



# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

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

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## BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Western and Central Africa	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	P178497	
Project Name	Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa (HISWACA) - SOP 1		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Poverty and Equity	Investment Project Financing	1/16/2023	4/27/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of Benin, The Republic of Guinea, Republic of Niger, The Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), The Republic of Senegal, The Republic of Mali, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, The African Union (AU), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)	Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE), Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBOS), Institut National de la Statistique, Guinea, Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INSTaD), Agence Nationale de la Statistique de l'Analyse et de la Démographie (ANSADE), Institut National de la Statistique, Institut National de la Statistique (INSTAT), Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD)		

### 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	415.00

**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 Project Development Objectives (PDO) are the improvements of: (i) the statistical performance of the National Statistics Systems (NSSs); (ii) the harmonization of statistics and (iii) data access in West and Central Africa. 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 widely available and used. The harmonization component of the PDO aims to enhance statistical cooperation in the region to produce comparable and quality statistics which means that the 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 performance of the statistical systems of participating countries and regional bodies in West and Central Africa to produce statistics needed for decision-making and support the modernization process of the statistical systems in West and Central Africa. This means the project aims to improve the performance of the statistical systems of participating countries and regional bodies in West and Central Africa to produce statistics needed for decision-making and support the modernization process of the statistical systems in West and Central Africa.

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 the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) participating in the project. Average score for the customized SPI, modified to focus on the variables the project will influence
- b) Share of harmonized core economic and social statistical products including national accounts, price, household survey statistics produced and published following international standards (percentage, customized)
- 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)

## Project Component and Description

The activities for this project are grouped into four components.

Component 1: Harmonization and production of core statistics using harmonized methodologies. Activities under this component aim to improve data sources and data infrastructure of the SPI where participating countries in regions 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 SDGs.

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.



## Relationship to CPF

Despite some progress, performance of the statistical systems in participating countries remains insufficient to effectively support evidenced-based development planning. 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 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.

This program is also aligned with the African Union (AU)'s Second Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA2) and national strategies for the Development of Statistics, as well as regional and global commitments for better monitoring of goals. The SHaSA2 (2017-2026) aims at addressing constraints in statistical production, harmonization, and availability to promote the regional integration agenda. It is consistent with the UNs Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics. It covers the production of better-quality and harmonized statistics, improved cooperation and coordination between African statistical institutions, building sustainable institutional capacity and enhancing use of statistics by promoting a culture of quality decision making. The program also responds to the united call for internationally comparable statistics which is especially relevant in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 for a prosperous and united Africa. Therefore, this is an appropriate time to promote synergies and cooperation within the statistical community and encourage countries to make efforts toward harmonization of statistics and to align them to the monitoring needs for SDGs.

The Program will operationalize the World Bank Group Gender Strategy based on a data-driven approach. The World Bank Group Gender Strategy document for 2016 to 2023 calls for better country-level diagnostics on gender gaps in systematic country diagnostics and country partnership frameworks to "highlight how closing the key gender gaps in endowments, economic opportunities, and voice and agency would boost the attainment of the twin goals." Improving the quality of national and regional data is essential to pursue this goal. The Program will contribute to this agenda by producing and making available such data based on international standards and enhancing its use.



The program will also contribute to attaining the objective set by the Bank's Data for Policy (D4P) initiative. The D4P is a World Bank engagement to strengthen national statistical systems, build capacity in IDA countries, by enhancing the availability, timeliness, quality, and relevance of key data for evidence-based decision making. More specifically, the International Development Association (IDA)20 cycle commits to support 34 IDA countries including those with ongoing statistical operations (i) to strengthen institutions and build capacity to reduce gaps in the availability of core data for evidence-based policy making, including disaggregation by gender and disability status where appropriate; and (ii) to increase resilience of statistical systems, including through investments in digital technology and high-frequency monitoring capabilities. This program would contribute to delivering one third of this IDA20 target in FY23.

The Program reflects priorities emphasized in the World Bank's World Development Report on Data for Better Lives as well as the respective World Bank country strategies. The design of the Program is squarely based on the frameworks and recommendations of the World Development Report on Data for Better Lives. At country level, the project reflects priorities emphasized in World Bank country strategies. Country Partnership Frameworks (CPF) (Benin: Report No. 123031-BJ; Central Africa Republic: Report No. 150618-CF; The Chad: Report No. 95277-TD; Mali: Report No. 94005-ML; Guinea: Report No. 125899-GN; The Gambia: Report No. 154485-GM; Senegal: Report No. 143333-SN; Niger: Report No. 123736-NE; Mauritania: Report No. 125012-MR; Cameroon: Report No. 107896-CM), and Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCDs) have identified weaknesses in statistics as a barrier to effective monitoring of strategies of development and SDGs in all participating countries. The project will address quality data production and dissemination on a regular basis, in each participating country, and will also focus on specific issues highlighted in CPFs, Performance Learning Reviews (PLR) and SCDs.

