Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building

Report of the twelfth meeting of the TFSCB Advisory Panel (AP) (March 9-13, 2015)

The TFSCB: Making a success story work in the future

The World Bank
Washington DC, USA

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>Advisory Panel (TFSCB)</td>
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<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of South East Asian Countries</td>
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<td>AU</td>
<td>Administrative Unit (TFSCB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAPS</td>
<td>Busan Action Plan on Statistics</td>
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<td>BRICS</td>
<td>Emerging countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPI</td>
<td>Computer Assisted Personal Interviews</td>
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<td>CARICOM</td>
<td>Caribbean Community</td>
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<td>CIS</td>
<td>Community of Independent States</td>
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<td>DECDG</td>
<td>Development Economics Vice Presidency (World Bank)</td>
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<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International development (UK Government)</td>
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<td>ECASTAT</td>
<td>Trust fund for Statistical Capacity Building in Countries of Eastern Europe and central Asia (Federation of Russia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GFR</td>
<td>Grant Funding Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technology</td>
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<td>IMC</td>
<td>Internal management Committee (TFSCB)</td>
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<td>INDOTEL</td>
<td>Instituto Dominicano de las Telecommunicaciones (Dominican Rep.)</td>
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<td>ISI</td>
<td>International Statistical Institute</td>
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<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>NSDS</td>
<td>National Strategy for Statistical Development</td>
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<td>ODRA</td>
<td>Open Data Readiness Assessment</td>
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<td>OLADE</td>
<td>Organizacion Latinoamericana de Energetia (Latin American Energy Organization)</td>
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<td>PARIS21</td>
<td>Consortium Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century</td>
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<td>SRF</td>
<td>Statistics for Results Facility (WB)</td>
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<td>STATCAP</td>
<td>Lending program to support more efficient and effective statistical systems in developing countries (WB)</td>
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<td>TF</td>
<td>Trust Fund</td>
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<td>TFSCB</td>
<td>Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building</td>
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<td>TTL</td>
<td>Task Team Leader (WB projects)</td>
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<td>UNSD</td>
<td>United Nations Statistical Division</td>
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<td>WAEMU</td>
<td>West African Economic and Monetary union</td>
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<td>WB</td>
<td>The World Bank</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Experience</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-of-Play</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoughts on the Future Directions of TFSCB</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of Recommendations</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNEX: Survey of the recent project proposals received by the AU</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since its inception the objectives and mode of operation of the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) have changed. In recent years its thrust has moved from the development of national strategy plans for statistical systems (NSDS) to the funding of short term subject matter projects in response to topical priorities as resulted for instance from the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BASP) or Post 2015 Data Revolution Initiative of the UN. A total of $46.6 million has been disbursed by the TFSCB to date for projects ranging from $100 000 to $500 000. Since 2012, the TFSCB has changed its application procedures to a two-stage approach, which has helped to better steer applications towards achieving funding.

While the number of applications has grown steadily, present donorship has decreased to one donor, DFID, the Government of Korea being expected to join the Fund soon. Given the increase in applicants with a total of 63 proposals having been received over 2014, concerns are justified that the TFSCB may be depleted in the foreseeable future. To remedy this situation, the TFSCB is faced with the challenge of attracting new donors. In order to be successful it has to broaden its remit because donors, be they governmental or private, tend to be more interested in supporting subject matters of their particular priority which seem to be of direct impact on policy implementation rather than investing in the more general topics of statistical strategy development and capacity building. The AP of the TFSCB has reviewed this critical situation, conducted interviews with stakeholders and proposed 17 recommendations, which are grouped together in the following:

- The TFSCB should review its remit and broaden its scope to reconcile the topics of statistical strategy development and capacity building with emerging funding opportunities from governments, with a focus on attracting new donors from BRICS, as well as from the private sector (e.g. Gates Foundation) for subject matter areas, such as international development goals (e.g. SDGs) and resolutions of economic or social summits. Where appropriate, supplementary funding and contributions in-kind should be considered. In order to attract new donors, the TFSCB could make case presentations and organise discussion fora at high level meetings where leaders of government and the private sector convene to discuss global concerns and future directions.

- To put this reconciliation of topics into effect operationally, special consideration should be given to project applications where topical work in subject matter areas is expected to sustainably impact statistical capacity building. At the same time, the WB and PARIS21 should encourage countries to update their NSDS in relation to their present needs, developmental priorities and actual capacity situation. Consequently to promoting full country ownership of NSDS, recipient ownership of all stages of TFSCB funded projects should also be strengthened.
• Proposals from regional organizations especially in low capacity areas should be encouraged and synergies from such projects should be gained by the sharing of experience among countries engaged in similar projects via internet platforms.

• The TFSCB should place more emphasis on monitoring concrete and sustainable project results and use success stories of high visibility to attract donors.

