



Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 02-Mar-2023 | Report No: PIDA34623

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Western and Central Africa	Project ID P178497	Project Name Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa - Series of Projects 1 (HISWACA - SOP 1)	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 28-Feb-2023	Estimated Board Date 11-May-2023	Practice Area (Lead) Poverty and Equity
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Mali, Republic of The Gambia, Republic of Benin, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Niger, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Union (AU), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Implementing Agency Agence Nationale de la Statistique de l'Analyse et de la Démographie (ANSADE), Mauritania, Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INStAD), Benin, Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE), Guinea-Bissau, Institut National de la Statistique (INS), Niger, Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS), The Gambia, Institut National de la Statistique (INSTAT), Mali, Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSO), Senegal, Institut National de la Statistique (INS), Guinea	

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 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: Physical Infrastructure Upgrading and Modernization

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	460.00
Total Financing	460.00
of which IBRD/IDA	460.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	460.00
IDA Credit	360.00
IDA Grant	100.00

Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Moderate

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate



B. Regional and Country Context

1. **The COVID-19 pandemic triggered 2020 recession was followed by a partial recovery in 2021, but growth in the Sub-Saharan African (SSA) slowed again in 2022 as the region faced new economic challenges, with only a slight improvement in growth expected in 2023.** In 2020, for the first time in 27 years, SSA recorded a negative real economic growth rate of -2.0 percent. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global supply chains, commodity prices, 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 SSA recovered to 4.3 percent in 2021, but with significant variation across countries. However, growth is estimated to have declined to 3.4 percent in 2022 driven by several short-term headwinds including a global economic slowdown, continued impacts of the pandemic including supply disruptions, high inflation, increased financial risks owing to high public debts, and the war in Ukraine. In 2023, growth in SSA is projected to be 3.6 percent, just marginally higher than in 2022. There are significant downside risks to the economic outlook for SSA due to both external risks—related to the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and policies in advanced economies—and domestic factors, including risks related to debt, security, and severe weather conditions. In 2023, growth is projected to be 3.7 percent for Africa Western and Central (AFW), with relatively robust growth projected for West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)¹ countries and non-resource rich countries, continuing a pattern seen in 2022.

2. **The economic slowdown and COVID-19 pandemic increased poverty incidence in 2020 and set back progress made in AFW by almost half a decade.** Following a decade of steady poverty reduction, the AFW extreme poverty rate increased by nearly 0.9 percentage points in 2020, pushing an additional 7.4 million people in poverty.² The extreme poverty rate is projected to recover pre-COVID-19 levels by end of 2023, but a significant downside risk to this outlook includes the recent rise in food prices, which is disproportionately affecting the purchasing power of lower-income households who tend to spend a larger share of their budget on food. Recovery in AFW is further hampered by low vaccination rates, fiscal constraints to continue providing financial assistance to vulnerable households and firms, and the continuing war in Ukraine which threatens food security. There is wide variation in the incidence of poverty across countries in the subregion. More than half of the extreme poor population of the AFW live 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 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 AFW in 2030.

3. **To accelerate progress, development policies and programs aim to address the underlying constraints in AFW including demography, economic structure and productivity, institutions, gender, and human capital.** Despite steadily declining poverty rates pre-COVID, the share of the global poor living in AFW rose from 8.5 percent in 2000 to 18.8 percent in 2019. The population of 121.6 million living in extreme poverty in AFW is projected to increase with an additional 18.7 million by 2030. This is driven in part by rapid (projected) population growth that would have increased the poor population in 2030 even without COVID-19. AFW 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 rainfed 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

¹ Also known in French as the *Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine* (UEMOA).

² Using the recently updated International Poverty Line of US\$2.15 per person/day at 2017 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).



population, particularly in rural areas. During a time of crisis, strategies, policies, and programs that place people first help to 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).

4. **The availability of good quality data and statistics in AFW is critical for informing policies to support adaptation to and mitigation of risks³ 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 Commissions (RECs) are the primary producers of these core data and official statistics, which in a well-functioning Integrated National Data System (INDS) 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.

