TRUST FUND FOR STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING

22 years changing lives

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22 years changing lives

INTRODUCTION:

Data are critical for effective decision-making. Without good data, countries lack the information they need to understand the issues facing their citizens, to create and monitor public policy, to direct services to vulnerable populations, to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, and more. Unfortunately, many of the poorest countries also suffer from poor statistics, as they lack the resources to collect, manage, and share high-quality data.

For more than two decades, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) has been working to improve statistical capacity around the world. Guided by the principle that better data supports better policy for better lives, the TFSCB disbursed 432 grants worth over USD 100 million to 149 low- and middle-income countries between 1999 and 2021, working with countries and regions to build their capacity to produce high-quality statistics. Over the course of the TFSCB program, recipients were given grant funding across six different windows, each targeting key areas of statistical capacity and development, including windows focused on National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), Data Production, Innovation, and Inclusive Data.

During its 22 years of operation, the TFSCB has both proven the efficacy of small grant funding (USD 500,000 or less) as well as its ability to serve as a channel to collect and direct financing from numerous international donors towards a common goal of improving statistics around the world. With each project and window of financing, the TFSCB team continuously strove to learn and build upon their experience in grant making, incorporating feedback from recipient countries to strengthen internal processes and improve the overall approach of the program. Looking forward, we offer a few of the key lessons learned during the TFSCB program, in hopes that they may be useful to future financing endeavors directed towards improving data for better lives.

- Building national demand for statistics increases the effectiveness and sustainability of capacity building activities. TFSCB grants were most successful when their activities highlighted the value of using data, increasing national demand for statistics among various stakeholders. In these contexts, countries were more likely to continue statistical capacity building activities after the end of the grant, as well as to seek additional resources to support these activities going forward.

- Developing skills and tools that can be applied across a variety of statistical programs is critical to ensuring sustainability. When TFSCB grants supported national statistics offices (NSOs) in developing new tools and approaches that could be applied beyond the grant context, they resulted in long-lasting changes to the data collection processes of recipient countries. These changes were then often applied across the entire national statistical system.

- Collecting and sharing qualitative lessons learned is important to advance the skills and knowledge of grant recipients. Looking back, the TFSCB team recognized that playing a stronger convening role by connecting grant recipients around thematic areas or sub-regional groups would have helped to further increase grant recipients' knowledge. Collecting and sharing success factors and lessons learned across different grants is also critical for improving communication with donors and other stakeholders.

- Partnering with other capacity building organizations is critical for achieving systemic change. Building the capacity of countries to collect, share, and use high-quality data and statistics is a long-term objective that requires multiple types of interventions across several stakeholders. While small grants are effective for addressing urgent gaps in technical and operational skills, piloting new ideas, and catalyzing longer-term engagement in statistics, future donors and implementers should work towards coordinating approaches to support all aspects of national statistical systems.

To share more about the work of the TFSCB, we present a selection of key TFSCB grants, including project summaries, details of TFSCB support, and the results achieved. We look forward to the next generation of financing to support better data for better decisions, better policy, and ultimately, better lives for all.

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DONORS:

The TFSCB has been supported by contributions from the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, IrishAid, Korea's Ministry of Economy and Finance, Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

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AFRICA

COVID-19: Monitoring Needs and Responses During the Pandemic

COVID-19 has hit many countries hard. At the same time, lockdowns and social distancing measures in response to the pandemic have been difficult to maintain, especially in countries where informal daily labor constitutes a large part of GDP. This has increased the importance of tracking and monitoring the spread of the virus as well as localizing response efforts.

For governments to effectively guide their COVID-19 response, they need reliable data in an affordable and timely manner. Obtaining accurate data has been a steep challenge for many countries, particularly where data collection methods rely on face to-face interviews and field visits. While alternative methods have been urgently needed, many countries lack both the technical capacity and financial resources necessary to carry out nationwide surveys using digital tools.

TFSCB SUPPORT

To help these hard-hit countries better respond to the pandemic, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supplied countries with digital tools, training, and financial resources for data collection. All of the countries supported were in sub-Saharan Africa, specifically Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Malawi, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, and Zambia. Additionally, the project supported surveys to obtain insights on the refugee population in Uganda.

The TFSCB team provided technical assistance to these countries to improve survey design for high-frequency phone surveys using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI).

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project enabled National Statistics Offices across Sub-Saharan Africa to monitor impacts of COVID-19 and response policies by:

- Implementing phone surveys to track the impact of COVID-19 on living conditions of the poor and vulnerable
- Providing technical assistance and training national statistics office staff to design and conduct phone surveys
- Creating the foundation for regional cooperation through harmonized data collection and knowledge-sharing across countries

The team also introduced the Survey of Well-Being via Instant and Frequent Tracking (SWIFT) model developed by the World Bank, which was designed to help NSOs monitor changes in household welfare over time. For countries with inadequate financial resources, the TFSCB provided seed funding to ensure that at least two rounds of phone surveys could be conducted to establish the data foundation for government response efforts.

The TFSCB also supported the development of a global interactive COVID-19 High-Frequency Survey Dashboard, where standardized indicators from surveys around the world are disseminated for public use, allowing users to compare and analyze the impact and recovery from COVID-19 over time and by industry sectors. The dashboard also established a virtual venue for sharing knowledge across the 50 countries included to date. Dashboard features include overviews with maps, cross-tabulations (urban-rural and across different industries), trend analysis, scatterplots of correlations between different indicators, and options for sharing data. The dashboard currently includes 96 harmonized indicators on 14 different topics, which will continue to increase as data from additional countries are incorporated.

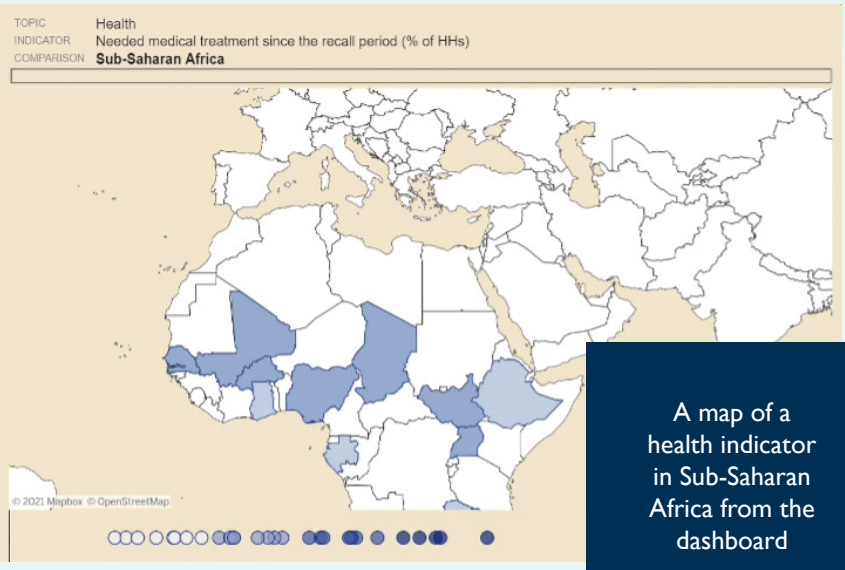
GRANT DETAILS

Title
COVID-19 Response Monitoring Projects in Africa

TFSCB Program
Addressing COVID-19 Challenges

TFSCB Grant
USD 587,500

Project Period
May 2020 – February 2021



A map of a health indicator in Sub-Saharan Africa from the dashboard

The dashboard was created by the World Bank as a tool to enable cross-country comparisons, strengthen cooperation and response efforts, and facilitate better coordination of humanitarian support.

The TFSCB played a pivotal role in supporting countries in sub-Saharan Africa to build capacity for data collection to mitigate the impacts of a global pandemic. The significant impact of the project was particularly evident in countries with little to no experience in conducting high-frequency phone surveys. The insights generated from the surveys on ongoing challenges faced by poor and vulnerable populations enabled governments both to develop appropriate national COVID-19 responses and to monitor the efficacy of their policy interventions.

COUNTRY RESULTS

The collected data sheds light on a wide range of socioeconomic issues and has enabled several sub-Saharan African countries to develop more effective COVID-19 mitigation measures.

BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso, three rounds of surveys highlight the impact of the pandemic on the population. A survey showed that even after businesses resumed activities, revenues were low due to lack of customers, and another showed farmers' challenges in accessing fertilizers and seeds. And finally, a survey also showed the prevalence of different social assistance programs and how few households had benefitted from them.

UGANDA

In Uganda, three rounds of high-frequency phone surveys were conducted to measure the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic on refugees. The survey provided granular representative results of the impact of COVID-19 across seven strata, combining refugees from four countries and three regions in Uganda. Survey results contained important information for the government and international community on the refugees' access to basic services and needs, knowledge about COVID-19 symptoms, behavioral practices, concerns about their safety, and coping strategies. The data also included information on the impact of shocks on refugees, as well as disruptions they faced in their economic and agricultural activities. The collected data was used to estimate poverty before and after the COVID-19 outbreak.

BANGLADESH

Localized Data-Driven Interventions to Mitigate Increasing Urban Temperatures

High-speed expansion of the global urban footprint has contributed to an observed temperature difference between city areas and the rural periphery. This increase in temperature, popularly known as the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, is increasingly recognized as a significant impact by mankind on the environment.

This effect has been observed in Dhaka, the rapidly developing capital of Bangladesh, with more than 21 million inhabitants. Dhaka's rapid growth is projected to continue, and in 2019 Dhaka was ranked the third least livable city in the Global Livability Index. A big part of Dhaka's urbanization challenge is the UHI effect that adversely impacts the population's health and well-being.

TFSCB SUPPORT

To address the challenges associated with high-speed urbanization and the UHI effect, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supported a project to map and collect local data to understand the key drivers of increased temperatures in urban areas in Dhaka.

The project focused on the UHI intensity and magnitude in urban and rural areas and explored various factors influencing the effect. The project team collected data on surface and air temperatures in different locations to better understand Dhaka's changing microclimate. The team relied on satellite imagery from various sources and population and climatological data to identify the biggest contributors to the UHI effect in the city.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project provided data for efficient policy recommendations to reduce the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect in Dhaka by:

- Producing localized data on the contributors to the local warming effect in Dhaka
- Providing data-driven recommendations for mitigation measures with significant cooling potential for the city
- Developing a comprehensive study measuring both surface and air temperatures to better understand the UHI effect in Dhaka

Photo by CHUTTERSNAP / Unsplash

Green areas such as rooftops and parks help reduce the UHI effect and increase the population's well-being.

GRANT DETAILS

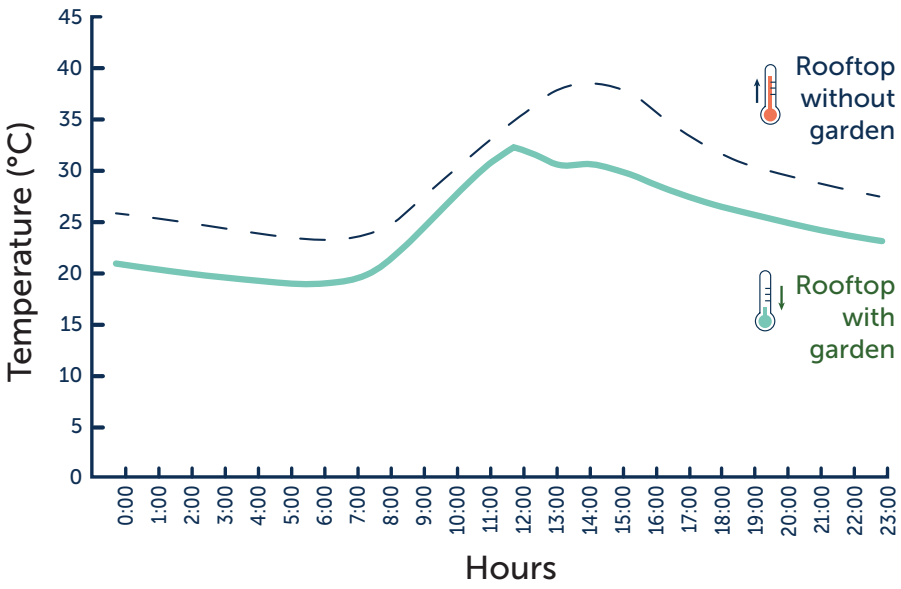
Title
Climate Change Mitigation Strategies for Dhaka

TFSCB Program
Innovation

TFSCB Grant
USD 83,000

Project Period
June 2018 - April 2020

SURFACE TEMPERATURES (WINTER)

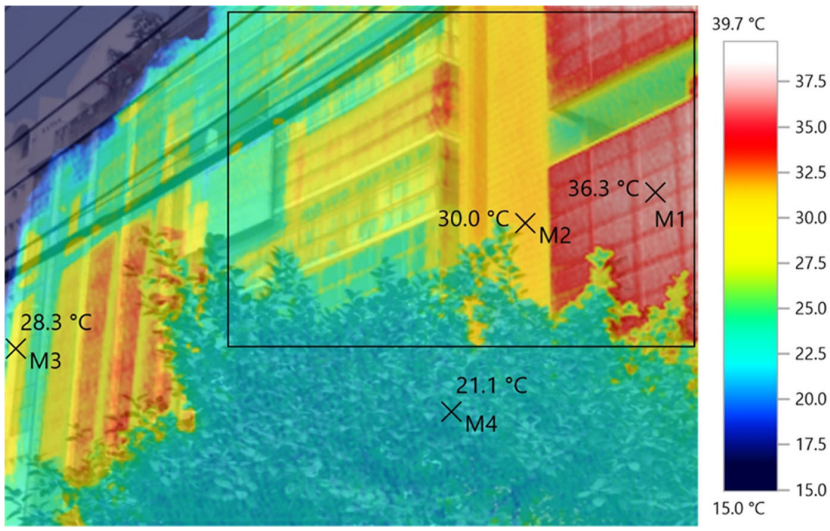


Among other indicators, the research showed that during April, the hottest month of the year, the temperature in Dhaka's urban centers can be 3.4 °C higher compared to rural areas. Several factors contributed to this, including pollution, loss of vegetation, high population density, and haphazard unsustainable construction. The project team also made a cost- benefit analysis on potential cooling options, including using rooftops and walls creatively for vegetation, using heat-reducing materials, and allowing for adequate airflow between buildings. They also examined the efficacy of parks, ponds, and lakes in mitigating urban warming.

At the end of the project, the team developed a report with the data and the recommendations, providing the government with a better understanding of the local drivers of urban warming. The report included datasets showing how the different factors influence the UHI effect as well as expectations for the impacts of land use and population growth over time. The localized data and tailored suggestions for targeted interventions can nowserve as the backbone for a policy process that will eventually enable Dhaka to decrease temperatures, towards making the city more livable.

While the project approach and insights were based on specific challenges and circumstances in Dhaka, the recommendations and framework for studying the UHI effect can be applied to other megacities facing similar challenges with rapid urbanization.

THERMAL IMAGING



Thermal images showcasing cooling rates of different surface materials

DRIVERS OF WARMING AND COOLING IN URBAN AREAS

Uneven skyline
High-rise buildings and uneven building heights block ventilation and prevent hot air from escaping from the urban center

Dense building proximity
A dense and messy urban area will hinder air from flowing between buildings

Lack of green spaces
Lack of green spaces, roofs and walls between and on buildings hinders the vegetation from capturing and reducing the heat

Accommodating airflow
Allowing air to flow between and above buidlings by reducing density and coordinating heights will help significantly reduce the effects of UHI

Using heat reducing materials
Some materials generate or store more heat than others. Avoiding glass, solid brick, neon signs and plastic billboards, all contribute to reducing the UHI-effect

Planning for green roofs
Green roofs and walls can help combat UHI, but they need to be part of the original building plan to ensure the building has the capacity to carry them

Haphazard urban growth can result in a number of issues that contribute to UHI (left). Implementing the right mitigation measures has a significant cooling potential (right).