• Efforts should be made to include ministry staff in TFSCB project activities and to conduct special courses on data analysis and interpretation for government users.

INTRODUCTION

An Advisory Panel (AP) was created in 2003 to conduct a yearly technical review of the World Bank Trust Fund Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) activities and propose recommendations to enhance its operation. Since its inception, the AP consists of two external consultants who meet the managers and other stakeholders of this TF (AU: Administrative Unit; IMC: Internal Management Committee; etc.) once a year at the Headquarters of the World Bank (WB). The 12th AP meeting was held from March 9 to 13, 20151. According to their present terms of reference the two consultants are commissioned to reflect on the history and past practices of the Trust Fund and to make recommendations on its future scope and practices. Specifically, they will:

- review and evaluate project proposals and approval decisions taken by the IMC in a general manner;
- prepare an annual report containing the findings from the abovementioned tasks;
- reflect and give their recommendations on the future direction and overall management of the TFSCB.

In the course of this mission, the consultants conducted a series of interviews with management and stakeholders of the TFSCB, namely: Mr Grant Cameron (Manager, Development Data Group, DECDG, and Head of the IMC), Ms Ingrid Ivins, Messrs Mustafa Dinc and Mizuki Yamanaka (TFSCB Administration Unit), several IMC members (Ms Amparo Ballivian, Ms Barbro Hexeberg, Mr. Neil Fantom; all DECDG, and Messrs Victor Sulla, Africa Region, and Mr. Manohar Sharma, Global Practice Unit), as well as several TFSCB project managers (Ms Olga Shabalina and Mr. Thomas Danielewitz, both DECDG). These discussions were fruitful and are reflected in the review and recommendations below.

The AP was provided with documents for review and discussions on project proposals submitted to the Internal Management Committee (IMC) of the TFSCB since the 11th meeting of the AP in 2014, in particular:

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1 The reports of the previous AP meetings are available on the WB Website: [http://www.worldbank.org/tfscb](http://www.worldbank.org/tfscb)
- the Grant Funding Requests (GFR) with their Grant Financing Plans and Budget Tables for the three proposals made under the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) Window and submitted for virtual review by the IMC in 2014;
- the Grant Funding Requests (GFR) with their Grant Financing Plans and Budget Tables for the proposals made under the Spring (24 proposals) and Fall (23 proposals) Non-NSDS Windows;
- the minutes of the IMC meeting held on July 2, 2014 for the proposals made under the Spring Non-NSDS Windows; and
- the copy of a message e-mailed on June 20, 2014, by Grant Cameron to the IMC members proposing new procedures to review 2014 Spring Non-NSDS Window.

1- PAST EXPERIENCE

The initial thrust of TFSCB was on awareness raising of the importance of quality statistics in developing and transition countries among potential donors and users. As more and more donors became engaged in this thrust, funds were used to enable statistical agencies in recipient countries to develop national strategy plans (NSDS) for their statistical systems in response to national and international data demands and in adherence to international quality standards.

The TFSCB has evolved over a period of its operations into a sound financial and management tool for providing, in cooperation with the development partners, small grants to developing countries for statistical projects in a flexible manner. It has built up organization, management, guidelines and procedures for operations with well-defined objectives. Since its establishment, PARIS21 supported with the financial help of the TFSCB and some other donors more than one hundred countries in setting up their National Strategies for Statistical Development. The TFSCB has granted a total of 46.6 million USD to date to conduct small-scale projects, with project volumes ranging from 100,000 to 500,000 USD. The project activities encompassed preparation of NSDS and statistical capacity building activities as well as statistical subject matters, the latter responding to pre-defined and emerging topical priorities resulting for instance from the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS) and the Post-2015 Data Revolution Initiative, such as data for measuring sustainable development, open data, data for improving production and use of Gender Statistics and exploration of innovative approaches to data collection and dissemination.

The TFSCB was designed as a funding instrument of short term effectiveness and relatively high flexibility to complement other higher volume funding instruments, such as STATCAP or SRF. It enabled donor countries to invest their funds in a trust fund of broad and flexible scope and to delegate the administration and monitoring on the individual grant level to the responsible unit of the World Bank.

2 - STATE–OF–PLAY

2 The IMC meeting for the proposals made under the Fall 2014 Non NSDS Window was held on March 10, 2015.

3 The TFSCB rules impose a ceiling of $ 500,000 to the budgets of the proposals.
2.1. Administration and management of TFSCB

For years the TFSCB was a multi-donor fund supported by a significant number of donors. In recent years, the number of donors has decreased and by mid-2013 the resources of the Fund had decreased to a balance of just about $2 million of unallocated funds. The AP recommended to DECDG during its previous meetings to develop a concerted strategy and pursue all the available avenues for additional continued funding. In the fall of 2013, the DFID agreed to contribute $20 million to the TFSCB and transferred this sum in one single tranche in November 2013. Accordingly, the closing date of the TFSCB programme was extended from end-2015 to end-2020. When created, the TFSCB was designed as a multi-donors fund. At the moment, it has become a one-donor fund (DFID). However new donors, such as the Government of Korea, are expected to join soon (the GoK has committed $3 million).

