generation of electronic waste (i.e., computers, servers) and other types of waste. To mitigate related impacts, each country will develop and implement a waste management system that addresses issues linked to waste minimization, generation, segregation, transport, disposal, and monitoring. Wastewater of all facilities shall be treated in line with the World Bank Group General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines. Under Component 3, statistical infrastructure involves technological infrastructure and software needs (e.g., internet connectivity, computers, statistical software



and packages, data archiving, storage, and retrieval facility) in most of the countries. Data archiving and storage might require significant amount of electricity use and cooling. Such facilities should be designed in a way that energy efficiency should be in place, and ozone depleting substances (ODS) are not used for cooling. GHG emissions of such facilities should be further assessed during implementation stage following the guidance from U-ESMF.

#### **ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

This standard is relevant. While the project includes some limited civil works and the installation of IT infrastructure, this will take place mostly in urban areas and on existing sites and/or government owned sites (except in Cameroon where two Regional Statistical Offices (RSOs) will be built in regional centers). As a result, risks to community health and safety associated with labor influx or due to construction including SEA/H are not expected to be significant. However, the full scope and scale of expected infrastructure and labor needs will be confirmed during preparation and measures to mitigate risks related to labor influx including SEA/H will be included in the umbrella ESMF and ESMPs as needed such as worker and community sensitization on Codes of Conduct and expected behaviors. Constructed/rehabilitated buildings will be publicly accessible buildings. Due to use of significant amount of electricity for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and cooling of data storage facilities, fire risk is high in these buildings. Buildings should be designed according to local and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) Life and Fire Safety Codes, and L&FS management plans for the buildings and Emergency Response Plans (to protect neighboring communities) should be in place, including regular drills, in all publicly accessible sites. Universal access of the buildings should also be ensured.

Digital security needs to be considered in relation to both data protection and cyber-security, which could affect community and individual safety and engender conflict and/or harm if sensitive personal data is revealed, including data relating to health status, ethnicity, sexuality, citizenship, among others. During preparation, the project will need to assess the extent to which data protection and security is already enacted in the selected countries and the implementation of the same as noted above and propose gap-filling measures for those countries which require it. This will also be included in the umbrella ESMF.

To address security and conflict risks in FCV contexts (Chad, Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Central African Republic), the umbrella ESMF will include a security risk assessment to guide the preparation of Security Management Plans (SMP) during implementation. This will consist of a short assessment of the security situation in each participating country, including: standard convoy security for any travel in orange or red zones, security tier management that will guide decision making for implementation of any activities in these zones, escalation plan that will include guidance for how to communicate security related information and decision making. When possible, the SMPs should be consistent with the other SMPs for other Bank financed projects in the same areas and reflect standard security risk mitigation measures including use of local NGOs, ICT and local enumerators in areas where there are concerns related to ethnicity, language and general access.

#### **ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**



The standard is not deemed relevant at this stage as physical works will be located on existing sites and/or government-owned sites. Evidence of legal title for each subproject site will be required as part of the general E&S screening and the acceptable forms of title will be outlined in the umbrella ESMF. Any potential sites that require land acquisition or involuntary resettlement will be ineligible for project financing. Documentation will be reviewed by the Bank team prior to providing the non objection to the start of any rehabilitation or construction works. Copies of the documentation will be annexed to the letter authorizing the start of works.

#### **ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

This standard is not relevant at this stage. There is no anticipated impact to biodiversity under this project. However, the U-ESMF will provide guidance and mitigation measures to mitigate potential harm to biodiversity. In addition the U-ESMF will provide a list of excluded activities for the project to maintain the risk level on biodiversity very low or insignificant.

#### **ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities**

This standard is relevant. Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IPs/SSAHUTLC) are present in four countries: CAR, Gabon, Cameroon and RoC. However, given the nature of Project activities, direct adverse social, economic, environmental, and cultural impacts are not expected to occur in the specific areas where IP/SSAHUTLCs are present or have a collective attachment. The Stakeholder Engagement Framework will outline the approach and methods to effectively engage with IP/SSAHUTLCs, and their representative organizations (i.e., Indigenous Peoples' Organizations or IPOs) and consult with these groups during preparation and throughout the project lifecycle (as well as NGOs and CSOs who support or work in IP communities) to determine if they have any specific concerns especially related to data collection, including biological specimens, access to information, and conflict/security, which should inform project design and risk mitigation measures in the umbrella ESMF. A summary of these consultations should be included in the SEP in an annex. The umbrella ESMF for these four countries shall also include a basic social assessment that includes, among other things, where and which IP/SSAHUTLCs are expected to be present, risks and barriers to participation (for example due to livelihood activities), languages spoken, and summarize the concerns raised in consultations with IPOs and NGOs who work/support them to ensure IP/SSAHUTLCs not excluded from project, are meaningfully included, and to reduce project risks.

#### **ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

This standard is relevant. While physical works will take place in urban centers, and in some cases on existing sites, and there is no proposed use of cultural heritage in any form. Chance Finds procedure will be included as part of the umbrella ESMF. A chance finds clause will also be added to contracts, requiring contractors to stop construction as per procedures if cultural heritage is encountered during construction.

#### **ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

This standard is not considered relevant because this project does not involve financial intermediaries.



### C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

**OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways** No

**OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas** No

## III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

**A. Is a common approach being considered?** No

### Financing Partners

None are being considered at this time.

### B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower's commitments)

#### Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

- Umbrella ESMF (included security risk assessment, SEA/SH assessments/guidance, risk assessment related to IP/SSAHUTLC)
- ESCP to be completed by each client (PIUs/RIU)
- SEF (Stakeholder Engagement Framework) includes guidance for the preparation of client specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans during implementation, and will include client specific summary of consultations undertaken during preparation for each client in separate chapters
- Labor Management Procedures (aggregate LMP that will include chapters for each client)

#### Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):

- Coordination aspects among RIU (regional implementation unit) and country implementation unit (PIU) to monitor and report on E&S issues identified or to reported to the Bank
- Security risk management
- Development and implementation of institutional capacity strengthening activities
- Measures to consult with Indigenous Peoples in the SEP and U-ESMP

### C. Timing

**Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS** 01-Mar-2023

## IV. CONTACT POINTS



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**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Borrower:	Central African Republic
Borrower:	The Republic of Cameroon
Borrower:	The Republic of Congo
Borrower:	Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) / DPEMF
Borrower:	The Gabonese Republic
Borrower:	The Republic of Chad

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

Implementing Agency: National Institute of Statistics

Implementing Agency: Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales (ICASEES)

Implementing Agency: Institut National de la Statistique, des Études Économiques et Démographiques (INSEED)

Implementing Agency: Direction General de la Statistique

Implementing Agency: National Institute of Statistics

**V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**



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## VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Gervais Chamberlin Yama, Mervy Ever Viboudoulou Vilpoux, Clarence Tsimpo Nkengne, Aboudrahyme Savadogo
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Pia Peeters Recommended on 05-Dec-2022 at 14:43:8 GMT-05:00
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Nathalie S. Munzberg (SAESSA) Cleared on 22-Dec-2022 at 07:11:38 GMT-05:00