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Rebuilding a Fragile Statistical System with New Methods and Technologies

Over the past two decades, the Central African Republic (CAR) has been engulfed in civil wars with devastating economic and social impacts. The conflict that started in December 2012, led to the collapse of key sectors driving CAR's economy, and the fighting destroyed much of the country's data, significantly damaging the statistical system.

During the conflict, armed groups pillaged the country's national statistical offic (NSO) and damaged vital equipment. The collapse of the NSO meant that much of the country's statistical memory was lost. As a result, limited data were available for the government's policymaking, rendering it a critical priority to revitalize the national statistical system. In addition to prioritizing statistical capacity building, the government was also planning its fourth population census with digital census cartography and infrastructure mapping, as well as a household living conditions survey and an agricultural survey, to establish a new data foundation for the recovery efforts.

TFSCB SUPPORT

To assist the government with its data and statistics objectives, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supported a project to update the Consumer Price Index as a critical component of the system of national accounts. The previous update was done in 1981 using 1975 expenditure data.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project helped to strengthen statistical capacity for policymaking by:

- Revising the Consumer Price Index to be useful for policymaking
- Building capacity to conduct Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) for price data collection
- Developing a weekly bulletin to monitor price increases stemming from COVID-19
- Recovering lost data and transferring data and statistics into digital libraries for secure storage and easy dissemination through a new official website

Photo by Seth Doyle / Unsplash

GRANT DETAILS

Title
Data for Decision Making

TFSCB Program
Statistical Capacity Building

TFSCB Grant
USD 494,000

Project Period
May 2017 – May 2020

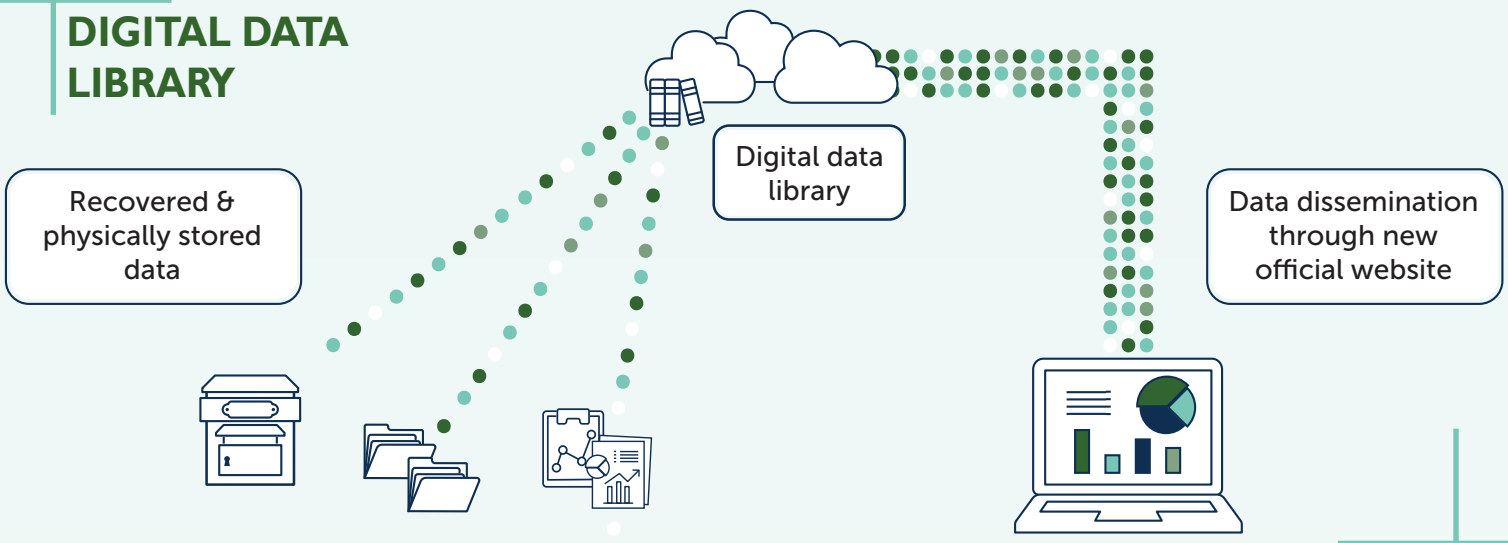
The project team supported the collection of data to update the Consumer Price Index basket and helped the NSO revise weights of the index. The team also piloted the use of tablets to collect monthly price data in new locations throughout the country and introduced Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) software to support the data collection.

Integrating CAPI into the Price Index framework ensured sustainability by making price data collection more comprehensive and easier to manage for the NSO in the future.

To enhance the NSO's resilience to future shocks, the project team also supported data storage digitization. Previously, the NSO lacked secure data storage as all publications and documents were stored on local computers and in physical libraries. The project team helped the NSO build a digital library and an official statistics website for the NSO, making the data and statistics available for policymaking and public use in a secure and reliable form.

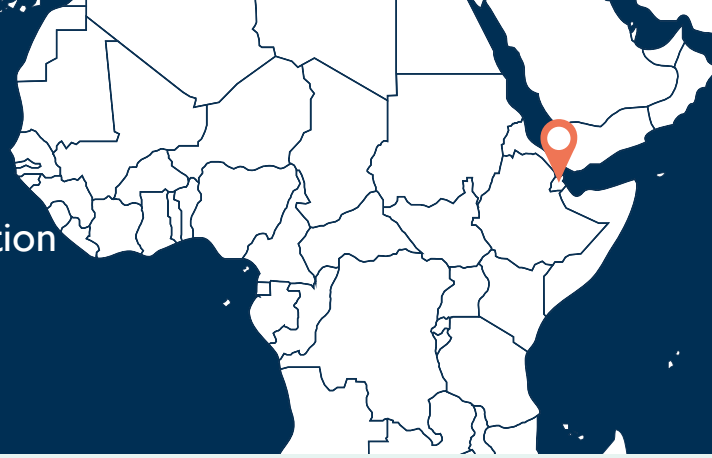
The capacity building efforts and introduction of new IT systems made the intervention cost-effective, and the training of NSO staff ensured critical knowledge transfers to strengthen the newly established national statistical system. The TFSCB support has also been instrumental in the country's COVID-19 response, where the new methodologies, most notably CAPI, have been used to collect data on the pandemic's impact. For this response, the NSO implemented two types of high-frequency surveys: weekly price monitoring and high-frequency surveys on households. The two surveys are the first of their kind to be conducted in CAR and have made it possible for the NSO to monitor the impact of COVID-19 in real-time. This has enabled the government and its development partners to take concrete actions to reduce price spikes in the country, following the partial border closures due to COVID-19.

DIGITAL DATA LIBRARY



DJIBOUTI

Updating the National Accounts as the Foundation for More Inclusive Economic Policies



Djibouti, located on the Horn of Africa at the bottom of the Red Sea, is a key transport hub for trade and an important bridge between Africa and the Middle East. The country experienced strong growth between 2015 and 2018, but more than 35% of the population continue to live in poverty. As one of the smallest countries in Africa, Djibouti depends on food imports and development assistance.

To boost development efforts, the government launched its national development plan, Vision 2035, in 2014. While the plan set ambitious goals for poverty reduction and inclusive growth, the government recognized that the lack of a reliable system of national accounts constrained its ability to conduct the necessary macroeconomic analysis to assess social and poverty-related interventions. The absence of an updated National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) also hindered the government's ability to sustainably produce and use data to inform the national development plan.

TFSCB SUPPORT

To help Djibouti strengthen its ability to use data for development, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) worked with the national statistics office to develop a new NSDS and update the national accounts system.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project established the data foundation for inclusive economic policies and public investments by:

- Supporting the implementation of a new National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) to guide policymaking
- Publishing an updated system of national accounts now including State-Owned Enterprises as of 2018
- Prompting the transformation of the Directorate of Statistics into a National Institute of Statistics to strengthen sustainable data production

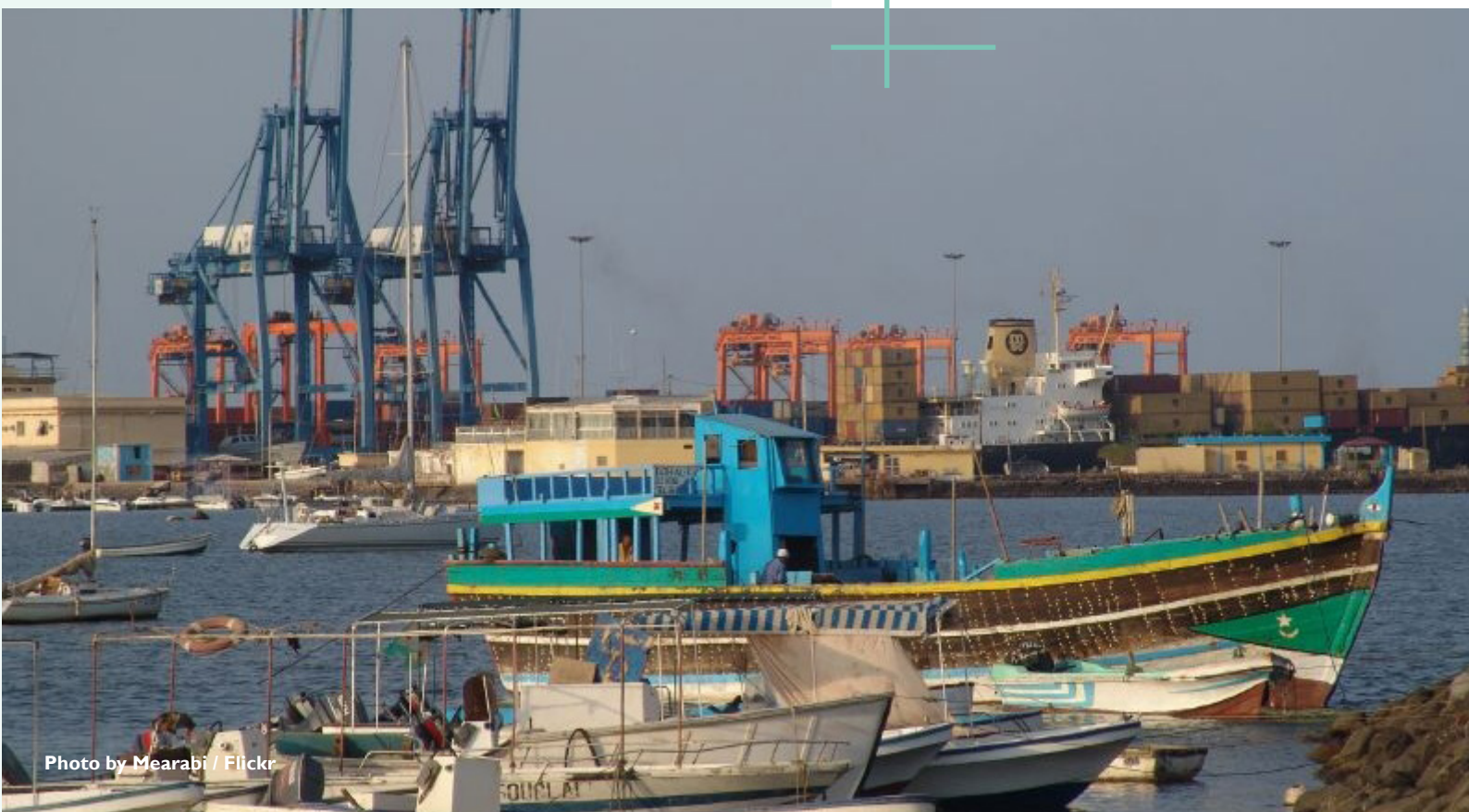


Photo by Mearabi / Flickr


Photo by Chris Liverani / Unsplash

GRANT DETAILS

Title
National Strategy for Development of Statistics and Strengthening of the National Account Production

TFSCB Program
National Strategy for Development of Statistics

TFSCB Grant
USD 420,000

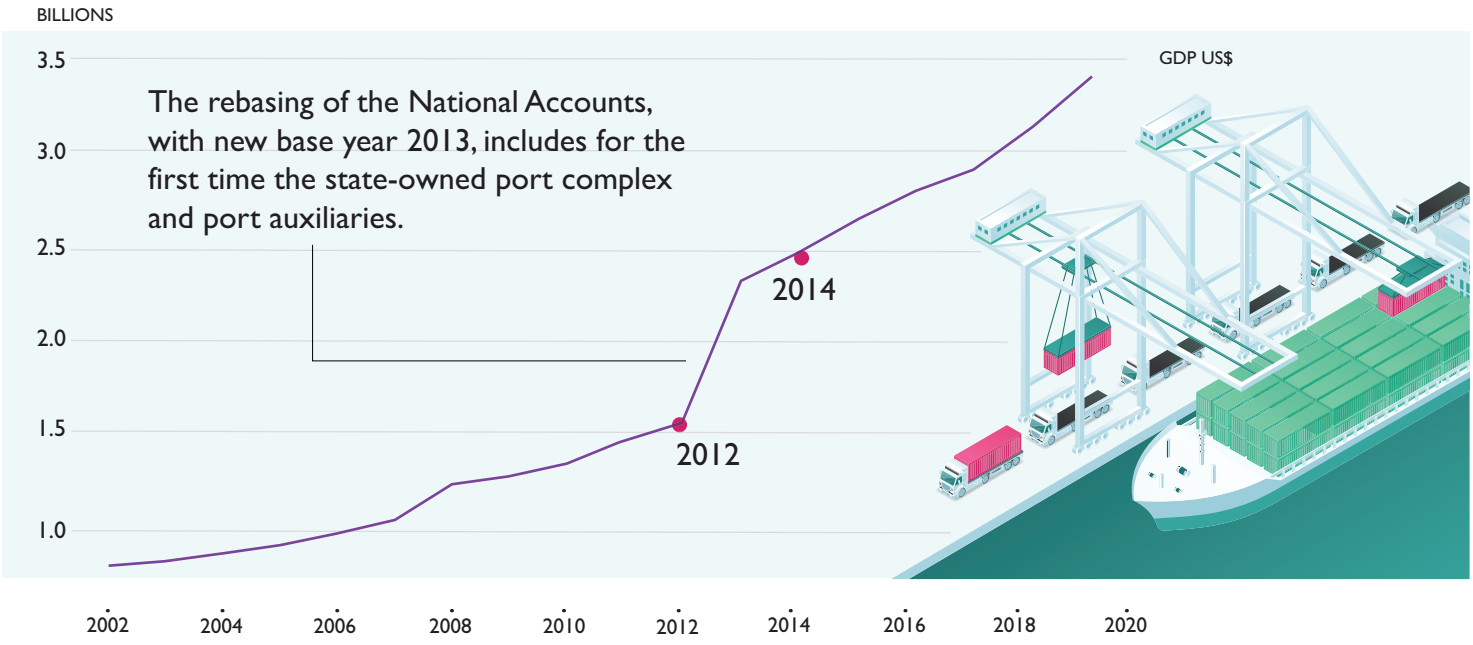
Project Period
April 2018 – March 2020

The project's starting point was to increase the coordination between a range of data producers and users from various government entities. The work on the new NSDS was important to facilitate this collaboration, providing a much-needed strategic approach to the production of statistics across the entire government. To support this new focus on data, the government decided to transform its Department of Statistics and Demographic Studies into a National Institute of Statistics. The transformation was made official by presidential decree and signed into law in 2019, further heightening the new institution's significance and demonstrating high-level interest in improving and using data to aid the country's development efforts.