To some extent and paradoxically, the TFSCB is again in danger of becoming a victim of this new gift from DFID. Is it possible to maintain the initial spirit of the TFSCB when the number of proposals increases very quickly, as it was the case in 2014? 63 proposals have been received over 2014 (3 proposals received under the NSDS Window; Non-NSDS Spring Window: 28 proposals, 24 of which for discussion by the IMC meeting; Non-NSDS Fall Window: 32 proposals, 23 of which for discussion by the IMC meeting). That means that the total amount in 2014 for the approved or conditionally approved proposals has been around 10 million USD. At this trend the Fund will be exhausted by the end of 2016 which is not in line with the objective of DFID to disburse the funds by 2020. Two solutions are to be considered: (i) finding new donors (ii) being more selective in the approval process, or a mix of these two solutions.

The TFSCB has successfully operated, since its inception in 1999, in promoting medium-to long-term system-wide visions on statistical development in developing countries. Its financing has also contributed to the design, creation, implementation and updating of NSDS in a large number of countries. These NSDS have provided the basis for STATCAP projects of the World Bank or for country projects that are being implemented with financing from the SFR Catalytic Fund. In addition, TFSCB financing has contributed to the implementation of a large number of smaller country or regional, sector specific and training projects on statistical capacity building. Improved communication media created through World Bank and PARIS21 websites led to a better understanding of Trust Fund goals and resulted in a greater percentage of proposals in line with the main objective of statistical capacity building. The AP has found that all decisions made during the meetings of the IMC were generally decided according to the guidelines after a well-informed thinking and debate.

Following the World Bank’s decision to streamline small and micro-grant procedures to a 2-stage application process, the TFSCB program implemented these procedures in early 2012. In 2013, the AU specified more clearly the criteria taken into account for shortlisting proposals for the stage 2. In 2014, the AU decided that a change will be introduced in the way of transmitting proposals for discussion by the IMC meetings. Recommendations by the AU to the IMC have been organized into four groups: (i) proposals that should be approved “as is”; (ii) proposals to be approved, but with modifications to the budget and contents (conditional approval); (iii) proposals
that require a substantial clarification or revision and a virtual review by the IMC; and (iv) proposals to be rejected with or without invitation to re-submit.

2.2. Focus and emerging issues

The TFSCB has proven that it can adapt flexibly to new needs.

Taking into consideration the broad mandate established by the WB President Jim Yong Kim when he made his opening remarks at the Annual Meetings in Tokyo, Japan, on October 11, 2012⁴, and the growth areas proposed by donors and the priorities resulting from the BAPS and from Post 2015 beyond the MDGs, special emphasis have been successfully placed on: (i) Making government data more accessible by participating actively in the Bank policy on Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) and Action Plan⁵; (ii) Improving the production and use of Gender Statistics: (iii) Improving the data foundation for measuring sustainable development; (iv) Funding innovative approaches; and (v) Improving TFSCB’s results focus.

The AP welcomed this proposal during its two previous meetings but nevertheless reiterated the importance of pursuing its support to the preparation of new or updated NSDS and their implementation. According to the last PARIS21 progress report, 15% of IDA countries and 35% of low and lower-middle income countries have no strategy or an expired strategy. PARIS21 has prepared with the help of a Task Team an update of the NSDS Guidelines. Producing NSDS or updating NSDS will therefore remain an important task. Efforts should also go on for implementing NSDS.

3 - THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF TFSCB

3.1 Funding environment

The funding environment for statistical capacity projects has changed in recent years. Many donor countries have reduced their budgets for technical cooperation, now either concentrating their bilateral assistance on a selection of target countries or earmarking a major part of their available budget for subject matter areas of international political attention, e.g. environmental or gender issues. While they acknowledge statistics to be a valuable tool for describing phenomena and observing developments in policy relevant subject matter areas, national donors have become increasingly reluctant to invest in statistical capacity building per se.

The TFSCB, by its very name, thus, operates in a challenging funding environment. In order to succeed in this environment, the TFSCB should review its remit and strive to reconcile its original thrust of implementing national strategies for developing statistics and statistical capacity building with emerging funding opportunities for subject matter areas. While this would require

⁴ Invest in data and analytical tools building on the success of the Open Data Initiative; and Work with partners (in building statistical capacity) to ensure virtually all developing countries have timely and accurate data.

some repositioning it would not mean that the TFSCB would have to abandon its original objectives but rather that it would broaden its scope. Consequently, in future, special attention should be given to such project applications in emerging domains in particular those of relevance to development policies of recipient countries or regions. It could also be useful to give attention to projects which are able to demonstrate how expected results in subject matter areas would also benefit statistical capacity building, for example a project on conducting a household survey in connection with poverty statistics in a given country could include a component on producing video based interviewer training courses which constitutes a training tool in terms of statistical capacity building.