5. **There are considerable additional benefits from pursuing a strategy of regional harmonization of data and statistics in accordance with international quality standards.** Along with collecting and producing high-quality data at national and sub-national levels to support policies, regional harmonization in accordance with international quality standards is equally important. For example, regionally comparable data are needed for monitoring the macroeconomic surveillance systems, sectoral policies, and the free movement of goods, services, and capital, and for designing fiscal instruments and incentives for zero-carbon and low-carbon development. In addition, the Monetary Unions specifically require that the common currency be based on solid economic foundations and commitments to meet convergence criteria. Thus, the assessment of countries needs to be fair and objective, based on comparable and reliable indicators. Furthermore, to assess the outcome of regional integration in terms of socioeconomic development, as well as to inform a people-centered decision-making policy, comparable and accurate socioeconomic indicators of poverty, health, education, employment among others are needed. There are also economies of scale to be gained from supporting the development of regional centers of excellence in statistical training.

6. **This proposed regional Series of Projects will sustain and accelerate transformation of the data landscape and statistical performance across AFW.** The design of the operation has been informed by the SPI framework, both as an outline of the process by which good data can become good policy, and as a diagnostic as to where the proposed beneficiary countries are falling short. The operation will support countries across all 5 pillars of the SPI framework, covering not just data production, but also the enabling environment, and a particularly strong focus on making data relevant and available to a wide range of actors, so that it can have maximum impact. The targets of the project are ambitious—bringing poorly performing countries up to levels on par with upper-middle income countries in 5 years—but achievable through: (i) the streamlined modular design of the operation, addressing deficits in multiple but well-targeted areas simultaneously; (ii) the regional approach which coordinates and brings together diverse expertise among AFW countries, supports the mandates and convening power of RECs, and draws in support from and for AFW regional statistical training centers of excellence; (iii) partnerships that leverage the statistical subject matter expertise of development partners including the FAO

³ For example, the inputs for macro- and micro-economic sectoral emissions modeling, used to estimate Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and in Country Climate Development Reports (CCDRs), always include population census and survey-based demographic and socio-economic data. Without these data it is impossible to adequately design well-balanced climate change mitigation policies.



(agriculture), IMF (national accounts and the real sector) and UNFPA (population censuses) to help countries adapt international standards in a way that is appropriate for the context, and provides even strongly comparability across the region, increasing the usefulness of the statistics generated; and (iv) building on the foundations laid and lessons learned from two decades of statistical capacity building support in AFW and both the national and regional level. This operation will be truly transformative by forging lasting partnerships, expertise, and incentives that grow and strengthen the data for policy ecosystem in AFW.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

7. **During the past two decades, considerable efforts and resources were deployed to help improve statistical capacity in SSA to close gaps in financing, source data production, periodicity, and timeliness.** Responding to the national and international policy demands for more and better-quality data, several initiatives were supported and undertaken to improve the statistical landscape, at the continental, regional and country levels.⁴ Results were achieved, and progress was made, albeit at a slow and uneven pace across countries.

8. **The SSA region ranked lowest in terms of Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI) score in 2004, but the progress made over the past 15 years outpaced other regions and it overtook Middle East and North Africa (MNA).** The SCI was the first composite index developed by the World Bank to monitor country 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 SSA countries increased by 7 percent—from 55.2 to 59.0 percent—on par with East Asia and Pacific (EAP), marginally outpacing South Asia (SAS) and East and Central Asia (ECA), and overtaking MNA in 2018. The SSA region, along with EAP, recorded substantial improvements in source data production—bolstered by technical assistance (TA) support and development partner financing, including from IDA—contrary to all other regions which regressed over the past decade. However, additional source data gaps need to be filled for SSA to rise to the level of other regions. The SSA region made the least progress on adoption and conforming with international statistical methodologies (including outdated national accounts) and continues to be at the bottom of the rankings in this dimension of the SCI index.

9. **While the SSA 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 Statistical Performance Index (SPI)—indicates important gaps remain.** The SPI assess 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:

- i. **Data Use:** Extent to which data produced by the NSS are used widely and frequently by different stakeholders.
- ii. **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.

⁴ 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 Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI); (2005) preparation of the first set of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), 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 (SHaSA); (2017) Launch of SHaSA2; (2020-23) IDA-19 commitments to support the World Bank Data for Policy Initiative (D4P); and (2021) launch of the Statistical Performance Indicator (SPI) Monitoring Framework.