Broad engagement of data stakeholders, combined with the political attention, created a strong sense of national ownership for data and statistics production and galvanized cross-sectoral and institutional cooperation. With this collaboration, previous challenges to the development of statistics were identified and addressed, based on inputs from the main data producers and users in Djibouti.

For the national accounts support, the project team realized that the previous accounts did not fully capture the massive state-owned port complex that drives most of the economy. The omission of this major component of Djibouti's economy, along with other state-owned enterprises, distorted the national accounts; therefore, incorporating these elements became a top priority for the project team. The updating of the national accounts also focused on including key inputs such as enterprise statistics, price indexes, volume of industrial activities, index of turnover, and foreign trade indexes to further strengthen the accounts and make them useful and reliable for economic policymaking.

Armed with an updated strategy for developing statistics and an improved system of national accounts, the government planned the country's first-ever business and population census to ensure updated statistics for economic policymaking. The project also triggered a USD 15 million "Economic Management and Statistics Development for Policy Making" project in 2020. The new project focuses on strengthening the National Institute of Statistics' capacity to produce and disseminate timely and reliable statistics to support Vision 2035.



EGYPT

Building Synergies for Sustainable Strategy Development

In the past few years, Egypt has introduced several development initiatives to address challenges such as poverty, youth unemployment, and long-standing structural macroeconomic imbalances. In 2016 and 2017, the government introduced its national development plan called "Egypt 2030", in which it committed to supporting the most disadvantaged populations and using statistics as an integral part of policymaking. In 2016, the government launched a comprehensive economic reform program to boost sustainable and well-diversified growth.

A 2015 assessment of Egypt's national statistical system noted that statistics were widely used in policymaking. For instance, poverty maps for geographically targeted programs had been used to prioritize public investments. However, the country's proliferating development initiatives and reform programs further increased the demand for statistical information, reinforcing the crucial need for a strong statistical system with the capacity to produce timely and responsive data. Despite the existing use of statistics and the expanding requirements for data, Egypt did not have a strategy to ensure efficient collection and dissemination of statistics. Without the strategy, the statistical system lacked coordination and resources to collect and disseminate the data needed to design, implement, and monitor national development policies and programs.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project created a strategic foundation to guide the collection and dissemination of statistics by

- Creating the first-ever National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)
- Providing capacity building on the foundations of statistical strategies for a variety of high- level stakeholders
- Establishing new collaborations between data users and producers across the government and with development partners

TFSCB SUPPORT

To create the necessary data foundation and capacity to inform development initiatives, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supported the government in establishing the strategic direction for data collection and dissemination and helped create a coordinated approach for the production and use of statistics.

GRANT DETAILS

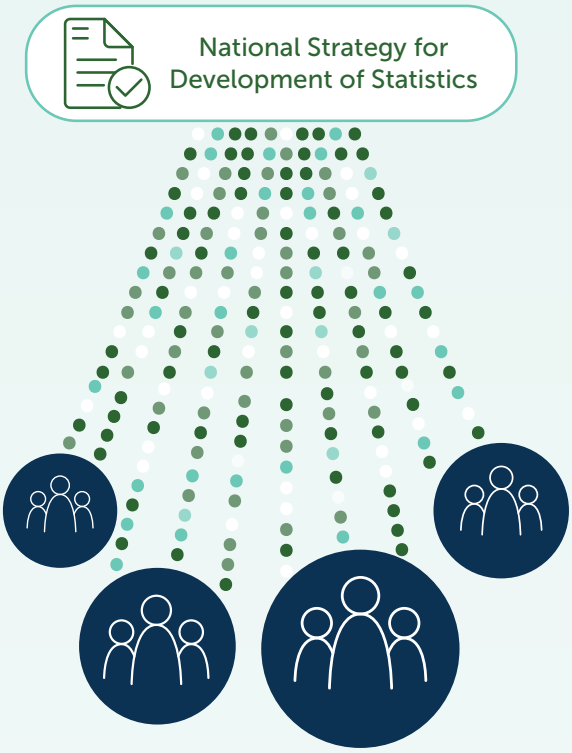
Title
Support to the Preparation of Egypt's First National Strategy for Development of Statistics

TFSCB Program
National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)

TFSCB Grant
USD 160,000

Project Period
March 2018 – December 2020

NSDS DESIGN APPROACH



To ensure buy-in and relevance, a bottom- up approach to the development of a National Strategy for Development of Statistics was chosen. This way, a range of data users were included in the drafting of the strategy, to ensure their needs and ideas were captured and integrated.

The core of the support was the project team's assistance to the development of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). To ensure the new strategy supported the much-needed coordination across multiple development initiatives, the project team helped the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) assess the statistical needs of critical sectors such as health, education, environment, fiscal policy, monetary policy, local development, planning, and agriculture.

The team helped generate critical buy-in and ownership through a bottom-up approach consisting of consultations with key data users and producers, such as local authorities and staff from ministries. The consultations also led to the identification of sector-specific statistical needs and goals that will significantly strengthen the statistical foundation for the government's development plans.

To further anchor the use of statistics and data as central pillars of the development efforts, high-level representatives from CAPMAS and senior officials from the Central Bank, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Planning led the design of the NSDS.

"With this project, the statistics agency managed to create a conversation with data users across the government about data needs. It's an important platform for feedback and discussion on statistics and data, but also to see where synergies between data producers and users exist."

Nistha Sinha
TFSCB Task Team Leader
the World Bank

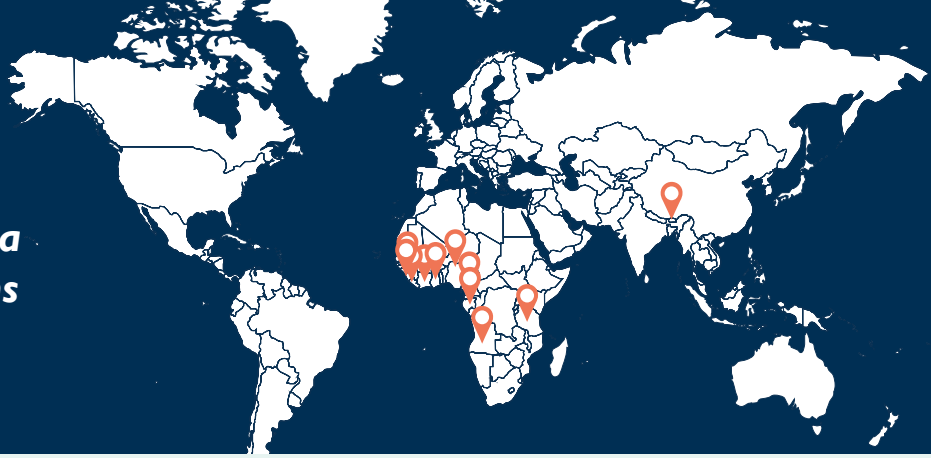
Development partners such as the African Development Bank, PARIS21, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and other World Bank teams were also closely involved throughout the process to ensure integration into existing programs and initiatives.

With the new NSDS, Egypt is now better positioned to respond to emerging statistical needs and to produce timely and development-focused statistics. The inclusive and bottom-up approach received recognition from the highest levels of government. On June 21, 2020, Egypt's House of Representatives approved the TFSCB's grant to support Egypt's national statistical agency, and the International Cooperation Minister Rania el Mashaat congratulated CAPMAS for contributing to Egypt's development through strong data and statistics that meet international standards.

The TFSCB's support helped drive a sustainable project implementation process, focused on ensuring local ownership through buy-in from end-users and critical data stakeholders at the government's highest levels. The team's approach increased recognition of the importance of data and statistics to achieve the country's various development priorities.

GLOBAL

Improving Business Statistics as a Foundation for New Publications and National Accounts

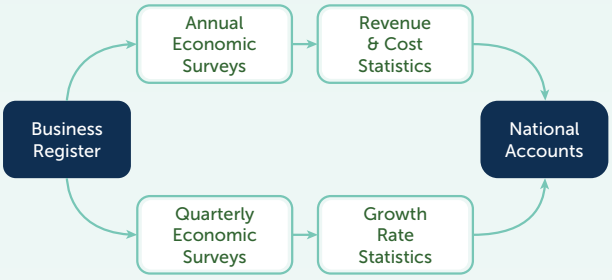


Since 2000, many African countries have undertaken an economic survey or census. However, few countries have conducted complementary business surveys and in many countries business registers were incomplete due to a lack of resources in the national statistical systems. When not regularly updated, statistical business records lose their value, as ongoing changes in the numbers and structure of the economic units are not incorporated in the database. Such changes include:

- New and closed economic units
- Merged economic units or changes in their legal form, location, or activity
- Units having higher or lower turnover over time or engaging more or fewer employees than in the past

These business registers provide the foundation for sampling and grossing up economic surveys as well as for business demography publications. Without these registers, economies are mostly underestimated, and trends are tracked imprecisely.

A CORE COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS



An up-to-date business register is an important part of the statistics offices' work on developing the national accounts. It contains important data for economic surveys and provides the foundation for more accurate economic statistics

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project strengthened the foundation for business surveys in 10 African countries and Bhutan by:

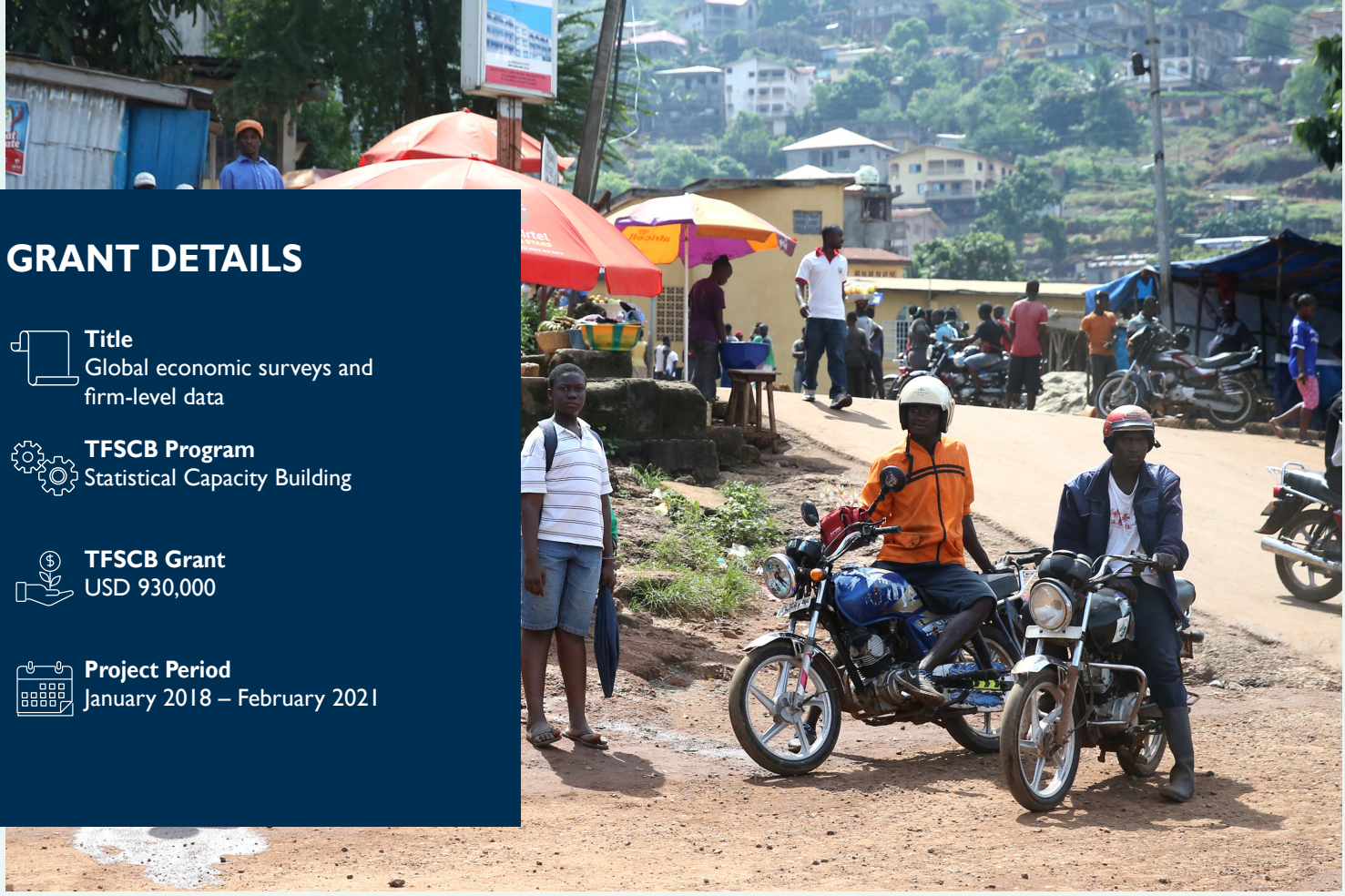
- Introducing rule-based automated and modular data processing tools to raise quality and timeliness
- Designing statistical processes as an efficient and effective assembly line
- Supporting a cultural shift towards simplified data collection and processing

TFSCB SUPPORT

To increase countries' ability to conduct useful and reliable business surveys following international standards, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) began a global project offering standardized tools and a training curriculum on building the foundation for complete and reliable business registers.

The project rested on two pillars:

1. Developing tools and training materials
2. Providing in-country support on their use and implementation



GRANT DETAILS

Title
Global economic surveys and firm-level data

TFSCB Program
Statistical Capacity Building

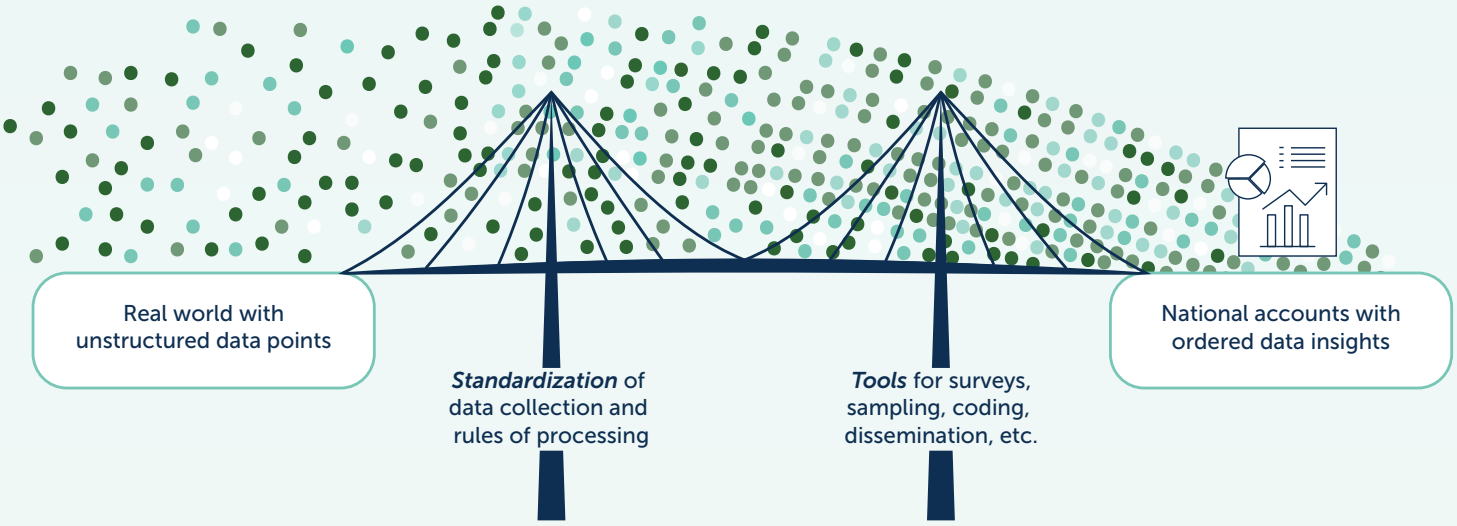
TFSCB Grant
USD 930,000

Project Period
January 2018 – February 2021

The tools developed by the project team enable national statistics offices (NSOs) to easily design surveys and analyze the collected data for high-quality business and economic statistics, while the training materials ensure NSOs around the world can easily incorporate the tools.

