



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

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The World Bank

Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa - Series of Projects 1 (HISWACA - SOP 1) (P178497)

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 - Series of Projects 1 (HISWACA - SOP 1)		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Poverty and Equity	Investment Project Financing	2/28/2023	5/11/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of Benin, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Niger, Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Republic of Senegal, Republic of Mali, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, African Union (AU), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Republic of The Gambia	Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE), Guinea-Bissau, Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS), The Gambia, Institut National de la Statistique (INS), Guinea, Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INSTaD), Benin, Agence Nationale de la Statistique de l'Analyse et de la Démographie (ANSADE), Mauritania, Institut National de la Statistique (INS), Niger, Institut National de la Statistique (INSTAT), Mali, Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD), Senegal		

Proposed Development Objective



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 Western and Central Africa

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	460.00

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 PDO are the improvements of (a) the statistical performance of the National Statistical Systems (NSS) (b) data access and use (c) harmonization of statistics and (d) modernization process of the NSS 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. The harmonization component of the PDO involves harmonization of statistical methodologies, key data collection instruments, and tools in line with international standards and AFW realities, to produce comparable, accurate, and up-to-date statistics to inform both national development and regional integration agendas. This will enhance statistical cooperation in the region to produce comparable and quality statistics, meaning 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 statistical activities needed to implement the regional guidelines provided. The data access and use components 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 institutions and using innovative solutions and alternative data sources required for production of quality statistics, along with modern equipment and buildings.

The activities for this project are grouped into four components:

Component 1: Harmonization and Production of Core Statistics using International Data Quality Standards: This component will support both the statistical harmonization process and the production of quality core statistics. First, it aims to support the statistical harmonization process at the continental and regional levels. The statistics harmonization encompasses procedures used predominantly in official statistics that aim at achieving, or at least improving, the comparability of different data produced. It principally aims to achieve standardized measurement processes and methods used to compile the statistics, especially through standardization of definitions, classifications, tools, and technical requirements. In this regard, this component will support statistical coordination between NSSs, ex-post harmonization and production of harmonized tools (definitions, classifications, methodologies, etc.) at the continental and sub regional levels. Second, this component will support the production of quality core statistics



based on population census and an integrated household surveys program using the previously harmonized tools, to meet the increasing demand for social, demographic, and economic data needed for the design and implementation of policies at national, regional, and continental levels. Activities under this component will improve Pillars 4 (data sources) and 5 (data infrastructure) of the SPI where 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: The second component aims to support statistical modernization; institutional reforms; improvement to data access, dissemination, and use; and human resources development. In today's fast-changing world, NSOs need to transform and modernize to respond better to emerging and increasing demand for timely and accurate data, to meet the 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 WDR called an Integrated National Data System. In addition, this component will support institutional reforms to finance TA to participating countries seeking to update their Statistics Act to include provisions for sustainable funding of statistical activities. The component will also support data access, dissemination, and use, to improve participating countries' statistical performance regarding data services (Pillar 2 of the SPI). In addition, improving data access improves the use of data, leading to more products to inform policies, which might increase the demand for statistics. Finally, the component will invest 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 regions, such as in national accounts, agricultural statistics, household surveys, trade statistics, financial statistics, and price statistics.

Component 3: Infrastructure Upgrading and Modernization: 104. The working environment and the availability of suitable equipment are important pillars for strengthening statistical capacity. The NSO in the participating countries is the leading official statistical agency within the NSS 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 NSS 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—process of organizing information to make it readable and understandable—tools that will 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, Communication and Technology (ICT) infrastructure for NSOs and schools of statistics. An assessment of the NSO environment will be carried out on a



country-by-country basis in collaboration with the NSO. For countries without a great structure, rebuilding will be the next step.

Component 4: Project management, monitoring, and evaluation. This includes cost of staff of the PIU and costs related to project monitoring and coordination (steering committee), operating costs, external auditing costs, and other expenses needed.

Relationship to CPF

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

The project contributes to two key strategies recently launched in the Africa region. First, the project will support the World Bank Group's 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, reinforce its support to the continent's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and realize its economic transformation. Second, the project will support the recently launched 2021-2025 regional strategy which aims at addressing the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing climate change, through producing data and analysis that contribute to enhancing trust between citizens and the state to create a new social contract, removing the bottlenecks that prevent businesses from creating more and better jobs, strengthening human capital and empowering women, and building climate resilience.

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

SOP1 will be implemented in eight West African countries and in three regional institutions: Benin, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal. The three 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).



The security situation in Sahelian countries (Mauritania, Mali, 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.

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 previous experience implementing a project under the ESF although most have experience with the World Bank safeguards and Operational Policies; but all 10 national Project Implementation Units (PIU) and/or Regional Implementation Units (RIU) under SOP1, have previous experience implementing World Bank-funded Statistics projects under the safeguards policies. At the regional level, ECOWAS, AU-STATAFRIC and WAEMU, will have the overall responsibility for environmental and social risk management and compliance for sub-regional level activities and they will 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 further identified during implementation along with detailed timelines and budget and will be proportional to the risk level and scale of the project financed activities.