- iii. **Data Products:** Availability and quality of key NSS data products to produce indicators needed to measure progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- iv. **Data Sources:** The extent to which a country collects key data sources (for example, population census, agricultural census, business establishment census, household survey to measure poverty, Labor Force Survey (LFS), health survey, vital registration system coverage, and geospatial data); and
- v. **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.

10. 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 of all five pillar scores on a scale of 0-100, to help measure countries' progress against that SPI framework.⁵ **Most AFW countries currently rank among the bottom 40 percent globally in terms of their overall SCI score.** In 2020, the SPI score for AFW was 51.7 compared to the global average of 65.0.

11. **In addition, 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 survey 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.

12. **This Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa Series of Projects One (HISWACA-SOP 1) Project aims to address these common gaps and weaknesses on data sources and data infrastructure, as well as on harmonization in the AFW region National Statistical Systems, to increase statistical performance at an accelerated pace through a regional approach.**

Series of Projects

13. **Series of Projects (SOP) sharing a common project template design.** The overarching Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa (HISWACA) Program constitute two overlapping series of projects (SOPs) to multiple countries that are facing common performance weaknesses as elaborated in the sectoral context and share common development goals. The countries are grouped in alignment with sub-regional organizations to facilitate better coordination.

- (a) **HISWACA-SOP 1 – P178497** will support the following West African countries: Benin, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and The Gambia. It will be financed through national and regional IDA financing sources. HISWACA-SOP 1 will also support the ECOWAS Statistics Department,

⁵ For more information about the World Bank SPI, see: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/statistical-performance-indicators/Framework>. Dang et al. (2021) provides empirical evidence illustrating the strong correlation of the SPI with other commonly used development indicators of human capital, governance, poverty, and inequality.



the AU's Statistical Institute (STATAFRIC), and the WAEMU to facilitate their coordination and advocacy roles to improve comparability and harmonization of statistics. HISWACA-SOP 1 is expected to be implemented over five years from 2023-2028.

- (b) **HISWACA-SOP 2 – P180085** which is under preparation will support the following Central African countries: Cameroon, Central Africa Republic (CAR), Chad, Gabon, and Republic of Congo (to be financed by the national and regional IDA and IBRD financing sources). In addition, one regional organization in Central Africa will join SOP 2 and will be supported to facilitate its coordination and advocacy role to improve comparability and harmonization of statistics. HISWACA-SOP 2 Project is planned to be approved by the World Bank Board of Directors in July 2023.

14. **Each SOP will include a combination of similar activities at the country and sub-regional levels which benefit the two sub-regions and the Continent.** The three main strategic objectives are increasing the statistical performance of the national statistical system in terms of timely production of data, accessibility and use of data, harmonization of statistical standards, methodologies and modernization of the statistical system. The country-level support is provided to build the capacity of the National Statistics System to generate timely data in line with international standards and ensure their accessibility and use. The sub-regional 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 national development and regional integration agendas.

Regional approach

15. **The project will use a regional approach to facilitate coordination among National Statistical Offices (NSOs) by introducing and expanding innovations, peer-to-peer reviewing, and learning that can generate positive externalities, such as low-cost benefits through 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 or 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, 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.

16. **The approach will however be modular to accommodate differences between countries.** Some countries are more advanced in statistical capacity and performance than others. For example, some NSOs are well-staffed, whereas others lack qualified staff and cannot conduct multiple surveys in parallel. However, the overall objective of better performing national and regional statistics systems is common to the region and all the countries, and the project design will reflect cross-country differences to allow effective implementation of the project.



C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

17. **The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve country statistical performance, regional harmonization, data access and use, and to enhance modernization of the statistical system in Western and Central Africa.**

Key Results

18. **Progress toward achievement of the PDO will be measured and monitored through the following PDO-level indicators (the detailed project's theory of change is provided in Figure 8):**

- (a) **Improved Statistical Performance Index (SPI) of project participating countries measured by three indicators:** (i) Increase in statistical performance index of project participating countries tailored based on variables the project will influence (percentage). (ii) Increase in users who are satisfied with the accessibility of statistical products generated by the project as determined by the user satisfaction survey (percentage). (iii) Reports produced by all stakeholders using statistics/datasets/indicators supported by the project (number).
- (b) **Improved 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).
- (c) **Enhanced modernization of NSOs:** New statistical products produced through the project financing using innovative solutions or new data sources collected through cell phones, internet, satellite, remote sensors, consumption statistics etc. (number).