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

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

The proposed project will be implemented in 13 West and Central African countries and in four regional institutions. Phase 1 includes seven countries: Benin, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Mauritania, Niger, Republic of Congo (RoC), and Senegal. Cameroon, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Mali are in phase 2. The four regional partners are: Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); Statistics Department, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC); Secretariat the African Union's Statistical Institute (AU-STATAFRIC); and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). While the E&S risks and impacts of the activities are considered Moderate, the scale and scope of the activities across these multiple countries and the complex institutional arrangements will make implementation and supervision support more difficult.

The security situation in Sahelian countries (Mauritania, Mali, Chad and Niger) is fluid and includes large movements of people, active conflict, and social tensions (i.e. among some ethnic groups, internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants, returnees, and refugees). Security incidents have steadily increased across the region which may make enumeration challenging and unsafe for project workers and respondents. There are various security actors operating in the project area, including violent extremist groups, non-state armed groups, military forces, police, private security forces and UN peacekeepers. Mali currently has areas with active armed conflict, particularly in the center and north regions. This is relevant because under a previous Statistic Bank Operation in Mali, kidnapping and other security incidences occurred. The security context in RoC, CAR, and Cameroon in Central Africa is similar. 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 many countries can exacerbate conflict risks and community and individual safety of vulnerable groups in the project area such as IDPs, returnees, 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 institutions to implement the program under the ESF is varied but overall considered weak given the expanded scope of the ESF. None of the PIUs/RIUs that will be involved in this project has any previous experience implementing a project under the ESF although most have experience with the World Bank safeguards and operational policies; of the 17 national Project Implementation Units (PIU) and/or Regional Implementation Units (RIU) that are expected for Phase 1 & 2, 12 have previous experience implementing World Bank-funded Statistics projects under the safeguards policies [except CEMAC and Benin (phase 1), and Cameroon, The Gambia, Guinea, and Guinea Bissau (phase 2)]. At the regional level, ECOWAS and CEMAC, regional PIUs, will have the overall responsibility for environmental and social risk management and compliance for sub-regional level activities and they will both require capacity building in order to adequately manage the complexities of the dispersed and multifaceted project activities. Capacity building activities will be included for all RIUs 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, NSOs (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. 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 (AU, WAEMU, ECOWAS, and CEMAC secretariats), one E&S focal point will be recruited in each RIU, whereas at national level, each PIUs will maintain one environmental and one social specialist to support





managing project environmental and social impacts and risks. This will be confirmed during preparation after technical discussions and the final design of the project including project activities has been finalized. GBV risk assessments per participating country will be conducted during preparation.

## **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 (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), Mauritania (Nouakchott), Niger (Niamey), RoC (Brazzaville), Senegal (Dakar), 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. An ESMF will be prepared during appraisal stage to address potential risks and impacts, screening methodologies, and mitigation measures.

#### **Social Risk Rating**

Moderate

The Social Risk Rating is considered Moderate at concept stage. The project will finance: census/data collection, consulting and staffing, communication costs for data dissemination, training services, technical workshops, institutional reform, statistical and physical infrastructure modernization, harmonization of statistics and data and





electronic platforms, project management and monitoring. 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 (i.e., 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 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, Senegal, Mauritania, Niger 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 Indigenous Peoples 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.

#### **Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) Risk Rating**

TBD

Given the nature and scope of project activities, it is expected that SEA/SH risks will be low to moderate and this will be confirmed during preparation. SEA/SH risk assessments will be conducted during project preparation and mitigation measures to address any SEA/SH risks will be included in the ESCP and ESMF as relevant.

## **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 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 as per C-ESRS (such as Waste Management Plan (including hazardous and e-waste), Traffic Management Plan, Security Management Plan, OHS Plan, CHS plan, L&FS plan, etc.), and ESMP that includes operation and decommission phases (including but not limited to L&FS plan, Emergency Response Plan etc.).



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 (i.e. data collection practices, cybersecurity and privacy protocols and good practices), in addition to ESF capacity training to identify, manage and monitor social risks.

In order to address these E&S risks, a simplified Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) (including ToRs for further works such as ESMP, etc.) will be prepared for each country or updated where ESMFs have already been prepared for previous similar projects, cleared by the Bank and disclosed before project Appraisal.

Requirements for labor and working conditions (ESS2) especially for civil work activities, 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 each ESMF. SEA/SH risk mitigation measures that will be tailored according to risk levels determined in the SEA/SH risk assessments will also be included in all ESMFs. The ESMFs will also include guidance regarding the use of the Environment and Social Incident Response Toolkit (ESIRT).

As part of the Financial Agreement, each RIU and 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 all RIUs and national PIUs.