At the national level, the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) will be the main implementing agencies of the project in each country and will be responsible for its technical management and coordination. At the continental and regional levels (AU-STATAFRIC, ECOWAS, and WAEMU), the department in charge of statistics will oversee project implementation. The implementing agencies are as follows: At the regional levels, the regional PIUs at the AU-STATAFRIC under the Commission for Economic Affairs at the African Union and the regional coordinating unit (RCU), ECOWAS (under Project P169265), and WAEMU (under Project P153702) Commissions. At the national Levels: Benin, Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INStAD); Guinea, Institut National de la Statistique (INS); Guinea Bissau, Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE); Mali, Institut National de la Statistique (INSTAT); Mauritania, Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Démographique et Economique (ANSADE); Niger, Institut National de la Statistique (INS); The Gambia, Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS); Sénégal, Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD).

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. A review of their technical staffing has been 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 has been reflected in the ESCPs and Umbrella Environmental and Social Framework (UESMF).



At the regional level (AU, WAEMU Commission and ECOWAS), one environmental and one social focal point will be recruited in each RIU, whereas at national level, each PIUs will maintain one environmental, one social specialist and one GBV specialist to support managing project environmental and social impacts and risks. This has been confirmed during preparation after technical discussions and the final design of the project including project activities were finalized. SEA/SH risk assessments per participating country has been conducted during preparation and is included in the U-ESMF.

II. SUMMARY OF 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 Appraisal stage. 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 the capital cities of each participating SOP1 country. 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. Life and Fire Safety of these buildings/units considerations are included in the U-ESMF. 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 umbrella-ESMF was prepared to address potential risks and impacts, screening methodologies, and mitigation measures.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The Social Risk Rating is considered Moderate. 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, privacy, 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 prevalence 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) some construction related impacts such as limited labor influx and social disruption due to construction and traffic and nuisances such as noise and dust; (iv) 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 Mauritania, Niger, and Mali; 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, may be placed at risk (including exclusion from school, subject to prosecution under the law, conflict and violence, stigmatization due to cultural norms or exclusion from benefits) if data is collected or shared inappropriately.

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

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

The potential E&S risks identified above have been further 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. 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, an Umbrella Environmental and Social Management Framework (U-ESMF) (including ToRs for further works such as ESMP, etc.) has been prepared, 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, have been further assessed during project preparation and included in the UESMF. SEA/SH risk mitigation measures that will be tailored according to risk levels as determined in the SEA/SH risk assessments have also be included in the UESMF. The UESMF also includes guidance regarding the use of the Environment and Social Incident Response Toolkit (ESIRT).

As part of the Financial Agreement, each RIU and PIU have 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 have been included in the ESCPs of all RIUs and national PIUs.

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 has been conducted as part of the Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF) and key stakeholders identified 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 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.

During project implementation, prior to the start of project activities, each RIU and PIU will prepare and disclose a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportionate to the anticipated environmental and social impacts of this project, based on the SEF and in line with ESS10. 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.

Considering the Covid-19 context within each country, the Project will consider innovative ways to ensure the safety or project workers and stakeholder 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, should Covid-19 or other communicable disease outbreaks occur.



RIUs and PIUs will establish a functional and accessible project-level Grievance Mechanism (GM) prior to the start of project activities. 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

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

Direct workers include full and part time workers assigned to the RIUs and PIUs and consultants hired based on project needs, such as RIU/PIU staff, contracted workers, and civil servants who are subject to the employment terms in their contracts. An umbrella LMP has been prepared prior to Appraisal which includes measures for each national PIU and regional PIU 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, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Niger) and building schools in some others (Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, 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

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. As a result, risks to community health and safety associated with labor influx or due to construction including SEA/SH are not expected to be significant. However, the full scope and scale of expected infrastructure and labor needs will be confirmed during project implementation and measures to mitigate risks related to labor influx including SEA/H are included in the U-ESMF and will be included in 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 shall be designed according to local and GIIP Life and Fire Safety Codes (L&FS), and L&FS management plans for the buildings and Emergency Response Plans (in case nearby community is also affected) shall be in place, including regular drills, in all publicly accessible sites. Universal access of the buildings shall also be ensured.

Digital security has been 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 project implementation, 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 it is build into the project design.

To address security and conflict risks in FCV contexts (Mali, Mauritania, and Niger), a security risk management plan (SMP) will be prepared during project implementation 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 Appraisal 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 has been outlined in the U-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 not relevant. There are no Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IPs/SSAHUTLC) who meet the criteria under ESS7 in SOP1 countries.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

While physical works will take place in urban centers, and on existing sites, and there is no proposed use of intangible cultural heritage, Chance Finds procedure have been included as part of the U-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 as there are no financial intermediaries in the project.



C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

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

B.3. Reliance on Borrower's policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts

Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework? No

Areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered:

None.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower:	Republic of Benin
Borrower:	Republic of Guinea
Borrower:	Republic of Niger
Borrower:	Republic of Guinea-Bissau
Borrower:	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Borrower:	Republic of Senegal
Borrower:	Republic of Mali
Borrower:	Islamic Republic of Mauritania
Borrower:	African Union (AU)
Borrower:	West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)



The World Bank

Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa - Series of Projects 1 (HISWACA - SOP 1) (P178497)

Borrower: Republic of The Gambia

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE), Guinea-Bissau

Implementing Agency: Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS), The Gambia

Implementing Agency: Institut National de la Statistique (INS), Guinea

Implementing Agency: Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INStaD), Benin

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

Implementing Agency: Institut National de la Statistique (INS), Niger

Implementing Agency: Institut National de la Statistique (INSTAT), Mali

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

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

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