D. Project Description

19. **The project aims to improve the performance of the statistical systems of project participating countries and regional organizations to produce statistics needed for informed decision-making and support the modernization process of the statistical systems.** The key aspects of the project are the improvements of (a) the statistical performance of the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) (b) harmonization of statistics (c) data access and use and (d) modernization process of the NSSs and 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, on time, and their wide availability and use.

20. **The harmonization component of the PDO involves harmonization of statistical methodologies and tools in line with international standards, to produce comparable, accurate, and up-to-date statistics to inform both national development processes and the process of regional integration.** This will enhance statistical cooperation in the region to produce comparable and quality statistics, meaning the NSOs (a) are provided with common regional guidelines and tools 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 and use component focuses on making statistical products and reports widely available, tailored to users' needs. The modernization component aims at building a stable and sustainable statistical system with adequate institutional reforms along with modern equipment and buildings required for production of quality statistics.

21. The project's activities are grouped into four components.



- **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: Infrastructure Upgrading and Modernization**
- **Component 4: Project management, monitoring, and evaluation**

Component 1: Harmonization and Production of Core Statistics using International Data Quality Standards (US\$295.5 million)

22. **The first component aims to support the statistical harmonization process at the continental and regional levels and the production of quality core statistics to improve data sources and data infrastructure pillars of the SPI where project participating countries in the region are doing poorly in terms of statistical performance.** Harmonization will help in the adoption of international standards and the production of a core set of economic, social, and demographic statistics will make data available to meet users' demand for 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 SDGs (Pillar 3 of the SPI).

Component 2: Statistical Modernization, Institutional Reform, Human Capital, Data Accessibility and Use (US\$51.5 million)

23. **The second component aims to support the 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 21st century development data requirements and challenges. NSOs must consider how to move to the next stages in the data revolution, including becoming more resilient, user centric, and providing data in new ways and using new methods to complement traditional statistics. Big Data has shown the potential to be used to complement official statistics in many areas to enable NSOs to be more resilient in executing 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 context, this component aims to support NSOs of participating countries to prepare themselves in moving toward what the 2021 World Development Report (WDR) called an Integrated National Data System. 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 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.

Component 3: Physical Infrastructure Construction, Upgrading and Modernization (US\$84.0 million)



24. **The third component aims to support to strengthen the working environment and the availability of suitable equipment that are important pillars for statistical capacity.** The NSOs in the participating countries are the leading official statistical agencies within the NSSs in data production which means that government will play a critical role to enable value creation in the data produced. They are a key factor in the productivity of any NSSs institution and its performance. For example, power shortages and low internet bandwidth can severely limit productivity. Similarly, data statistical software such as SPSS, STATA, etc. 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 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure for NSOs and schools of statistics. Needs assessment will be conducted country-by-country with the NSOs. Construction and furnishing activities are planned for Senegal, Mauritania, and Niger. Rehabilitation activities are planned for The Gambia.

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation (US\$29.0 million)

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

Legal Operational Policies

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

Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

26. **The potential adverse risks and impacts on human populations and/or the environment are moderate for construction works in the three countries.** They are predictable and expected to be temporary and/or reversible, low to moderate in magnitude, and site-specific, without likelihood of impacts beyond the actual footprint of the sub-activity. Key environmental concerns could be related to the implementation of activities under Component 3 (Support Physical Infrastructure Upgrading and Statistical Modernization). Under this component, the project will support the modernization of NSOs 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 Mauritania (Nouakchott), Senegal (Dakar), and Niamey (Niger). As the sites for these works are located on government owned land, physical and/or economic displacement is not expected and any activity that would lead to these impacts would be disqualified from receiving funds under the project.