In the various project countries, the project team applied a holistic and country-specific approach to the support. The project team supported issues ranging from survey preparation, data collection, and analysis to the compilation of national accounts. The project team also helped the NSOs drive statistics production by building a questionnaire repository to enable rapid and comprehensive survey design and by introducing standardized data sampling approaches and automated analysis tools.

BRIDGING DATA GAPS WITH TOOLS AND STANDARDIZED PROCESSES



The support made the NSOs capable of bridging the gap between unstructured data points and actionable insights.

The tools and training materials have ensured that NSOs with limited resources are now empowered to establish business registers and use the data to conduct economic surveys for their national accounts. The project also helped create a cultural shift towards working with available information without compromising quality. This shift was an important contributor to the project's success, as it supported the NSOs in making progress on data collection without unnecessary delays driven by the need to design perfect instruments. In other words, the TFSCB helped statistics offices to collect business data simpler, faster, cheaper, and with significantly better results by introducing adequate process design and automated tools. The developed methods and tools transcend the project and will be used for further statistical work by national statistical institutes and the World Bank.

"It's not accounting, so you have to constantly compromise. It's all about making the right compromising decisions. Statistics is the best-educated guess given the circumstances with a long-term commitment to continuously improve."

Arthur Giesberts
Economist and Team Lead
the World Bank

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The project supported 11 countries – Angola, Bhutan, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania – to adopt the standardized tools and methods.

LIBERIA

In Liberia, the NSO used newly acquired skills and data gathering methods to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on firms and employment. Through the implementation of High-Frequency Phone Monitoring Surveys of firms, the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services, with support from the TFSCB, obtained data on a range of issues related to business operations and government support.

In total, 952 businesses participated in the survey, and the insights helped the government improve policymaking to support the business sector in recovering from the pandemic.

SIERRA LEONE

In Sierra Leone, the project provided technical assistance for the NSO to promptly produce economic surveys with quality data. Previously, data collection was conducted through 19 paper questionnaires, one per industry. This was replaced with one single digital questionnaire covering all industries. Through a training workshop, the NSO staff also learned tools and skills to automate the International Standard Industrial Classification coding that streamlined the data collection process.

The new method improved sampling by filling data gaps in the business register left by the old process. With the new automated process, data collection became faster and more efficient, and 60% of all business records were adjusted, providing a much more accurate picture of the state of the business sector in the country.

GABON

In Gabon, the project carried out a telephone survey with a representative sample of formal enterprises and informal production units to assess the impact of COVID-19 on business activities. The survey measured the impact on employment, the level of knowledge of companies on the pandemic, employees' reactions, and the evolution of turnover compared to the same period in 2019. It also assessed the effects of adjustment mechanisms and support policies proposed by local and national authorities.

In total, 441 formal businesses and 474 informal production units were successfully surveyed. The results clearly showed a slowdown in economic activities following the temporary opening and closing of businesses during the pandemic. The data has been critical in informing the government's response.

GLOBAL

Democratizing Data through Data Literacy

Effective policymaking begins with access to high-quality data. Unfortunately, in many countries, access to data is limited due to legal, institutional, technological, or cultural barriers. This limitation, further exacerbated by the lack of skills needed to access and use data, constrains the use of data for development and evidence-based policymaking.

Making data widely available, particularly to ordinary citizens, comes with many benefits. Better access to information can increase government transparency and provides a stronger evidence base for policymaking, which can lead to improved public sector services, increased economic opportunities, and stronger public engagement in policies. Greater availability of data also significantly improves the ability of development stakeholders like NGOs, development partners, and civil society to design appropriate programs that address relevant development challenges. Hence, there is a strong business case for increasing Open Data awareness and availability.

TFSCB SUPPORT

To advance the Open Data agenda, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supports democratizing data access and making data and statistics accessible to all people. The TFSCB Open Data interventions span across the globe and the projects are adapted to the needs of local communities through close collaboration with national statistics offices.

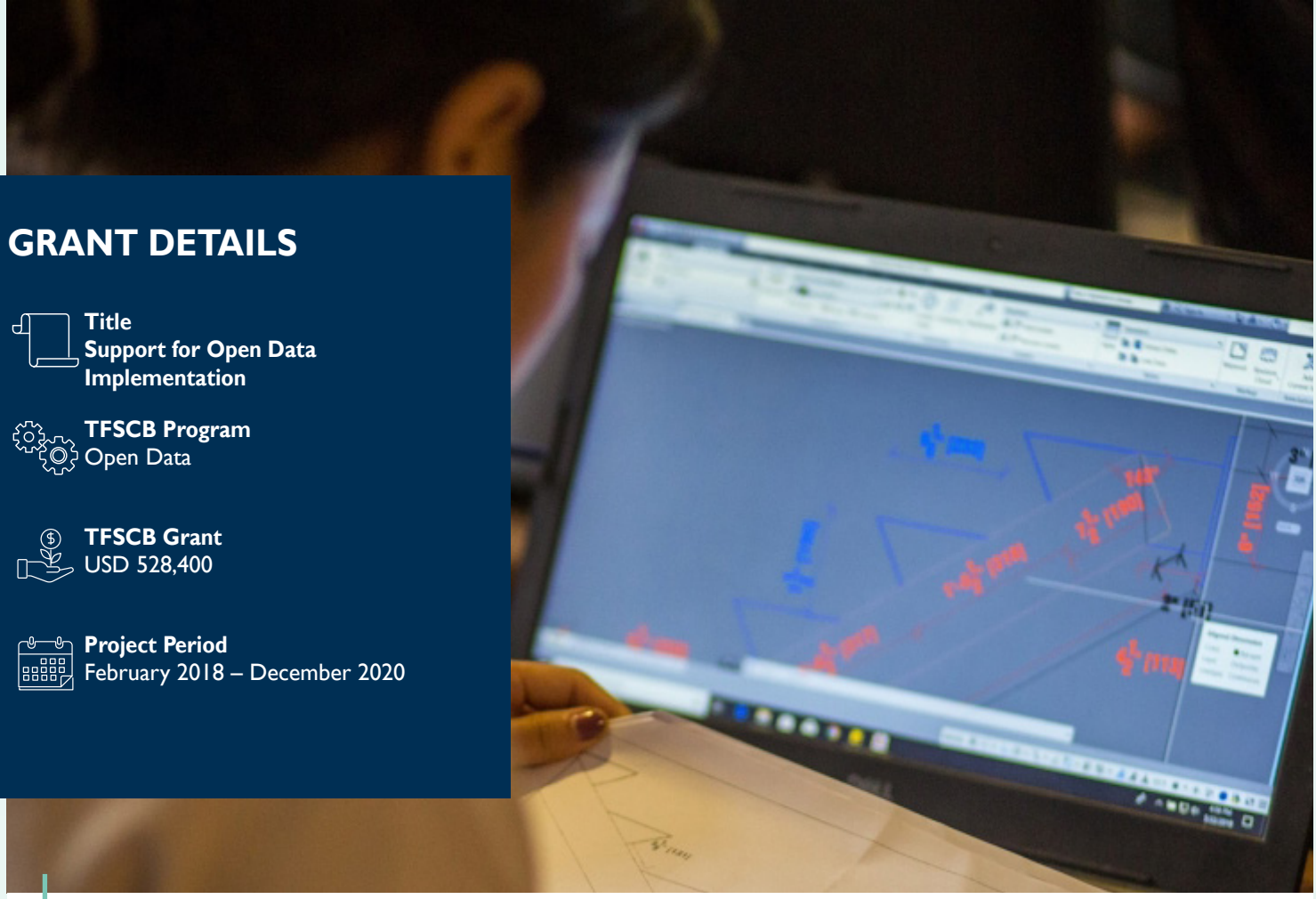
RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project contributed to the global Open Data agenda by:

47 Completing Open Data Readiness Assessments (ODRAs) in 41 countries

7 Implementing data literacy programs in seven developing countries

456 Helping 456 users complete courses in the open-source Open Data curriculum



GRANT DETAILS

Title
Support for Open Data Implementation

TFSCB Program
Open Data

TFSCB Grant
USD 528,400

Project Period
February 2018 – December 2020

WHAT IS OPEN DATA?

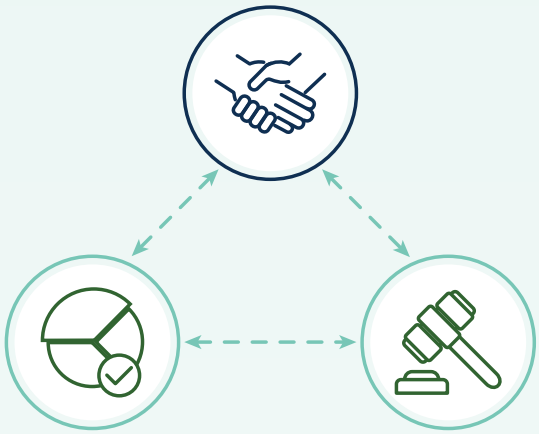
The TFSCB promotes equitable access to data under the Open Data interventions umbrella. The objective is to ensure that data is free for anyone to use, re-use, or redistribute. To achieve this, data must be open and accessible, both legally and practically.

The TFSCB's work with Open Data is driven by demand, resting on two pillars: increasing data availability overall and building capacity to leverage its benefits amongst various stakeholders ranging from government officials to grassroots initiatives, with special attention to media, NGOs, think tanks, and universities. The rationale for the two-pillar approach is that increasing legal access to data alone is not enough to ensure accessibility. A key component of making data open is also to ensure that the public knows how to use it.

The TFSCB has a variety of programs and tools at hand when working with Open Data. To establish a baseline, most interventions begin with an Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA), which helps governments understand where they should focus their Open Data efforts. The ODRA looks at policy barriers, funding flows, institutional support capacity, and demand-enhancement mechanisms for data use.

DATA DEMOCRATIZATION

Equitable access to data



DATA LITERACY

Accessibility to data due to possession of relevant skills and resources

CAPACITY BUILDING
E-LEARNING MODULES

DATA AVAILABILITY

Legal, technological, institutional and cultural openness

ODRAs

To build data literacy, the TFSCB also developed learning materials and conducted training workshops. The project has supported the publication of an open-source curriculum that is now available online in both English and Spanish, and has organized workshops and training sessions in collaboration with local statistics offices.

The e-learning series consists of three courses for different users: the first is for data producers, the second for data users, and the third for policymakers.

The training courses have also been adapted to local contexts and often involve train-the-trainer components that enable participants to return to their respective organizations with new tools for catalyzing Open Data work.

"The World Bank is very privileged to have the footprint that enables this sort of engagement from the people we work with to tailor our programs to the local context and to get it right."

Craig Hammer
Program Manager, the World Bank

The TFSCB Open Data interventions have led to significant impacts in countries around the world. With TFSCB support, project teams have completed 47 ODRAs in 41 countries, and seven countries have implemented data literacy programs. Below are a few examples of the program's achievements since its inception in 2012.

COUNTRY RESULTS

The following examples showcase how interventions were adapted to country needs, often leveraging both government action and grassroots-level interventions to increase Open Data and data use.

HONDURAS

Honduras published its ODRA in the summer of 2019. Based on the assessment, and with support from the TFSCB, the government developed and launched its official Open Data portal with 72 open datasets from seven ministries. Next, the government intends to focus on data literacy more generally, targeting capacity building for government stakeholders, civil society, and the private sector.

ARGENTINA

Argentina published its ODRA in June 2019. With the findings, the government prioritized three areas: extending an Open Data policy across all ministries, increasing the supply of quantitative and qualitative public data, and fostering increasing data demand.

NEPAL

A "Solveathon" event in 2019 brought together a diverse group of professionals to create 10 data- driven projects as part of a broader Open Data intervention. Out of these, three ideas—improving access to finance for women, increasing awareness of air quality, and bridging the information gap on provincial budget allocation and spending—received TFSCB support to be developed as open-source data products.

The TFSCB helped to improve data access and use by pushing forward the global Open Data agenda. With small grants to each country program, the interventions have created significant impact through strong and integrated collaboration with the national statistical systems. The interventions reveal gaps in Open Data processes and equip users and populations with the skills needed to leverage data and statistics, thereby creating the catalytic foundation for more democratized data use. The ODRAs also gave governments agency to better focus their Open Data efforts and served as an important entry point for civil society to increase awareness about the importance of data and statistics.

HAITI

Understanding the Haitian Economy by Updating the National Accounts

Haiti has endured several natural hazard shocks and high levels of political instability in recent years, which have stymied many of its development efforts. Millions of people live in poverty, and the poverty gap between urban and rural areas has continued to widen. In 2012, the government adopted a Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti (PSDH) and initiated a vast financial and economic governance reform. Alongside the development plan, the government also recognized the need to improve economic statistics, which had suffered from both the limited capacity of the Haiti Statistical Office (IHSI) and an outdated System of National Accounts (SNA).

TFSCB SUPPORT

To support the government's reform efforts, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) worked with the IHSI to better reflect economic activities and development. When the project began, the initial priority was to update the SNA to SNA2008 and set a new base year to calculate GDP that accurately captured the weight of new and growing sectors in the economy. The outdated SNA, with 1987 as the base year, did not reflect the most recent structural changes in the economy, such as the expansion of the telecommunications industry that hardly existed in 1987. This left the government with little evidence on which to base its ambitious economic reform agenda.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project helped strengthen the evidence base of data to support financial and economic reforms by:

- Publishing an updated System of National Accounts (SNA) in August 2020
- Updating the base year for GDP estimates from 1987 to 2012 for a more accurate picture of the economy
- Conducting training and workshops for IHSI staff on a new approach to national accounts updating

GRANT DETAILS

Title
Haiti GDP Rebasing

TFSCB Program
Statistical Capacity Building

TFSCB Grant
USD 452,500

Project Period
May 2018 – October 2020

The project team chose 2012 as the new base year and worked closely with the IHSI to conduct a full review of the economy. The project also included training sessions on new methods to include previously omitted sectors and informal activities in the calculations, as well as hands-on training for the IHSI staff using the SNA methodology. The training ensured critical knowledge transfer to the statistics office and empowered the staff to perform the SNA updating on their own in the future.

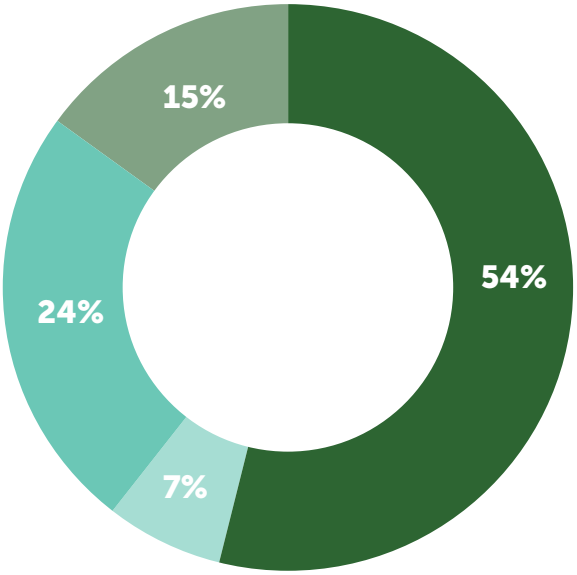
The project's success hinged upon the commitment and dedication of the local staff at the IHSI. In late 2019, civil unrest paralyzed most of the country for three months and the IHSI was on strike from August 2019 until early March 2020. Nonetheless, during the challenging time, the staff and the project team continued their work to avoid a complete stall of the project. Additionally, the project's duration and the provision of a long-term consultant on site were critical factors for the project's success, complementing shorter-term missions from other development partners such as the International Monetary Fund and the European Union. The updated SNA has empowered the government to drive its economic development based on accurate statistical insights.