3.2. Attracting new donors

As previously noted, the TFSCB has been designed as a multi-donor fund, but as of last year, it has become a one-donor fund (DFID). Even if the AU has recently received a pledge from the Government of Korea, it’s necessary to attract new donors. There is the challenge of how to make the TFSCB more attractive for potential donors?

Private donors, i.e. large charitable trusts, play an increasing role in supporting public causes, be it health related concerns or environmental issues⁶. In view of the dwindling number of government donors for statistical capacity building, the possibility of raising funds from this donor community should be investigated. While it is to be expected that private donors would invest only in such statistical activities which are related to their subject matter of interest, a case could still be made of the merits of sound statistical evidence either of the need situation to be remedied or of the quantifiable results achieved from the donor’s inputs. In order to achieve this, the TFSCB could make case presentations and organize discussion fora as side events at international economic summit meetings⁷ where leaders of government and the private sector convene to discuss global concerns and future directions.

An attempt should also be made to attract new government donors from the group of emerging countries (i.e. BRICS⁸) by offering them the TFSCB as a vehicle for promoting statistical capacity building in relevant policy or subject matter areas and as a vehicle to foster good governance and transparency⁹.

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⁶ For instance, the Bill and Melinda Gates Fundation has accepted to contribute to the funding of the project launched by PARIS21 *The Roadmap for a Country-led Data Revolution*.

⁷ For example, the *World Economic Forum* that is yearly held in Davos, Switzerland, as an international institution committed to improving the state of the world through public-private cooperation.

⁸ It is worthy of note that the Russian Government has signed in April, 2012, a US$ 15 million grant with the World Bank to support its Multi-Donor Programmatic Trust Fund (ECASTAT) that will enhance capacity and address financial constraints of the statistical systems in Eastern Europe and the CIS, with an emphasis on IDA borrower countries.

⁹ It was also proposed to use some events like the 60th World Statistical Congress to be held in Rio-de-Janeiro, Brazil, at the end of July 2015, to organize a side event to promote the TFSCB and attract new donors.
3.3. Focus and priorities

To a considerable extent the TFSCB has already broadened its focus to encompass subject matter areas of international interest. This could be intensified by explicitly aligning its remit and objectives to international development goals as established by UN summits. In this respect, statistical monitoring of the UN MDGs has made a major impact on statistical capacity building in developing countries. Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) could have a similar effect and should, therefore, be explicitly referred to in the TFSCB remit.

In terms of effectiveness of TFSCB inputs, special attention should continue to be given to synergies to be gained from regional projects (proposed by sub-regional organizations such as CARICOM, SADEC, East African Community, ASEAN). Sharing experiences among countries engaged in similar projects should also be recommended\(^\text{10}\) (e.g. via internet platforms).

Subject matter projects which can demonstrate concrete benefits to be expected for sustainable statistical capacity building in addition to their subject matter goals should be given priority over projects which are only oriented to work in a subject matter.

In order to promote awareness of statistics as the most important tool of evidence based policy making, efforts should be made to include ministry staff in TFSCB project activities and to conduct training courses on analysis and interpretation of statistics for ministry staff as component of TFSCB projects.

The scope of TFSCB grants is short-term by nature, yet, the TFSCB sees itself as a contributor to the long term development goals of statistical capacity building. There is no inherent contradiction as long as the short term project objectives contribute to the long term goals. To this effect, recipients should be encouraged to strive for coherence when submitting project applications over the course of years. Priority should be given to coherent projects for example, projects or project components of a technical nature (e.g. ICT in data collection funded by one grant, new venues of data dissemination by a subsequent project) which could build upon another.

3.4 Role of WB vs role of recipients

While in theory projects should be recipient initiated and conducted in order to ensure sound recipient ownership, i.e. recipient-executed, this stipulation is not always feasible. In countries with low capacity statistical offices it may not be possible to task them with the full preparation, application and management of a project which may be relatively small in scope but requires comparatively high administrative and management inputs. In such cases, it seems reasonable to task the WB with the project management.

However, if national statistical offices are repeatedly alleviated or even freed from administrative and management tasks associated with projects conducted to their benefit or if projects are perceived to exclusively serve the information demand of international agencies or the WB, there is a real danger of non-ownership and dissociation from the goals of the project on the

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\(^{10}\) e.g. the IMC meeting having examined the Fall Non NSDS proposals has recommended to combine one proposal from Vietnam for SCB in public procurement with a similar project presented by Mongolia. Another example is the proposal made jointly by Kenya and Rwanda
part of the beneficiary country and national statistical office. Therefore, greatest efforts should be made to involve the recipient country or statistical office in the initiation, application and implementation of projects by orienting the project content closely to the needs and priorities of the recipient country.