27. **Activities related to census/data collection may incur moderate social risks across all participating countries.** These risks include community exposure to sexual exploitation and abuse/sexual harassment, road



safety risks (in both FCV and non-FCV countries/areas), transmission of communicable diseases due to project workers in communities, privacy of data risks especially of vulnerable persons such as those with HIV/AIDs and other chronic/communicable diseases, internally displaced persons, refugees, and security risks in countries with insecurity areas (especially Benin, Mali, Mauritania, Niger). Other social risks and impacts include following:

- (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 in the collection of physical specimens (sampling populations for HIV surveillance for example).
- (b) Vulnerable groups such as pregnant girls, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities in conflict prone areas (such as Niger), internally displaced person (IDPs), refugees, returnees, sexual and gender minorities, and indigenous peoples may be placed at risk (including exclusion from school, subject to prosecution under the law, conflict and violence, and stigmatization due to cultural norms or exclusion from benefits) if data are collected or shared inappropriately.
- (c) Ensuring there is adequate stakeholder engagement at the regional and national level with all stakeholders, including civil society and vulnerable groups (that is, IDPs, refugees, returnees, persons with disabilities, women, and the elderly) in a manner that is culturally appropriate, understandable, and transparent and sufficiently explains the benefits and impacts of the activities. Since women might have difficulties to raise their concerns and speak freely in general meetings they should be consulted in small, separate groups led by a woman.
- (d) Some construction-related impacts such as limited labor influx, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH), exposure to communicable diseases, and social disruption due to construction and traffic and nuisances such as noise and dust.
- (e) SEA/SH risks had been screened during preparation and determined to be low for the three regional institutions (ECOWAS, STATAFRIC, WAEMU), moderate for Benin, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal and substantial for Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. The risks are associated with the prevalence and acceptance of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in each country together with project specific risks related to capacity of implementing agencies to address SEA/SH, lack of existence of code of conducts prohibiting SEA/SH and grievance mechanisms adapted for SEA/SH complaints, risk associated with the scale and scope of the construction and census/surveys. All Project participating countries and regional institutions will mitigate those risks by ensuring that: (i) all project related staff and workers (including surveys enumerators) sign code of good conduct with clear prohibition and sanctions against SEA/SH after receiving training on SEA/SH; (ii) each project develops SEA/SH specific procedures within its grievance mechanism with multiple channels to submit complaints, confirmed as safe and accessible during consultations with women, and with procedures allowing for complaint verification and management following a survivor centered approach; (iii) each grievance mechanism includes response protocol with referrals to local GBV service providers (identified through mapping of GBV service providers) offering medical, psychosocial and/or legal assistance; (iv) information campaigns on SEA/SH risks, content of code of conduct and ways to submit complaints will be organized by each project in the areas of its implementation. In addition, the country projects with moderate (Benin, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal) and substantial (Mali, Mauritania, and Niger) SEA/SH risk levels will develop a budgeted SEA/SH prevention and response Action Plan as part of the ESMF/P and hire GBV Consultants to support preparation and implementation of the SEA/SH measures within that Action Plan.



- (f) Security/fragility risks for activities that will be implemented in Mali, Mauritania, Benin, and Niger, and a Security Management Plan will be prepared and cleared by the Bank during implementation prior to the start of project activities. Road safety risks in FCV countries will require monitoring of the security situation in these (and all countries) and the project will not conduct census activities in any red zone. The project will put in place convoy security guidance which is an industry standard that outlines basic principles for safety and security for any movements of people or equipment.

28. **While there is limited experience with the ESF within various implementing agencies at both national and regional levels, the potential social risks means that impacts should be mitigable with known mitigation measures.** In addition, security risks in red zones will be mitigated by avoiding those areas as well as implementing security road convoy measures. Each PIU will also hire a social specialist and GBV consultant, and with TA, an ESF capacity building program should be able to attenuate these risks. In some countries where security risks are high, it is recommended that the PIU hire a security consultant.