Another key outcome of the project is the update to Haiti's income status. Due to the full economy's accurate coverage, Haiti's rebased GDP is now 73.8% higher than before, which results in a change of the country's classification from a low-income country to a lower-middle-income country, with a GNI per capita in 2019 of US$ 1,330.

SECTORAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GDP INCREASE

The revised accounts showed that all three key sectors of the economy were significantly larger than estimated by the outdated SNA. Due to this more detailed understanding of the different sectoral activities, the government can now target policymaking for more impactful economic reforms.

- Services
- Agriculture
- Industry
- Net taxes on production



IRAQ

Innovation Enables Data Collection in Hard-to-Reach Conflict Areas

Iraq plunged into two simultaneous crises in 2014, one driven by an Islamic State insurgency and the other by a sharp decline in oil prices. Roughly 2 million individuals, or 350,000 families, were internally displaced when Islamic State militants extended their influence in Iraq's northern and western provinces between June and December of 2014. Many others were cut off from the rest of the country by violent conflicts. The conflicts made many areas dangerous and hard to reach, even as gathering data to support the people living in them became more crucial than ever. The inaccessibility made critical data on poverty and key socio-economic indicators unavailable to support the government's recovery efforts.

TFSCB SUPPORT

The Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) set out to support the Central Statistics Office in Iraq (CSO) and the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) to use innovative methodologies to measure and track the population's well-being in a setting where a nationally representative household survey was not feasible. The team introduced a new household survey methodology for gathering data from hard-to-reach areas and trained local statistics staff in using it.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project created the foundation for continuous access to high-quality data, even from hard-to-reach areas, by:

- Introducing a new way of collecting data from conflict areas
- Supporting the first household survey in the post-conflict period since 2014
- Establishing a stronger relationship with local statistics agencies to support future projects

Photo by Levi Meir Clancy / Unsplash

GRANT DETAILS

Title
SWIFT Iraq Project

TFSCB Program
Data Production

TFSCB Grant
USD 600,000

Project Period
September 2016 - July 2018

Photo by Levi Meir Clancy / Unsplash

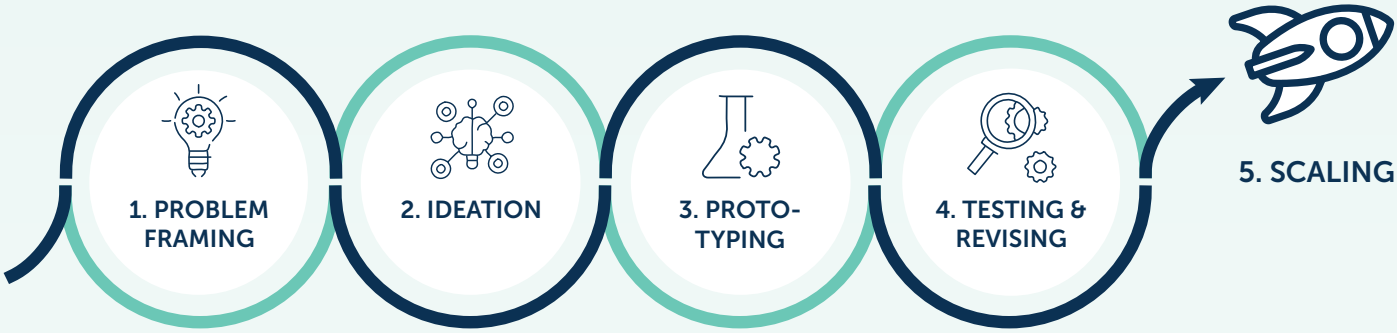
WHAT IS SWIFT?

The Survey of Well-Being via Instant and Frequent Tracking (SWIFT) is a tool developed by the World Bank to measure household welfare in a cheaper, quicker, and more user-friendly manner than traditional surveying methods. Survey teams gather data through phone or in-person interviews using 15 simple questions.

INNOVATIVE DATA COLLECTION DURING CRISIS

The team followed a human-centered design approach to build the survey by creating an in-depth understanding of what was needed and re-iterating the intervention several times, paying careful attention to the statistics office employees' needs at every stage. As a result, the project introduced an innovative two-level surveying method combining SWIFT and a more comprehensive household survey tailored to a conflict-affected area with many hard-to-reach places where regular data collection is extremely difficult and risky.

The project team's approach is outlined below:



PROBLEM FRAMING

The project team worked closely with the statistics offices to identify their needs. It was instrumental for the project's success to establish a solid understanding of the challenge of collecting data in conflict areas and reaching the most vulnerable populations.

IDEATION

The close relationship between the World Bank and the statistics offices established an in-depth understanding of how the project could best support the statistics offices and the government in achieving their priorities. The project team leveraged this knowledge in conceptualizing a fit-for-purpose data collection approach.

"Meeting regularly without an agenda gave us space and opportunity to talk about what the statistics team and the government needed and where things might go. It allowed us to look forward and plan our support to them."

Matthew Wai-Poi
Senior Economist, the World Bank

PROTOTYPING

The project team developed an innovative survey approach combining a SWIFT survey for a large sample of households and an in-depth household survey with only a small subset of households. This innovative approach allowed for collecting general insights on the full sample population of households without conducting comprehensive surveys with all of them. This two-level approach ensured the highest possible level of coverage and representativeness of the data. It allowed the government to understand the lives of the displaced people more comprehensively, despite limited access to many of them.

"Usually poverty is calculated from a very cumbersome income-expenditure household survey. Because we thought these heavy surveys were not feasible, we tried an innovative approach where we collected comprehensive income-expenditure data only for a small subset of households."

Dhiraj Sharma
Senior Economist, the World Bank

TESTING & REVISING

The same conflicts that displaced a large proportion of the population also forced the project team to revise their approach several times on the ground. Due to active conflict, the survey teams had to drop nine out of 118 districts from the survey design. Five additional districts had to be dropped and replaced by other primary sampling units within the same governorates during the implementation. While this sacrificed some of the data's rigor and accuracy, the flexibility of the approach allowed for data to be made available for the first time in many years.

SCALING

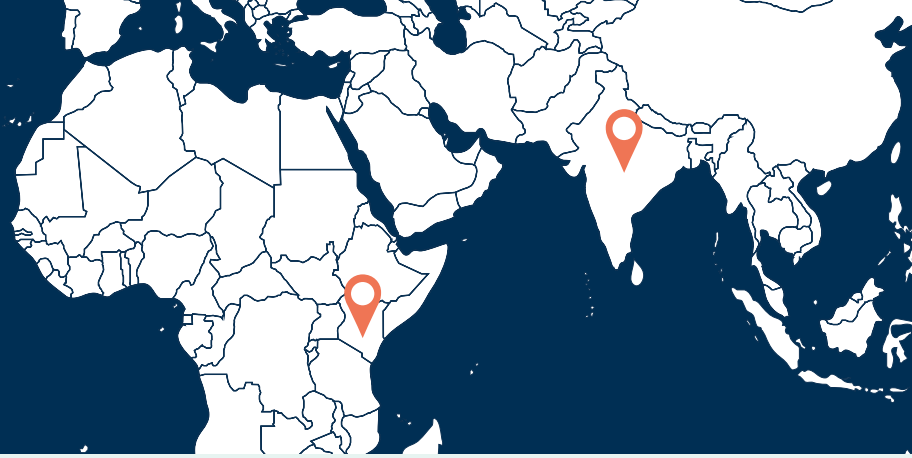
By implementing the survey, the TFSCB further strengthened the World Bank's relationship with statistics offices in Iraq. The continued relationship and enhanced trust helped mobilize resources from other development actors for technical assistance to pilot more data innovations.


Photo by كي عي الله / Unsplash

The additional resources for statistics and data, combined with a new resource-effective survey method, have allowed the statistics offices to continue to collect timely and high-quality data that the government uses to inform policymaking when responding to varying needs in times of crisis.

KENYA & INDIA

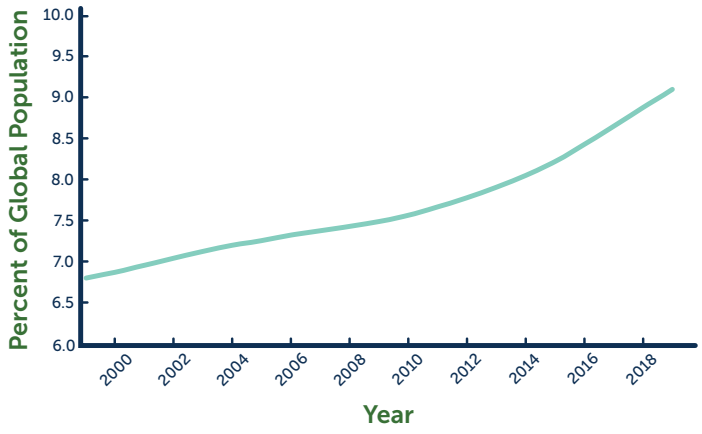
Exploring the Challenges of Urban Aging: Taking the First Step to Build Age-Inclusive Cities



The population aged 65 and over is growing faster than all other age groups globally. More than half, roughly 500 million people, currently live in cities, with most living in low- and middle-income countries. This rapidly aging urban population calls for a better understanding of the challenges they face and the factors that affect their quality of life. It also calls for more supportive public policy targeting urban communities.

The need for better policies targeting the elderly also increases the demand for relevant data and evidence to hold stakeholders accountable in delivering improvements that benefit older people and the broader communities.

POPULATION AGES 65 & ABOVE



TFSCB SUPPORT

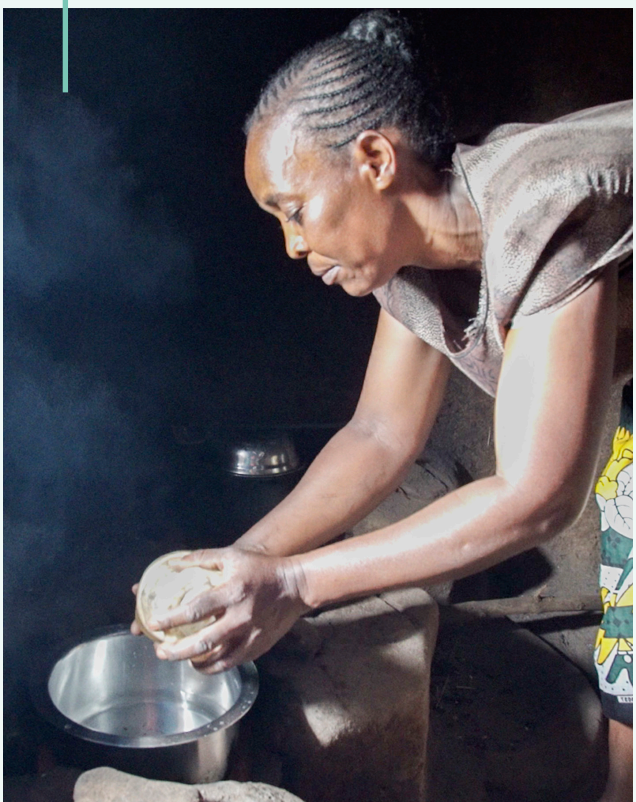
To help governments address the challenges that older age groups face in urban areas, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supported a project that provides data and evidence for better and more informed policymaking.

Using mobile and tablet data, the project collected over 300,000 data points about older people in Nairobi and Delhi, focused on the homeless and those living in informal settlements. The project team analyzed and disaggregated the data by age, sex, and disability to explore senior citizens' experiences of different aspects of urban life and issues such as loneliness and isolation, transportation needs, access to public sanitation, and experiences with crime and safety.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project helped improve older people's lives in urban areas by:

- Collecting and analyzing more than 300,000 data points on the issues facing older people in Nairobi and Delhi, disaggregating data by age, gender, and disability
- Geo-mapping social and spatial barriers to urban service access in both cities
- Providing training for older people to act as community advocates and facilitating improvements for the community



GRANT DETAILS

Title
Geo-mapping Barriers to Urban Service Access in Older Age

TFSCB Program
Innovation and Inclusive

TFSCB Grant
USD 250,000

Project Period
January 2018 – March 2020

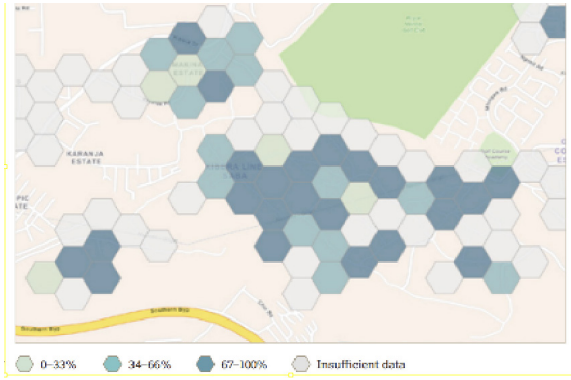
The data showed that a significant number of older people feel unsafe walking down the street alone, both in the daytime and at night, due to fear of crime. This presents a serious challenge for policymakers as 70% of older people in Nairobi and Delhi rely heavily on walking and public transport to get around. Another challenge faced by the elderly concerns the state of public toilets. In Nairobi, 48% of respondents use a public toilet regularly, especially those living in informal settlements, and they expressed frustration with both the availability and conditions of public toilets. In Delhi, data showed that public toilets are generally unavailable, posing a significant problem for older people by limiting their mobility.

The project team also conducted a smaller study focusing on transportation and older women in Mexico City to test the methodology's replicability. The study found that buses were far more popular than the underground Metro system among older women because of their step-free access, comfort, and speed. Although older women saw the Metro as an efficient way to cross the city, most said they avoided it because of overcrowding and the large numbers of steps.

The data disaggregation and the granularity of the data enabled local stakeholders to respond to localized and highly contextualized concerns of the elderly. The data also provided rich insights on how their geographical location impacts their lives, the mobility barriers they face, and the inequality they experience. The detailed findings from the research were transformed into nine short briefs that illustrate these impacts from an older person's perspective.

This project also provided a strong foundation for older people to take concrete action directly. In Delhi, the project team worked with local organizations to train groups of older people in using the data to engage local authorities and stakeholders to discuss their key concerns and demands. As a result, improvements like street clean-ups, drainage unblocking, and renovation works at local parks took place. In Nairobi, older people participated in UN-organized events to present the challenges they faced and discuss how to address them.

PERCENTAGE OF OLDER PEOPLE WHO FEEL UNSAFE IN KIBERA, NAIROBI



These stakeholder engagements suggest strong potential for older people to act as activists, holding local authorities accountable through the data. The data also provides concrete insights on older people's experiences for global- level policies and discussions on the realization of the SDGs as they relate to the elderly.

The project increased the knowledge base on issues facing older people in cities. These insights were disseminated during the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi in February 2020 as well as in the final report from the project. The project team is also exploring how to use the lessons learned to strengthen knowledge and practice on inclusive data through other global inclusive data events.

Finally, the project has planned to develop a trial data collection approach in Kampala in Uganda and Kathmandu in Nepal, with potential scale-up and roll-out to several other locations.

LEBANON

Agricultural Policy as a Key Driver for Economic Recovery

In the last decade, Lebanon has faced several devastating crises. In 2019, a financial crisis stopped capital inflows, resulting in systemic failures affecting virtually all parts of the economy. In its efforts to respond to this crisis, the newly formed government identified and prioritized the agricultural sector as a critical contributor to economic recovery and growth. However, the lack of insights and centralized data on the sector's performance left the government without the means to unlock its potential contribution.