Ownership of regional projects which are usually conducted under the auspices of the WB is not a matter of concern as the mutual benefits and synergy effects of these projects outweigh the lack of country ownership. Ideally, however, one of the participating statistical offices could assume the lead role in a regional project and, thus, foster country ownership. When the actual recipient is a sub-regional organization (e.g. CARICOM, ASEAN …), it should be possible for this organization to execute the project?

More attention should be given to possibilities of having recipient countries contribute matching funds or support in kind to TFSCB grants, in particular for grants to non-IDA countries. This would foster recipient ownership and ensure that the project content and goals fully respond to the development needs of the country and the recipient institution.

3.5. Operational issues

The success of the TFSCB is largely due to its flexibility in scope and in operation which should be maintained. The recently adopted two-step approach to project application is efficient and in the interest of applicants and WB administrators. There is comparatively little bureaucracy attached to the TFSCB.

The TFSCB should place more emphasis on monitoring concrete and sustainable project results. The result monitoring and reporting should be a joint task of the recipient and the donor. Close attention should be paid to the project history of recipients in terms of projects completed successfully and on schedule.

The results of successful projects with high visibility subject matters should be used as case presentations to attract donors.

The AP considers it appropriate to the TFSCB objectives to continue to award individual grants the volume of which is between 100 000 USD and 500 000 USD.

4 - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In order to succeed in a challenging funding environment, the TFSCB should review its remit and strive to reconcile its original thrust of statistical capacity building with emerging funding opportunities for subject matter areas. While this would require some repositioning it would not mean that the TFSCB would have to abandon its original objectives but rather that it would broaden its scope.

2. Special attention should be given to such project applications which are able to demonstrate how expected results in subject matter areas would also benefit statistical capacity building.
3. In order to keep alive the TFSCB until 2020, the WB is encouraged to find new donors with the support of PARIS21 and to be more selective in the approval process of proposed requests. To achieve the latter, better criteria for selectivity should be developed and communicated to those seeking TF funding.

4. In view of the dwindling number of government donors for statistical capacity building, the AU and the PARIS21 Secretariat should investigate the possibility of raising funds from the private sector, i.e. charitable trusts, private foundations (e.g. Bill Gates Foundation). In order to achieve this, the TFSCB could make case presentations and organize discussion fora as side events at international economic summit meetings where leaders of government and the private sector convene to discuss global concerns and future directions.

5. An attempt should also be made to attract new government donors from the group of emerging countries (i.e. BRICS) by offering them the TFSCB as a vehicle for promoting statistical capacity building in relevant policy or subject matter areas and as a vehicle to foster good governance and transparency.

6. Efforts should continue to be made by the WB and PARIS21 to encourage the countries to prepare more comprehensive and updated NSDS really adapted to their actual situation and to look at the implementation of the NSDS when they are adopted.

7. The TFSCB should align its remit and objectives to international development goals as established by UN summits (e.g. SDGs) while at the same time reconciling its original thrust of statistical capacity building with the new subject matter areas emerging from the international development initiatives.

8. Special attention should be given to synergies to be gained from regional projects, especially in low capacity areas, and the sharing of experience among countries engaged in similar projects via internet platforms.

9. Efforts should continue to encourage proposals from regional organizations (e.g. the Caribbean Community).

10. While it may be a challenge for recipients to find the balance between stand-alone activities and sustainable capacity development in applying for and executing TF grants, the TFSCB should encourage such efforts and capture more information on the results achieved to assess the likelihood of good impact on capacity development. The AU should also make efforts to add references to past projects, i.e. where applicable present a track record of successfully completed activities, to the material sent for decision to the IMC when it has to prepare its decisions.

11. The AU should try to guide sector specific projects to look for supplementary funding through alternative WB facilities or sources external to the WB (e.g. FAO, UNDP) so as to free a portion of TFSCB funds to be used for proper statistical capacity building purposes in connection
with the sector specific activities to be funded. Non-IDA countries should be encouraged to afford significant contributions (not only in kind) to the sum funded by the TFSCB.

12. Greater efforts should be made to include ministry staff in project activities and to conduct special courses for users on analysis and interpretation of statistics within the scope of TFSCB grants.

13. Efforts should be made to involve the recipient country or statistical office in the initiation, application and implementation of projects by orienting the project content closely to the needs and priorities of the recipient country.

14. To foster ownership more attention should be given to possibilities of having recipient countries contribute matching funds or support in kind to TFSCB grants.

15. The TFSCB should place more emphasis on monitoring concrete and sustainable project results. The results of successful projects with high visibility subject matters should be used as show case to attract donors.