29. **Summary of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts.** The potential E&S risks identified above have been assessed during project preparation and will require being 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 and surrounding communities for the countries with construction activities. The main environmental risks related to component 3 (civil works) are expected to be related to: (i) waste management, including management of asbestos (from 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, electrical safety, and security) ; (iii) energy efficiency, GHG and ODS (as a result of operation of data storage centers, including air conditioning). As all construction activities will take place on land owned by the government, physical and/or economic displacement is not expected. Any activity resulting in physical and/or economic displacement will be deemed ineligible for Bank funding under this project. 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 is respected. These risks are best addressed through the design of the project to ensure they are fully incorporated into the project (data collection practices, cybersecurity and privacy protocols and good practices), in addition to ESF capacity training to identify, manage and monitor social risks. In fragile/insecure areas/countries, security risks will be monitored, road safety plans will be implemented, and a Security Management Plan will be prepared during implementation.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

30. **The HISWACA-SOP 1 entails implementation of activities at regional and country levels within a coordinated regional framework.** The activities financed through the regional IDA grant will be implemented through the regional Project Implementation Units (PIUs) at the AU-STATAFRIC Institute, ECOWAS, and WAEMU Commissions. 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 for knowledge exchange and coordination during implementation of the project.



31. **Regional-level implementation arrangements.** The project implementation team at STATAFRIC institute under the Commission for Economic Affairs at the AU, the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) in the Statistics Division of the Directorate of Macroeconomic Policy and Economic Research of ECOWAS, and the WAEMU Commission will coordinate the implementation of the regional program. IDA funds will be made available to the three regional bodies AU, ECOWAS, and WAEMU Commissions through a direct regional IDA grant of US\$55 million: US\$10 million for the AU, US\$25 million for ECOWAS, and US\$20 million for WAEMU. The World Bank will sign separate financial agreements with the AU, ECOWAS, and WAEMU and with each project participating country.
32. **Country-level implementation arrangements.** Dedicated PIUs for each project participating country will be responsible for implementation and coordination of country-level project activities. The Environmental risk of the project is globally classified as moderate. Therefore, for PIUs or countries that are not concerned with the construction and/or rehabilitation of physical infrastructure, a human resource pooling approach can be considered for the supervision of environmental aspects. Environmental specialists in this case may be mobilized on a part-time basis. Concerned countries may use qualified specialists mobilized on other projects in their portfolio with a light workload plan. On the social side, given the social risks and requirements under the ESF, PIU will also hire a social specialist and GBV consultant, and with technical assistance and an ESF capacity building program should be able to attenuate these risks. In some countries where security risks are high, it is recommended that the PIU hire a security consultant (i.e. Mauritania, Mali and Niger).
33. Below is a summary of country-level implementation arrangements.
- (a) **Benin.** The *Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie* (INStAD) will be the implementing agency of the project in Benin. INStAD is led by a DG. The DG of INStAD will be responsible for the fiduciary aspects of the project. A PIU has been established and will operate under the supervision of the DG of INStAD.
 - (b) **Guinea.** The *Institut National de la Statistique* (INS) will be the implementing agency of the project in Guinea. The DG of INS will be the coordinator and will be responsible for the fiduciary aspects of the project. A PIU will be established and will operate under the supervision of the General Director of INS.
 - (c) **Guinea-Bissau.** The *Instituto Nacional de Estatística* (INE) of Guinea Bissau will be the implementing agency of the project. The DG of INE will be responsible for the fiduciary aspects of the project. A PIU will be established within INE to implement the fiduciary aspects of the project
 - (d) **Mali.** The *Institut National de la Statistique* (INSTAT) will be the implementing agency of the project in Mali. INSTAT has an existing project management unit staffed who all have experience with World Bank projects, particularly in the statistics sector. The fiduciary management will be ensured by this unit which will coordinate the day-to-day activities and the management of reporting and auditing responsibilities.
 - (e) **Mauritania.** The implementing agency of the project will be the *Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Démographique et Economique* (ANSADE). The DG of ANSADE will be responsible for the fiduciary aspects of the project. A PIU will be set up to implement the fiduciary aspects of the project including the M&E, the communication, and ESF.
 - (f) **Niger.** The *Institut National de la Statistique* (INS) will be the implementing agency of the project in Niger. The General Director of INS will be the coordinator and will be responsible for the



fiduciary aspects of the project. As the PIU of the ongoing statistical project in Niger, INS has strong project implementation experience.

- (g) **The Gambia.** The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) will be the implementing agency of the project. The Statistician General (SG) of GBoS will be responsible for the fiduciary aspects of the project. A PIU will be established within GBoS to implement the fiduciary aspects of the project.
- (h) **Senegal.** The implementing agency of the project will be the *Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie* (ANSD). The DG of ANSD will be responsible for the fiduciary aspects of the project. A PIU will be established.

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