TFSCB SUPPORT

To strengthen the Ministry of Agriculture's policymaking capacity, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) helped improve national capacity to develop and use data. The project team worked directly with the Central Statistical Office and the Chief Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture to develop a robust and evidence-based policy unit. This helped establish data collection and processing standards for policymaking, planning, and monitoring in the agricultural sector.

The project team introduced a policy toolkit that empowered the policy unit at the Ministry to use data to assess the effectiveness of its policies as well as to suggest mitigation measures and corrections to market failures related to prices and market dynamics.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project managed to improve the use and analysis of data and statistics to drive agricultural policy by:

Creating the data foundation for a new National Agriculture Strategy 2020 – 2025

7 Introducing seven policy tools for the development of agricultural statistics

Introducing seven policy tools for the development of agricultural statistics

GRANT DETAILS

Title
Lebanon Agriculture Statistics and Policy Support

TFSCB Program
Data Production

TFSCB Grant
USD 125,000

Project Period
August 2019 – June 2020

Another key component of the project was data production to monitor the progress of a new Agriculture Strategy. The project team helped design an Agriculture Price Statistics (APS) system with input and output prices for a range of products. The APS is a fundamental part of the broader National Agricultural Statistics System, informing several other statistics that are based on price variations. The APS empowered the statistics office staff to gain insights into the sector's performance and the effect of government policies.

Through a solid understanding of Lebanon's development challenges and established relationships with key stakeholders in the government, the project team was able to pinpoint the concrete policy protocols and processes that the Ministry needed. The tailored support from the project team helped the Ministry develop impactful agricultural plans and initiatives that enhanced the agricultural sector's contribution to the country's recovery

Due to its new ability to champion evidence-based and data-driven agricultural policies, the Ministry of Agriculture became better positioned to support the sector through direct funding to impactful policy priorities such as climate change adaptation strategies, better conditions for more efficient production, and export support initiatives.

THE POLICY TOOLKIT

The Policy Toolkit introduced by the project team includes seven key tools, that empowered the Ministry of Agriculture to drive effective policy. The toolkit provides both specific data insights and policy-related advice.

Gross Margin Budgets
To explore how changes in prices affect farm profits, the Gross Margin Budgets show how much money farmers make or lose from their various crops and livestock.

Market Information System
With price indices from the Agriculture Price Statistics, the Market Information System provides farmers, traders, and other stakeholders with data on the main factors currently driving the markets.

Commodity Balances
Based on data on crops and livestock, the Commodity Balances enable utilization of the total agricultural supply.

Policy Inventory
The Policy Inventory creates an overview of objectives and beneficiaries of policies and helps identify missing or overlapping policies.

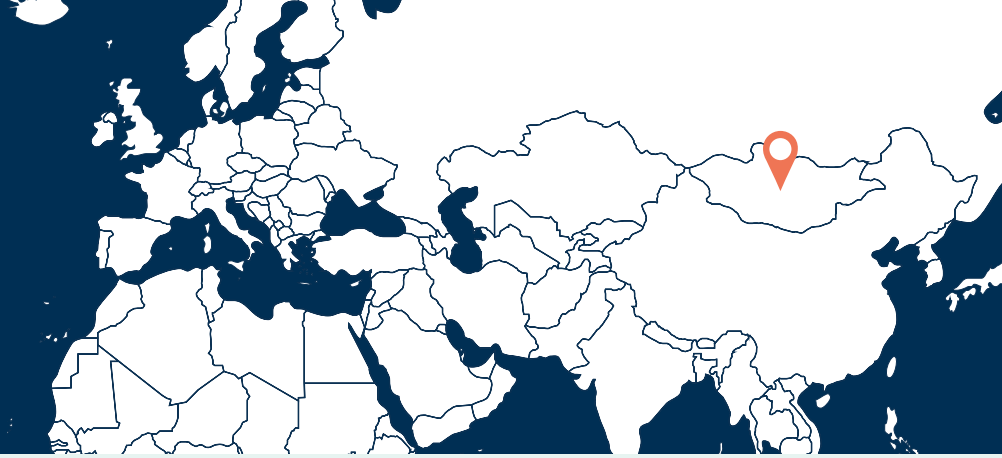
Problem Analysis & Policy Appraisal
Helps the Ministry of Agriculture assess the extent and validity of farmers' and traders' complaints and suggests policies that could best address the problem.

Policy Evaluations
The Policy Evaluation tool enables reviews of established policies to see how well they work, whether they are still relevant, and how they might be improved.

Commodity Briefings
The short monthly briefings to senior policymakers highlight potential policy implications of developments in the field and the markets.

MONGOLIA

Including Nomadic Communities in Household Surveys



The nomadic communities in Mongolia, which make up roughly a quarter of the population, are among the country's poorest and an important target group for the government's poverty reduction efforts. To drive these efforts, knowledge about the lives and conditions of these communities is critical. Yet, the National Statistics Office of Mongolia (NSO) has been struggling to capture geographically widespread and moving nomadic households in remote rural areas through traditional surveys based on a residential dwelling-based sampling frame. In addition, the recent climate changes likely affected the seasonal migration patterns of nomads and brought a new challenge for the NSO to chase their mobile life.

Traditionally, collecting data on nomadic households has been a costly and time-consuming process in Mongolia. Enumerators and survey planners relied on inaccurate dwelling information and personal connections to locate the nomadic communities, making it challenging to include them in household surveys.

TFSCB SUPPORT

To address this challenge, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supported the development and implementation of a new sampling approach, allowing for better representation of the nomadic communities in household surveys. By introducing a new GIS-based sampling, Random Geographic Cluster Sampling (RGCS)-approach, the NSO was able to capture the total population of herders and effectively collect data to understand their livelihood. The project team managed to better identify the nomadic populations' locations through an innovative yet easily adoptable sampling approach with GIS data sources.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project enabled policy initiatives targeting the needs of nomadic communities such as poverty reduction, access to health care, and education activities by:

Introducing a new sampling approach, Random Geographic Cluster Sampling (RGCS), to capture remote, hard-to-reach, and mobile herders for the first time in Mongolia

483

Surveying 483 Nomadic households in Burgan prefecture in the nomadic pilot household survey, collecting data on livestock activities and a wide range of socioeconomic indicators including education, health, disability, assets, and coping mechanisms

Providing a new CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) software to the NSO, contributing to more efficient supervision of the fieldwork and data quality control in the household surveys

Training local survey teams on the use of GIS software and a new way of designing surveys

GRANT DETAILS

Title
Survey on Nomadic Households in Remote Rural Areas

TFSCB Program
Inclusive Data / Statistical Capacity Building

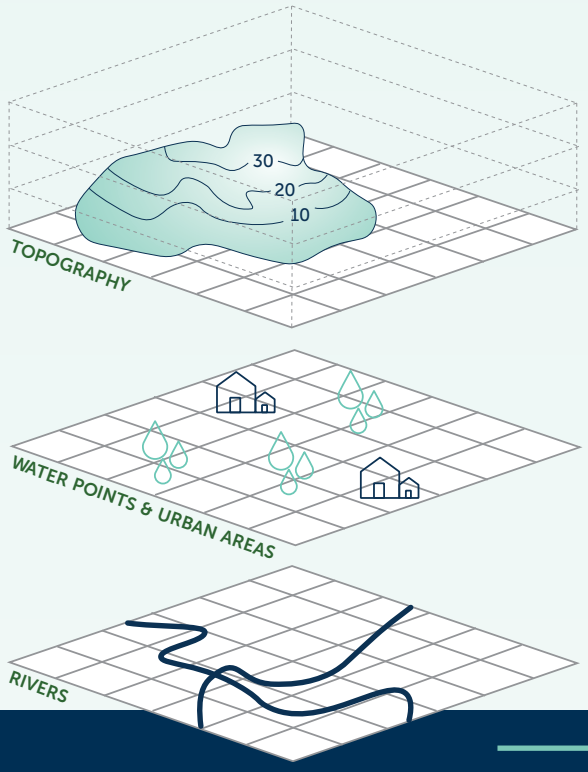
TFSCB Grant
USD 250,000

Project Period
Early 2019 - December 2020

With this new location data, the NSO, supported by the project team, carried out a Nomadic Household Pilot Survey in November 2019 in four southern soums (districts) in the Bulgan province: Gurvanbulag, Mogod, Saikhan, and Bayan-Agt. The project team collected information on livestock activities and other socioeconomic aspects from 483 nomadic households. The survey provided a better picture of the current welfare and conditions in the nomadic communities and established a blueprint for scaled-up household surveys that will include the nomadic communities across the country.

THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

The Geographic Information System (GIS) is a system for capturing and displaying data related to positions on the Earth's surface. For the nomadic household survey, the team developed three survey strata based on the likelihood of locating households. Knowing that pastoral households rely on rivers, wells, and urban infrastructure, these locations were used to map out the areas for the survey teams' visits.



NICARAGUA & GUATEMALA

Driving Inclusive Education with Disability Data

"Leave no one behind" is a fundamental commitment of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, in Guatemala and Nicaragua, this commitment is compromised by the lack of a strategic approach to collecting comparable and high-quality data on disability in educational systems.

A lack of guidelines, technical capacity, and standardized processes for collecting, managing, and using disability data has historically constrained the inclusive education efforts by the Ministries of Education in both countries. Additionally, outdated technology and software required teachers to use long and complex questionnaires to collect the necessary information. These challenges meant that data on children with disabilities were unavailable across the two countries.

TFSCB SUPPORT

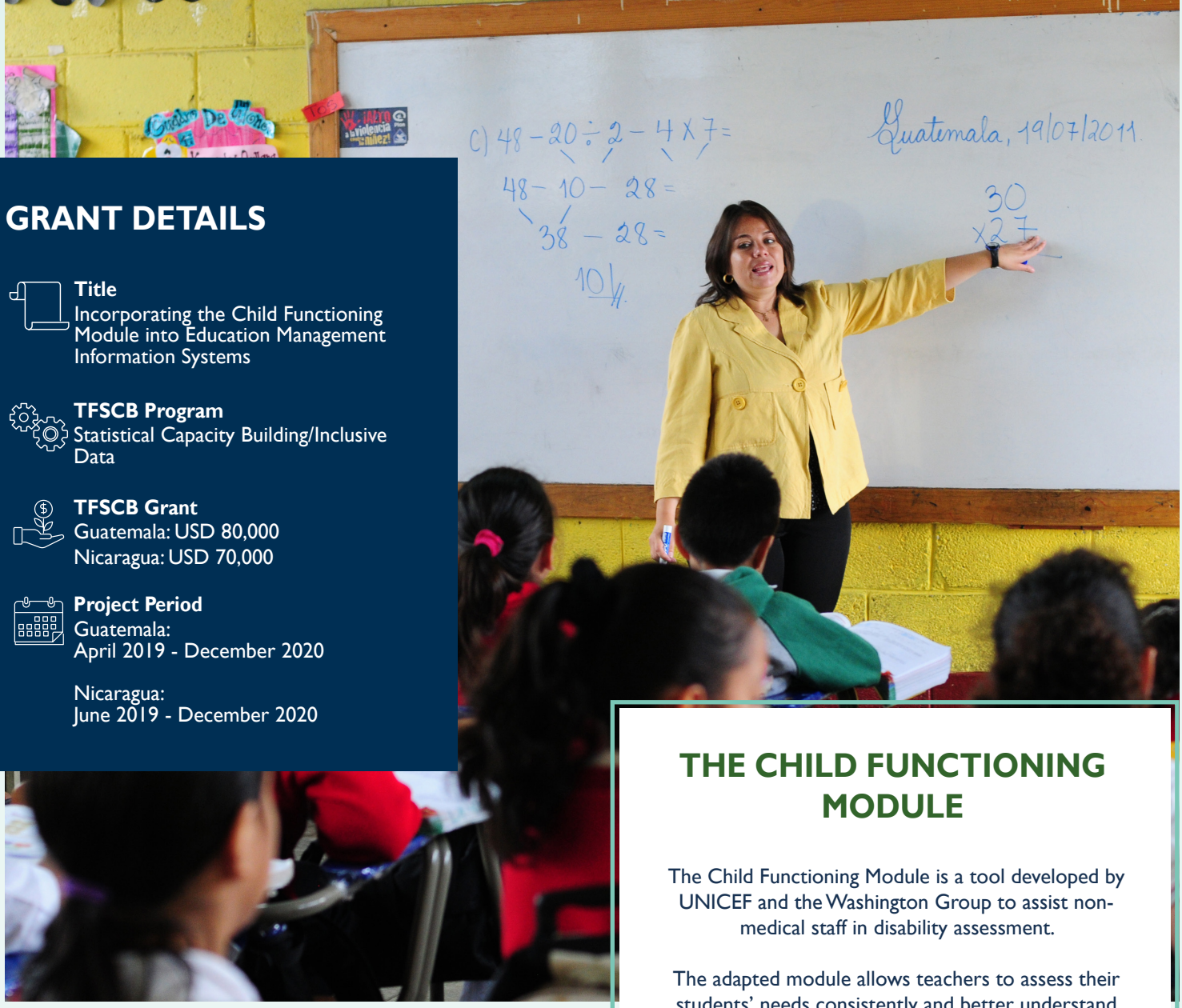
To overcome this challenge, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supported the Ministries of Education in Nicaragua and Guatemala by improving disability data collection to strengthen inclusive education efforts and guide policymaking.

In both countries, the project team helped adapt the Child Functioning Module (CFM) data collection tool to local needs and helped teachers leverage the tool to make their teaching more inclusive. The updated tool enables teachers to assess children's social functioning capabilities in various domains (e.g., visual, auditory, and motor skills) and enables schools to tailor curriculums and adjust physical environments to address students' individual learning needs. The project team also helped integrate the CFM into national Education Management Information Systems (EMIS), which will help the ministries collect these data more consistently and continuously.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project improved the collection of disability data among children for inclusive education opportunities by:

- Undertaking a Rapid Diagnostic of Special Education in both countries
- Adapting the Child Functioning Module (CFM) to local contexts to collect data on disability at Ministries of Education and incorporate it into Education Management Information Systems (EMIS)
- Facilitating pilot trainings in Nicaragua and publishing instruction videos in Guatemala on how to assess disabilities and use the CFM



GRANT DETAILS

Title
Incorporating the Child Functioning Module into Education Management Information Systems

TFSCB Program
Statistical Capacity Building/Inclusive Data

TFSCB Grant
Guatemala: USD 80,000
Nicaragua: USD 70,000

Project Period
Guatemala:
April 2019 - December 2020

Nicaragua:
June 2019 - December 2020

In Nicaragua, the project team conducted a rapid Diagnostic of Special Education, which presented a snapshot of the state of disability in the country. The team also piloted the initiative in 10 schools, where they developed training sessions for teachers on how to use the CFM and address the findings in the classroom.

In Guatemala, the project team created training videos targeting teachers, introducing the concept of supporting children with special needs in education and providing instructions on best practices.

The CFM is a low-cost tool that enables teachers and policymakers to initiate changes that can help students improve their learning outcomes. Integrating the tool into ministries' EMIS ensures the availability of this data to policymakers and education professionals through official statistics. The data also supports NGOs and civil society to engage in more impactful learning and educational initiatives. Ultimately, the project created a blueprint for regional replicability that the project team intends to pursue in the coming years.

THE CHILD FUNCTIONING MODULE

The Child Functioning Module is a tool developed by UNICEF and the Washington Group to assist non-medical staff in disability assessment.