16. The AU is encouraged to make much more visible the achievements of some success stories, with the idea that countries may benefit of these achievements for their own projects.

17. The AU should clarify the respective advantages of having bank-executed projects vs recipient-executed activities based on the objectives and expectations, while keeping in mind WB regulations.
ANNEX

SURVEY OF THE RECENT PROJECT PROPOSALS RECEIVED BY THE TFSCB ADMINISTRATION UNIT (AU)

In April 2012, the TFSCB Administrative (AU) Unit proposed new guidelines and procedures to prepare TFSCB funding proposals. The new procedure consists of a two-Stage procedure. During the Stage 1, TTLs submit, in consultation with the agency who has expressed interest, a short proposal (2 pages following a template proposed in the guidelines). After review, a short list is established by the IMC and shortlisted proposals are notified to the TTLs. During the Stage 2, the recipients and the TTLs complete the Grant Funding Request (GFR) that is sent to the IMC for review and decision taking. Decisions were taken by the IMC during a face-to-face meeting. In 2013, there was only one non-NSDS Window due to limited financial availability. In 2014, the new funds received made it possible to open two “Non-NSDS Windows: a Spring Window (IMC meeting held on July 16, 2014) and a Fall Window (IMC meeting on March 10, 2015).

The proposals presented through the NSDS Window are not affected by these new procedures. In 2014, three project proposals were submitted and accepted during virtual NSDS Window meetings.

Results of the Stages 1

Twenty-eight proposals were received by IMC through the Non-NSDS Spring Window and twenty-three were shortlisted. Thirty-two were received by the IMC during the Non-NSDS Fall Window and twenty-three (76.7%) were shortlisted. For both windows, sixty were received and forty-six were shortlisted, compared to thirteen proposals received in 2013 and nine (69%) shortlisted.

Results of the Stages 2

Out of the twenty-three proposals received during the Spring Window and submitted to the IMC, seven were accepted, ten conditionally approved, two deferred for further discussion and four rejected. Out of the twenty-three proposals received during the Fall Window and submitted to the IMC, eight were accepted, four conditionally approved, seven deferred and four rejected. In total, out of the forty-six proposals received during the two Windows, fifteen (32.6%) were approved, fourteen (30.4%) conditionally approved, nine (19.6%) deferred or returned for a further virtual meeting and eight (17.4%) rejected.

The geographical distribution of the sixty proposals presented during the stages 1 of both Windows is as follows:

11 In 2014, given the volume of proposals, the AU decided to add a new step to the process by circulating recommendations on each proposal shortlisted and submitted to the IMC’s discussion: (i) proposals that should be approved “as is”; (ii) proposals to be approved with modifications in the budget; (iii) proposals that require a verbal discussion of the IMC.
### Table: Geographical Distribution of Proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of proposals</th>
<th>Number of shortlisted proposals</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia (SAR)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; Pacific (EAP)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe &amp; Central Asia (ECA)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>46</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If we include the three proposals presented through the NSDS Window, the geographical distribution is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of proposals</th>
<th>Number of accepted proposals</th>
<th>Number of accepted or conditionally accepted proposals</th>
<th>Distribution by region (in percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFR</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25.0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAR</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAP</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>63</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0 %</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The total requested for the 63 proposals sent to the AU was $17.922 million. The budget allocated for the 32 approved or conditionally approved proposals was $10.024 million (compared to $2.14 in 2013). The AU assumes a return of 50% on the deferred proposals or the proposals returned (with further virtual review); in this case, $2.063 million will have to be added, i.e. a total allocated budget of $12.087 million\(^{12}\).

It is proposed to classify the proposals shortlisted by the TFSCB Administration Unit for discussion by the IMC into six categories\(^ {13}\):

1. NSDS proposals
2. Implementation of NSDS
3. Growth areas proposed by the donors and priorities resulting from the BAPS and MDGs
4. Other emerging issues
5. Sector specific activities
6. Miscellaneous

The assignment of a project to a particular category is sometimes a subjective choice. This classification, however, sheds light on the choices that led the AP to make a particular recommendation.

1. **NSDS proposals** (2 new proposals)

   Proposals presented in this section concern not only new NSDS proposals, but also updates of former NSDS (or Statistical Master Plans), or NSDS replacing “first generation” NSDS that did not comply with the guidelines proposed by PARIS21 after some years of experience.

   **NSDS Window**

   \[
   \text{Approved:} \quad \begin{array}{ll}
   \text{EAP: Mongolia – Preparation of a NSDS} & \$90,000 \\
   \text{SAR: Bhutan – Updating the NSDS} & \$90,000 \\
   \end{array}
   \]

   \[
   \text{Total} & \$180,000
   \]

   \[
   4.1\% \text{ of the shortlisted proposals} \\
   6.7\% \text{ of the proposals approved or conditionally approved} \\
   1.8\% \text{ of the budget allocated}
   \]

   The limited number of new proposals is due to the fact that a very large majority of developing or transition countries have now prepared SNDS or SMP. But this conclusion is

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\(^{12}\) The average funding was $2.77 million during the three years 2011 – 2012 - 2013, below the funding observed in the previous periods that were over $5 million every year.