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

None.

#### **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 Stakeholder Engagement Plans and 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 IP/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, each RIU and PIU will prepare and disclose a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportionate to the anticipated environmental and social impacts of this project. The SEP shall outline the characteristics and interests of the relevant stakeholder groups and timing and methods of engagement throughout the life of the Program. The Borrowers 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, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. The SEP 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

Considering the Covid-19 context within each country, the Project will consider innovative ways to ensure the safety of project workers and stakeholders during consultations and are fit for purpose, effective and meaningful to meet Program and stakeholder needs in line with national regulations/policies at the time of consultations as well as WHO guidelines.

RIUs and PIUs will 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, 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 in 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. Each RIU/PIU will incorporate Labor Management Procedures (LMP) into the ESCP prior to appraisal which will include measures 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, 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 (Benin, CAR, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Chad, Niger) and building schools in some others (Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Chad, Niger). 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, 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 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 ESMP (C-ESMP) and other plans as per C-ESRS (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.

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, 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 appraisal stage. ESMP for operation and decommissioning phases (including but not limited to waste and wastewater management plans, OHS Plans, L&FS plan, Emergency Response Plan, Security Management Plans etc.) will be prepared for each site as per local standards as well as GIIP and WBG Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines requirements.

### **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 four 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 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 ICT and cooling of data storage facilities, fire risk is high in these buildings. Buildings should be designed



according to local and GIIP Life and Fire Safety Codes, and L&FS management plans for the buildings and Emergency Response Plans (in case nearby community is also affected) 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.

To address security and conflict risks in FCV contexts (Mali, Chad, Niger, Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Central African Republic), a security risk management plan (SMP) will be prepared prior to Appraisal that will include a short assessment of the security situation in the project area, 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 ESMF. Any potential sites that require land acquisition or involuntary resettlement will be ineligible. 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 major impact to biodiversity under this project. However, the ESMF will provide guidance and mitigation measures to mitigate potential harm to biodiversity.

#### **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 (Phase 1) and Gabon, Cameroon and RoC (Phase 2). 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 Plan 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 ESMF. A summary of these consultations should be included in the SEP in an annex. The ESMF for these four countries shall also include a basic social assessment that includes, among other things, where and which IPs 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 IPs 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, except for Cameroon, and in most cases on existing sites, and there is no proposed use of intangible cultural heritage, Chance Finds procedure will be included as part of the 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 at Concept.

### **C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

<b>OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways</b>	No
<b>OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas</b>	No

## **III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE**

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

#### **Financing Partners**

N/A

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

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

- Simplified Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for each phase 1 national PIU (SEA/SH Prevention and Response Framework for national PIUs with SEA/SH risk moderate or higher to be determined during preparation; and a Security Management Plan that includes a short assessment of the security situation in the relevant project area for Mali, Chad, Niger, Cameroon, RoC and CAR
- Labor management procedures requirements for each RIU and PIU to be included in each ESCP
- Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP) inclusive of a project-level grievance mechanism and process



for addressing SEA/SH complaints, and considerations for consultations IP/SSAHUTLCs (for RoC, Cameroon, Gabon, CAR)

- Environmental and Social Commitment Plans (ESCP) for each Phase 1 and Phase 2 RIU and PIU

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

- Security risk/fragility risk management
- Developing and monitoring specific ESMPs and conducting E&S screening
- Development of SEPs during implementation and monitoring
- Monitoring labor risks
- Development and implementation of institutional capacity strengthening activities
- Implementation of the project level GM and SEA/SH-GM
- Data security management

**C. Timing**

**Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS**

06-Oct-2022

**IV. CONTACT POINTS**

**World Bank**

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**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Borrower:	Republic of Benin
Borrower:	The Republic of Guinea
Borrower:	Republic of Niger
Borrower:	The Republic of Guinea-Bissau
Borrower:	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Borrower:	The Republic of Senegal
Borrower:	The Republic of Mali
Borrower:	Islamic Republic of Mauritania





Borrower: The African Union (AU)

Borrower: West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

Implementing Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE)

Implementing Agency: Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS)

Implementing Agency: Institut National de la Statistique, Guinea

Implementing Agency: Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INStAD)

Implementing Agency: Agence Nationale de la Statistique de l'Analyse et de la Démographie (ANSADE)

Implementing Agency: Institut National de la Statistique

Implementing Agency: Institut National de la Statistique (INSTAT)

Implementing Agency: Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD)

**V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

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**VI. APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s): Abdoullahi Beidou

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Aly Zulficar Rahim Recommended on 14-Jul-2022 at 15:44:48 GMT-04:00

Safeguards Advisor ESSA Nathalie S. Munzberg (SAESSA) Cleared on 28-Sept-2022 at 12:22:34 GMT-04:00