The adapted module allows teachers to assess their students' needs consistently and better understand the disabilities that might constrain student learning outcomes.

THE UPDATED CHILD FUNCTIONING MODULE

POLICY TOOL
The CFM provides an overview of prevalence of disability for policy initiatives

TEACHER EMPOWERMENT
The CFM gives teachers a better understanding of their students' needs

NIGERIA

A New Methodology and Skillset for Collecting Data from Hard-to-Reach Areas

Conflicts and armed violence have severely disrupted Nigeria in recent years, forcing millions of Nigerians into displacement, food insecurity, and poverty. The conflicts have also significantly contributed to the country's descent into recession. To support the affected populations, the government needed quality data to understand the welfare impacts on households. However, a comprehensive analysis of several regions was not possible due to the deteriorating security situation, limiting both the availability of data and the ability of the Nigeria National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to collect data using traditional methods with field visits.

TFSCB SUPPORT

The Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supported the NBS to establish innovative survey systems, strengthening its ability to obtain useful data to support the government's development efforts.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project made crucial household data available from hard-to-reach areas by:

Conducting a needs assessment for data

Helping establish a new call center to collect data from hard-to-reach areas to monitor poverty and conflict

6 Implementing and making data available from six rounds of phone surveys

5 Providing five training programs on phone surveys

GRANT DETAILS

Title
Conflict Monitoring System in Nigeria

TFSCB Program
Open Data

TFSCB Grant
USD 400,000

Project Period
May 2019 – December 2019

The project team began by assessing data needs and planning for data collection, given that parts of the country were inaccessible due to conflict. Recognizing the high cellphone penetration rate in Nigeria, the project team helped the NBS implement a poverty and conflict monitoring system that collects data using cell phones in the North East region most affected by conflicts related to Boko Haram.

"There are some places that are difficult to reach when we are conducting surveys. We had been looking to solve the issue of reaching people in some parts of the country for several years, racking our brains for the best way to do it. The World Bank came with this idea for solving the problem and filling those data gaps."

Mr. Biyi Fafunmi
Director of ICT
National Bureau of Statistics

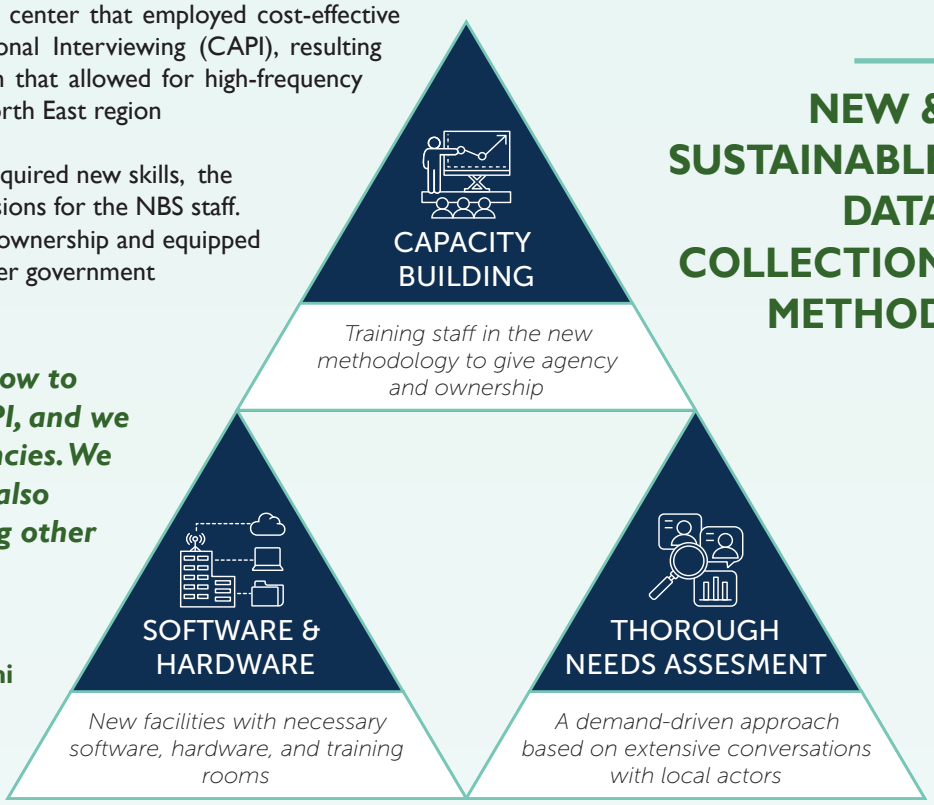
The project team helped establish a call center that employed cost-effective and adaptable Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), resulting in high-quality and timely data collection that allowed for high-frequency phone surveys in the conflict-affected North East region

As the new method for collecting data required new skills, the project team also conducted training sessions for the NBS staff. These training sessions ensured national ownership and equipped the NBS to provide data services for other government initiatives.

"We now have staff trained in how to manage data collection via CAPI, and we are extending this to other agencies. We don't work in isolation, and we also need to develop capacity among other data producers such as ministry departments and agencies."

Mr. Biyi Fafunmi
Director of ICT
National Bureau of Statistics

NEW & SUSTAINABLE DATA COLLECTION METHOD



The Poverty and Conflict monitoring system collected data on the impact of the conflict on farmers and herders, including impacts on their food security and access to markets. The project provided a rich dataset that enabled a rare look into the conflict-affected region, and the support from the TFSCB has been paramount in filling the data gap Nigeria has faced for several years. The call center's use has continued and even expanded since the intervention, underscoring its importance and relevance. Most recently, the NBS used the infrastructure and capacity built from the call center to help inform the country's COVID-19 response.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Creating a Hub-&-Spoke Model to Support Data Dissemination in Small Island Countries

The Pacific Island countries are some of the most environmentally vulnerable countries in the world, given their high exposure to climate change and natural disasters. Their limited natural resources and distance from major markets increase the risks of volatile economic activity, limited growth, and poverty. Addressing the vulnerability of many of the Pacific Islands requires sustained development efforts and cooperation between governments, international development partners, and regional organizations.

Accessing data and metadata from the Pacific region has historically been difficult. The small Pacific Island states have limited capacity to produce and use data and statistics because of severe constraints on their financial, technical, and human resources. The lack of accurate and up-to-date data and statistics has left the Pacific Island countries, development partners, and researchers without the necessary insights to improve the Pacific Island communities' lives and drive development efforts.

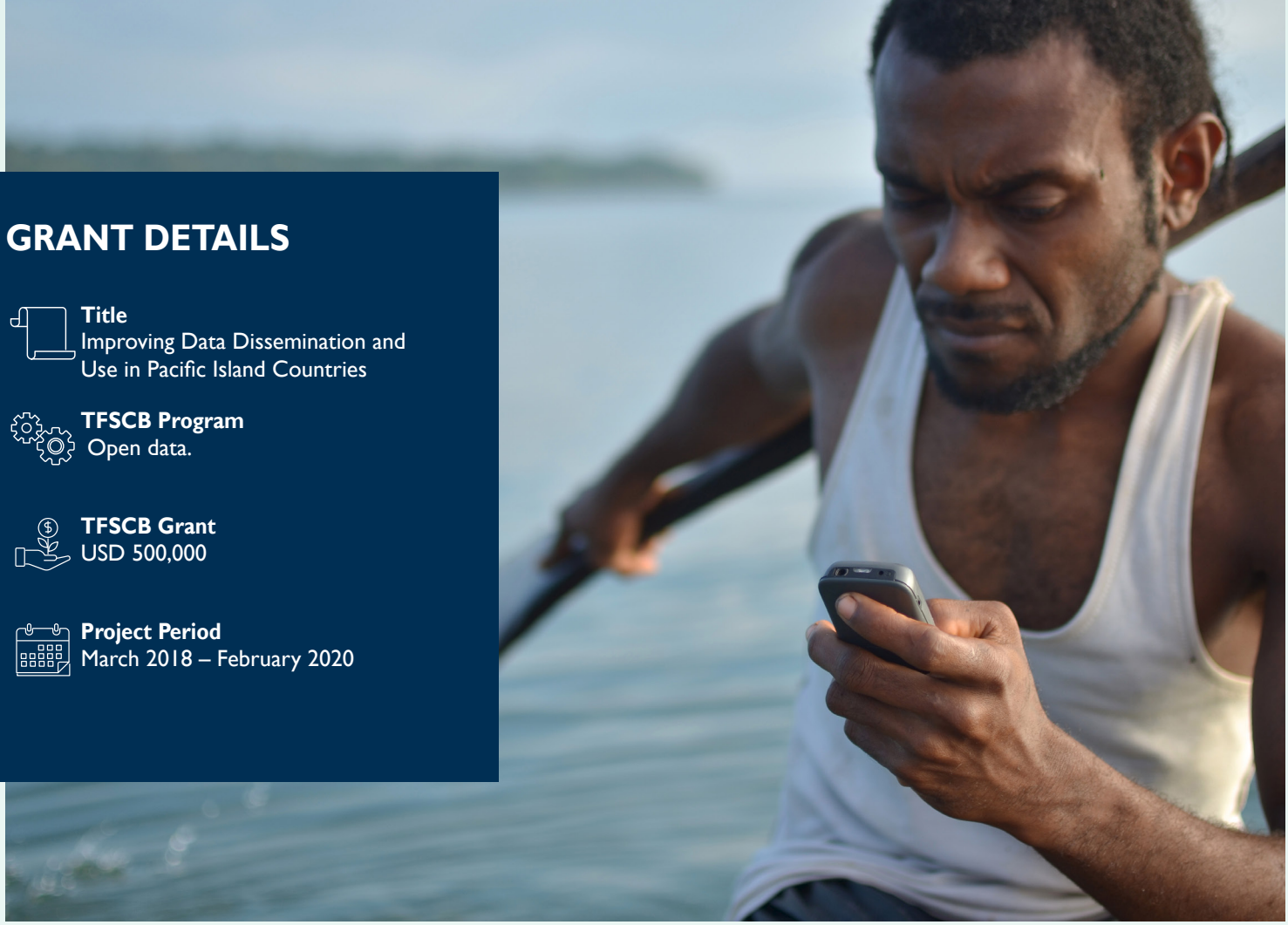
TFSCB SUPPORT

To overcome this challenge, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supported 22 Pacific Island nations through the regional development organization known as the Pacific Community. Working with the Pacific Community, the project team helped develop a regional microdata library and supported the establishment of a center of excellence in microdata management by introducing harmonization guidelines for better data use in policymaking and research.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project helped increase access to high-quality data for Pacific Island countries and development partners by:

- Creating the Pacific Microdata Library for the region to make microdata openly available
- Developing a sampling strategy for harmonizing socioeconomic survey data
- Boosting regional statistical capacity to support the standardized approach in multiple countries in the region



GRANT DETAILS

Title
Improving Data Dissemination and Use in Pacific Island Countries

TFSCB Program
Open data.

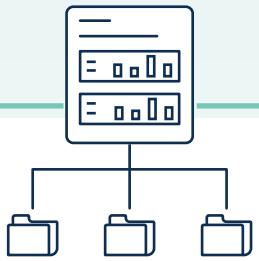
TFSCB Grant
USD 500,000

Project Period
March 2018 – February 2020

The project rested on three pillars:

OPEN DATA

Promote and increase access to, and use of, existing data for research and policy making through a microdata library.



STANDARDIZATION

Ensure adoption of international standards in data collection through standardization of survey datasets.

SUPPORT

Provide support for data collection by developing a sampling strategy for socioeconomic surveys.

The first pillar and core of the project was establishing a centralized public data repository, the Pacific Microdata Library, as an archive for surveys and census datasets from the Pacific Islands. The Microdata Library offers significant value to stakeholders data reference point for census and survey insights from Pacific Island nations.

"The data producers (the countries in the region) benefit from the hub as a repository for documenting, publishing, and securely storing their data. Previously, with the limited resources in some Pacific Island nations, datasets ended up never being published, and the library helps prevent that."

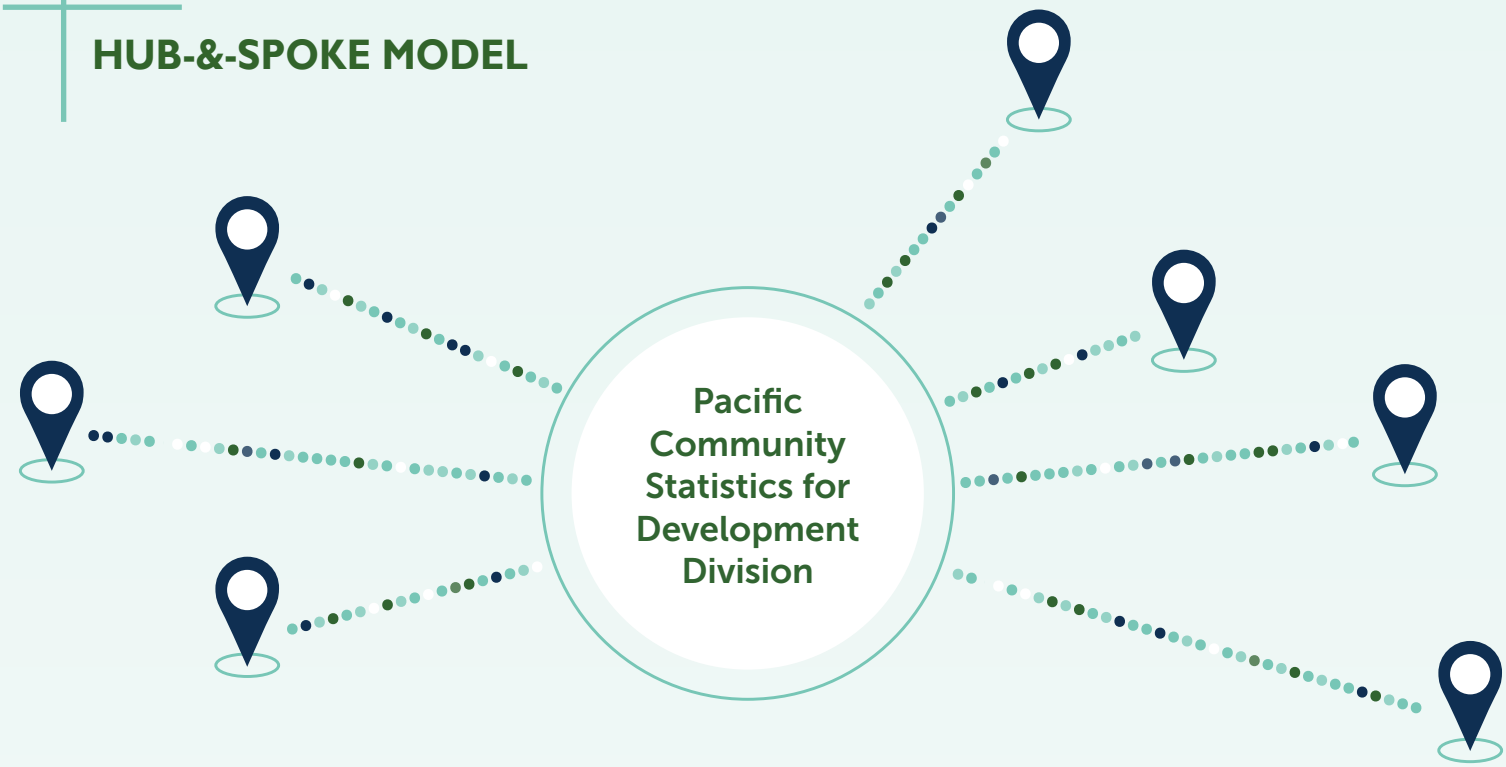
Michael Sharp
Economic Advisor
Pacific Community

Secondly, the project focused on the standardization of datasets and harmonization of approaches to surveys and sampling. Finally, the project team developed guidelines for data collection and processing that met international standards and helped organize South-South capacity building exchanges to increase the use of the harmonized survey guidelines and the Microdata Library.