\(^{13}\) These six categories are different from the six ones used in the previous AP reports. It is therefore not possible to make comparisons with the previous years.
somewhat misleading insofar as it confuses NSDS of the first and second generations. Efforts should continue to be made by PARIS21 and the WB to encourage the countries to prepare more comprehensive NSDS really adapted to the situation of the statistical system and to update, or re-draft the NSDSs of the first generation. The initiative NSDS Guidelines 2.0 recently prepared by PARIS21 will certainly increase the proposals for new, revised or updated NSDS in the coming years.

2. Implementation of NSDS and Statistical Capacity Building Programs (10 new proposals)

Proposals presented in this section concern methods on implementing validated NSDS but also focusing on the enhancement of NSDS through advocacy, evaluation, etc. The proposals aiming at building statistical capacities have also been added in this section, even if they don’t make any reference to NSDS.

Non NSDS Spring Window
Approved: AFR: Somalia – Statistical Capacity Building Program $ 500,000
AFR: Gambia – Statistical Capacity Building Project $ 435,000
Conditionally Approved:
EAP: Philippines – Updating the Statistical Development Program $ 500,000
Global: ISI Support for participation in conferences, workshops and short courses $ 500,000

Non NSDS Fall Window
Approved: EAP: Mongolia – NSO Capacity Enhancement $ 480,000
Conditionally Approved:
LAC: Guatemala – Improving quality and accessibility of data for evidence based decision making $ 397,500
ECA: Moldova – SCB $ 300,000

Total $ 3,112,500

20.4 % of the presented proposals
20.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved
31.1 % of the budget allocated

Returned and virtual meeting (Non NSDS Fall Window)
AFR: SACU – SCB
Kenya – Rwanda: TF for SCB
Benin: TF for SCB
The proposals concerning the implementation of NSDS and statistical capacity building programs constitute, with the preparation of NSDS, the core orientation of the TFSCB\textsuperscript{14} since it has been created. The budget allocated for those two categories of proposals represents almost one third of the total allocated for the proposals made in 2014.

The proposal presented by the ISI aiming at supporting statisticians from developing countries to international conferences, workshops or seminars through the TFSCB has been included in that section. It was recognized by the AP during its previous sessions as an important contribution to international co-operation by encouraging the participation of developing countries in the dialogue on the development of policy, framework, standards and methodologies on statistics. There is merit in funding such participation provided there is an effective contribution by the sponsored participants in the development of standards, methodologies and innovations in statistics and they become vehicles for knowledge transfer to the developing countries. During its 2010 Fall meeting, the IMC took decisions on the principles, the budget allocation, the event selection process and the administrative process. In 2014\textsuperscript{15}, the ISI presented a global plan covering the two calendar years 2015 – 2016.

3. **Growth areas proposed by the TFSCB donors and the priorities resulting from the BAPS and MDGs** (14 new proposals)

To address the imbalance between demand and supply of timely and quality data, the World Bank President suggested in a speech pronounced in October 2012 to (a) invest in data and analytical tools building on the success of the Open Data Initiative and, (b) work with partners in building statistical capacity to ensure virtually all developing countries have timely and accurate data. Taking into consideration, this broad mandate established by the World Bank President, the growth areas proposed by TFSCB donors and the priorities resulting from the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS) and from the future MDGs’ framework, the AU prepared a note for discussion for the IMC meeting held in February, 2014. According to this note, special emphasis should be placed on:

1. Making government data more accessible by participating actively in the Bank policy on Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) and Action Plan;
2. Improving the production and use of Gender Statistics
3. Improving the data foundation for measuring sustainable development
4. Funding innovative approach
5. Improving TFSCB’s results focus.

\textsuperscript{14} See also the recommendation # 1 made by the AP during its 11\textsuperscript{th} meeting in 2014. According to this recommendation, the TFSCB should focus its priorities on five growth areas. Preparation and implementation of NSDS were presented as the first growth area for the future of the TFSCB.

\textsuperscript{15} In 2012, the ISI presented also a global plan covering the two calendar years 2013 – 2014. No proposal was consequently proposed in 2013.
The proposals meeting this emphasis have been classified in this third section.

**Non NSDS Spring Window**

**Approved:**
- LAC: Dominican Rep. – Strengthening Gender Statistics
- Global: 3rd Global ODRA

**Conditionally Approved:**
- ECA: Kosovo – Better Statistics for Decision Making
- Global: Open Data e-Learning
- AFR: Mali – Improving the quality and access of data
- AFR: Burkina Faso – ODRA and drought risks

**Non NSDS Fall Window:**

**Approved:**
- Global: Integrating gender into NSDS
- AFR: African Open Data Regional Conference

**Conditionally Approved:**

**Returned and Virtual Meeting (Non NSDS Spring Window):**
- ECA: Belarus – Broadening Data Provision through Comprehensive On line System

**Returned and Virtual Meeting (Non NSDS Fall Window):**
- EAP: China – Capacity Building and Supporting Program for Open Data Initiatives
- LAC: Dominican Rep.- Reusability of open data produced by INDOTEL

**Rejected:**
- Global: Improvement of survey data quality and timeliness of the data by using CAPI technology
- Global: Enabling developing countries’ participation in the Global Open Data agenda

**4. Other emerging issues** (5 new proposals)

Proposals presented in this section refer to issues emerging from discussions in global summits or UN meetings at global or regional level (health, education, CRVS …). The number of proposals classified in this fourth category will certainly increase in the next future.

**NSDS Window:**

\[16\text{ Requested $485,000}\]
Approved: EAP: Secretariat of the SCP – Pacific Regional Data Repository for Sustainable Energy for All (PRDP for SE4ALL) $ 229,910

**Non NSDS Spring Window:**

**Approved:** LAC: Nicaragua – Capacity Building in Health Statistics $ 212,000  
LAC: Panama – Integrated National Health Statistical System $ 290,000

**Non NSDS Fall Window:**

**Approved:** ECA: Moldova – Strengthening capacity of the Ministry of Education, Rayon authorities and schools $ 365,000

**Total** $ 1,096,910

*10.2 % of the presented proposals  
13.3 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved  
10.9 % of the budget allocated*

Rejected: LAC: OLADE – Energy Statistics in the Caribbean

**5. Sector specific issues** (15 new proposals)

Proposals presented in this section relate to specific statistical topics complementing the preparation or the implementation of NSDS. As during its previous meetings, the AP notes that financing sector specific activities may be an interesting and valuable complement to the NSDS, provided that such proposals have been made in countries having adopted and validated a NSDS and may contribute to statistical capacity building, at least in some of their components.

**Non NSDS Spring Window:**

**Approved:** AFR: Zambia – Strengthening Capacity for Poverty and Economic Statistics $ 250,000

**Conditionally Approved:**

- AFR: Lesotho – Improvement of methodology of HBS $ 195,000
- SAR: Pakistan – Measuring Poverty and Living Standards $ 140,000
- SAR: Sri Lanka – Improving Poverty Estimation $ 160,000
- Global: Ensuring Rapid Response for TFSCB Special Areas of Emphasis $ 500,000

**Non NSDS Fall Window:**

**Approved:** SAR: Bangladesh – Support of the Bureau of Stat. in improving the quality, frequency, and use of two important household surveys $ 383,000

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17 Requested 395,000
EAP: Cambodia – Enhancement of Poverty Analysis Capacity $ 349,300

Conditionally Approved:
EAP: CIS – Developing capacities in NA, price statistics and PPP in the region $ 390,000
MENA: Harmonization of price statistics, and production of biennial PPP estimates in Western Asia $ 388,410

Total $ 2,955,710

30.6 % of the presented proposals
30.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved
29.5 % of the budget allocated

Returned and virtual meeting (Non NSDS Spring Window):
Global: Standardized EITI Reporting

Returned and virtual meeting (Non NSDS Fall Window):
EAP: Vietnam – Mongolia: SCP in Public Procurement
LAC: Bolivia – Living Well Indicators

Rejected:
Cambodia - Enhancement of Poverty Analysis Capacity
WAEMU – Designing harmonized household survey instruments

6. Miscellaneous (3 new proposals)

Rejected:
LAC: Peru – Improving the quality, accessibility and relevance of National Statistics
AFR: Analytics for Results
LAC: Afrodescendants inclusion in National statistical Systems

6.1 % of the presented proposals
0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved and of the budget allocated

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18 There were two proposals (for Vietnam and for Mongolia). The IMC has recommended to merge these two proposals.
Additional remarks:

The proposals not shortlisted after the stage 1 might be classified as follows:

3. Growth areas: Global – Open Data Transport; Global – Mainstreaming Open Data in WB financed projects; Global – Improving Gender Statistics from Surveys\(^\text{19}\); Global – Open Data for Businesses; UNESCO (LAC) – Improved measurement of gender indicators on science, technology, engineering and mathematics; Global – Feasibility Study for a Global Open Data Cloud


5. Sector specific issues: Colombia – Extractive Industry Data; Palestine – Informal sector and informal employment

6. Miscellaneous: Brazil & Lusophone Africa

\(^{19}\text{It was proposed by the AU to merge this project with the one aiming at Integrating Gender into NSSs (see section 3) that was finally accepted.}\)