The capacity to perform advanced statistics production and extensive surveys is limited in many Pacific Island countries due to constrained resources. By supporting the Pacific Community with capacity building and in establishing the hub-and-spoke model, the project team helped further increase the expertise available to the countries in the region.

With a relatively small grant, the project helped establish a culture of dissemination across new networks of data users and producers. It greatly increased access to high-quality data for 22 countries, enabling evidence-based decision-making and better tailored development efforts.

HUB-&-SPOKE MODEL



The hub-and-spoke model, centered on the Microdata Library, created a reference point for regional data, ensured compliance with international standards and made knowledge and expertise available for local data producers and users.

SUDAN

Measuring Poverty to Inform the Transition to a New Sudan

Before Sudan split with South Sudan, its economy was relatively stable, with agriculture comprising nearly 50% of all employment. Nevertheless, Sudan fell into economic turmoil following South Sudan's secession, due to the substantial loss of human capital, land resources, and three quarters of the country's oil wealth. As a result, the country saw an increase in poverty levels, especially in rural and conflict-affected areas.

To address inequality and economic challenges following the turmoil, Sudan's government adopted its Five-Year Program for Economic Reforms 2015-2019 and is finalizing a Poverty Reduction Strategy. Both strategies required high-quality data on livelihoods and poverty to inform development initiatives and support monitoring efforts. However, data was unavailable due to political priorities and inconsistent data collection across various government entities. Furthermore, little investment has been made by the government of Sudan on statistics and data generation. Therefore, along with stronger data production capabilities, the government needed reliable data on households and the agriculture sector to inform policies supporting the poverty reduction strategy and the economic reforms.

TFSCB SUPPORT

The Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supported the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) through a program focused on data platform development, local ownership, and building capacity through training. An important result of the TFSCB support was the introduction of international best practices in poverty monitoring. The project team helped the CBS adopt a methodology for measuring poverty, following international best practices and training in poverty profiling and mapping. This more rigorous approach to defining poverty was crucial to enable the government to pursue better poverty reduction and food security policies.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project strengthened the capacity of the Central Bureau of Statistics to obtain reliable data by:

- Introducing a methodology for poverty measurement and monitoring and establishing a stringent approach to working with data in the Central Bureau of Statistics
- Conducting training sessions and establishing international best practices for statistics
- Improving coordination between various government agencies and actors to better collect and store administrative data
- Improving the country's System of National Accounts (SNA)

GRANT DETAILS

Title
Sudan Statistical Capacity Building Project

TFSCB Program
Statistical Capacity Building

TFSCB Grant
USD 500,000

Project Period
November 2015 – November 2018

"We realized that the poverty line for the latest survey was lowered. To show progress, you could just lower the poverty line. What we therefore did was to establish some guidelines on how poverty in Sudan should be measured based on international best practices."

Alvin Etang Ndip
Senior Poverty Economist, Poverty and Equity Global Practice
The World Bankk

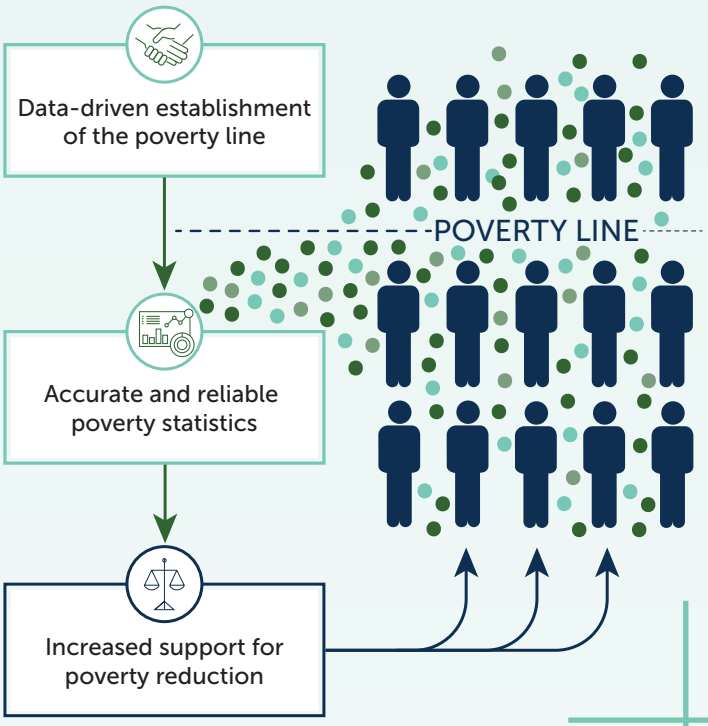
In addition to establishing a standardized method for measuring poverty, the project team also supported the CBS in conducting a pilot agricultural production survey. Sudan needed more relevant information to strengthen its economic diversification through agriculture to improve its financial situation and support the critical sector.

The project team supported the introduction and adoption of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) systems, which reduced the time lag between data collection and analysis, improved data quality, and reduced survey costs. The project team also developed training sessions for CBS staff on survey design and instruments for nationwide agriculture and livestock surveys.

The project team also worked with CBS to assess the country's System of National Accounts (SNA) to identify priority areas for strengthening the system in line with current standards and prepared a roadmap to carry out the data migration from Sudan's SNA 1968 to SNA 2008. Finally, the project helped equip a training room to support data processing, statistical information management, and dissemination. The project team provided training for CBS staff in financial management, procurement, data quality analysis, administration, and office management.

The Sudanese government is now better positioned to produce accurate and reliable statistics for its development efforts. Setting a standardized poverty line was a critical milestone in the project. Its legitimacy and adoption was ensured through a workshop with various stakeholders, such as the UN system in Sudan, who contributed to and endorsed the agreed-upon poverty line.

MEASURING POVERTY GAPS



The TFSCB's involvement also allowed the CBS to improve coordination between various government departments and helped introduce a stringent approach to working with official data, making it more reliable. Ultimately, the TFSCB intervention helped establish a new culture of data within the CBS - an impact that far outlives the duration of the intervention.

THE GAMBIA

Digital Transformation to Close Data Gaps

The last two decades have seen a dramatic increase in youth migration from rural to urban areas in the Gambia, creating a labor shortage in rural areas and putting pressure on limited public services and labor markets in urban centers. The government was determined to address the labor force challenges and improve public services but lacked accurate data on internal migration to inform strategies and policies for regional development, urban planning, and public service provision.

Traditionally, migration data was captured manually from household surveys and population censuses, meaning that the data was often both expensive to obtain and outdated. The manual approach often compromised data quality and diverted valuable resources to data entry that could be better used for analysis and statistical development.

TFSCB SUPPORT

To facilitate a digital transformation in statistics, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) worked with the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) and the regulator for public utilities (PURA) in the Gambia to support them to use and manage big data to obtain insights about internal migration.

The project focused on using cell phone Call Detail Record (CDR) data as a key to understanding spatial mobility patterns related to migration. CDR data is aggregated, anonymized and de-identified cell phone data that allows analysts to track cell phone users' movements. To empower the GBoS to use this data, the project team organized capacity building sessions for the staff on how to monitor internal migration using CDR data.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project helped improve the availability of highly localized, high-frequency, just-in-time data for policymaking by:

- Introducing digital solutions to collect and process big data
- Making timely and spatially disaggregated estimates of internal migration available
- Providing timely data for policymakers during the COVID-19 crisis

GRANT DETAILS

Title
Filling Data Gaps in The Gambia using Digital Solutions

TFSCB Program
Data Production

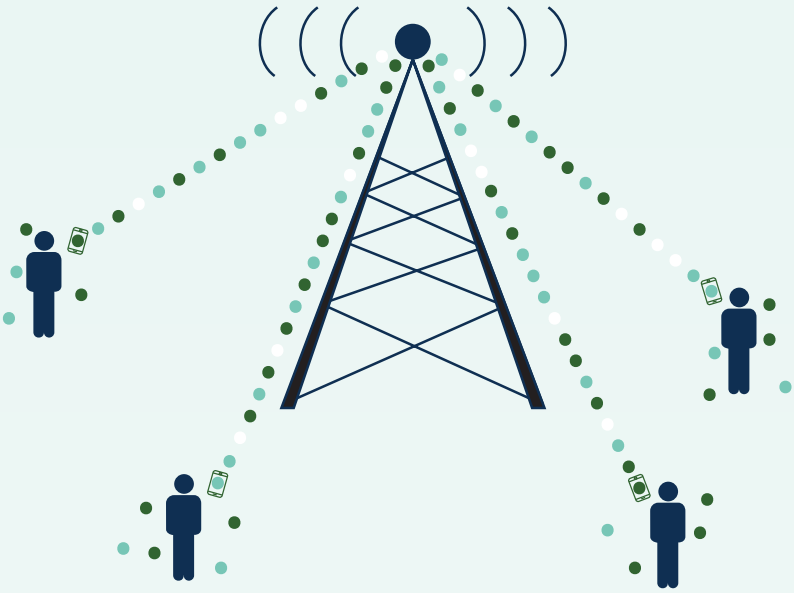
TFSCB Grant
USD 75,000

Project Period
August 2019 - January 2021

The project team organized workshops with policymakers and data stakeholders to create consensus around a use case for big data, providing technical assistance and analytical support to demonstrate its policy relevance.

USING TELECOMMUNICATIONS DATA DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

The new tools have not only helped close the data gap on migration in the Gambia but have also supported the government's COVID-19 response activities. As tracking movement patterns is crucial during a pandemic, the project team worked with the GBoS, PURA, and mobile network operators to access and use CDR data to monitor population movements during the crisis. With support from the TFSCB, the GBoS collected and analyzed 2 billion individual anonymized call records from two of the four telecom operators, covering 70% of the population.



Anonymized big data from cellphone towers allows policymakers to track movements and population densities in different locations, giving them important insights on migration patterns.

"In developing countries, the lack of capacity and data access policies can constrain the creation of durable data pipelines. We overcame these constraints to build a durable CDR data pipeline in The Gambia and used this data to derive insights into the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on population dynamics."

Moritz Meyer
Senior Economist
Poverty and Equity Global Practice, the World Bank

"Overlaying CDR data with existing surveys can deliver valuable insights. Given the importance of migration to the economy, mobility data can be used to better understand where migrants are moving to, both internally and abroad."

Erwin Knippenberg
Economist
Poverty and Equity Global Practice, the World Bank

Insights on movement patterns have provided policymakers with important information on areas with high mobility to help inform testing and tracing initiatives. During the lockdown starting in March 2020, the CDR data highlighted that people were leaving Banjul and the coast for their native villages in the rural hinterland, reversing traditional migration trends. This continued until the end of Ramadan in mid-May, when people began returning to the city as economic activities resumed. Areas with the highest proportion of poor households experienced the largest disruption to mobility, suggesting that social distancing policies disproportionately affected poorer districts. This data was instrumental in tracking the virus's potential spread and creating an evidence base for the government to assess where to focus its attention and increase relief and recovery efforts.

With TFSCB support, the GBoS and PURA have improved their capacity to collect, manage, and use big data by creating a client-owned, client-operated data pipeline, offering an important evidence base for government policy. The project's impact was recognized in the 2021 World Development Report "Data for Better Lives" and a project output is forthcoming in Data and Policy.

UZBEKISTAN

Improving Trust in Public Data Production to Advance Development Efforts

Uzbekistan is seeking to decrease its reliance on natural resources for growth and development, secure job creation and ensure sustainable growth. To guide its development efforts, the government launched the National Action Strategy 2017-2021, which includes a key commitment to rely on quality statistics and data to drive development efforts and economic policymaking. Another key pillar is to improve trust in and use of the data produced by the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics (SCS), the Ministry of Finance, and the Central Bank.

In 2019, Uzbekistan was one of a few countries that did not have a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). Thus, it lacked an important cornerstone for ensuring harmonization in production and dissemination across the many official data producers and users. Without the NSDS, the government and the SCS could not provide evidence for policymaking, preventing effective monitoring and evaluation of the Action Strategy's progress.

TFSCB SUPPORT

The government recognized the need for a streamlined approach to data production and statistics development. With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the SCS developed an NSDS and worked with data users and producers across the government to ensure a sustainable strategy process. Extensive consultations with all stakeholders involved in the preparation of the NSDS, including international development partners, helped establish critical buy-in, support, and commitment to the new strategy.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project established the strategic foundation for strengthening the National Statistical System and achieving the National Action Strategy 2017-2021 by:

- Developing a new 2020-2025 National Strategy for the Development of Statistics to support the government's planned reform program
- Establishing the foundation for an IDA Project application to further statistical capacity development and poverty reduction

GRANT DETAILS

Title
Preparation of the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)

TFSCB Program
National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)

TFSCB Grant
USD 142,000

Project Period
July 2019 – June 2020

The project team organized dissemination workshops with key data users and representatives from various government offices and entities. These workshops ensured wide adoption of the strategy and strengthened the confidence in its sustainability from international development partners. The launch of the new NSDS in December 2019 was covered on national prime time television, and a presidential decree was made in August 2020, officially approving the NSDS for 2020-2025 and prohibiting interference of government agencies in the activities of the SCS.

The project helped develop a comprehensive strategy for collecting, processing, and publishing official statistical information with the widespread use of modern information and communication technologies. The strategy gained important legitimacy as a tool for leveraging additional capacity building projects. It laid a required foundation for the subsequent IDA project to strengthen national statistical systems and helped generate additional projects on poverty reduction and sustainable development in the country.

NSDS OUTCOMES

The implementation of the NSDS between 2020 and 2025 will help achieve the following strategic outcomes:

National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2020-2025

- Comprehensive support of the government and partners in the development of national statistics
- Effective coordination of the entire national statistical system of the country
- Improved motivation and capacity of staff
- High user satisfaction in statistical information and improved motivation of suppliers of statistical data

VIETNAM

Demonstrating the Value of Innovative Data Collection

Vietnam has experienced staggering economic growth in the past 30 years, decreasing the poverty rate remarkably from 70% to under 6%. However, despite the progress, the country still faces a significant poverty gap.

To boost poverty reduction efforts, Vietnam launched the Socio-Economic Development Plan for 2016-2020 and set goals for service delivery and development initiatives. The plan highlighted the need for a strong statistics foundation to ensure the government's development efforts were on track. To this end, the government was determined to increase statistical capacity and find new ways to improve data collection.

TFSCB SUPPORT

To help the government achieve its objective, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) supported efforts by the General Statistics Office of Vietnam (GSO) to modernize statistics production. The team also explored how administrative data could serve as an important data source for calculating direct statistical indicators in the National Statistical Indicators System.

The project team introduced electronic data collection and processing methods to its main socioeconomic and welfare monitoring household survey to increase the available data for official statistics and help the GSO replace analog data collection with digital survey tools. By implementing a digital data platform with advanced data processing tools for the entire institution of 6,000 employees, the GSO greatly improved the quality and usability of the produced statistics. The project team also conducted training sessions on Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) methods, which increased the quality and availability of data by enabling the option of conducting phone surveys to more easily reach survey respondents.

RESULTS

With support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project helped the General Statistics Office of Vietnam (GSO) modernize the collection of economic indicators and digitize official data for better service delivery by:

- Piloting digital integration and collection from tax and customs data for producing economic statistics indicators
- Digitizing data collection methods and adopting Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) for household surveys
- Improving the accuracy and efficiency of enterprise surveys

GRANT DETAILS

Title
Modernizing Production of Statistics in Vietnam

TFSCB Program
Statistical Capacity Building

TFSCB Grant
USD 350,000

Project Period
February 2018 – June 2020

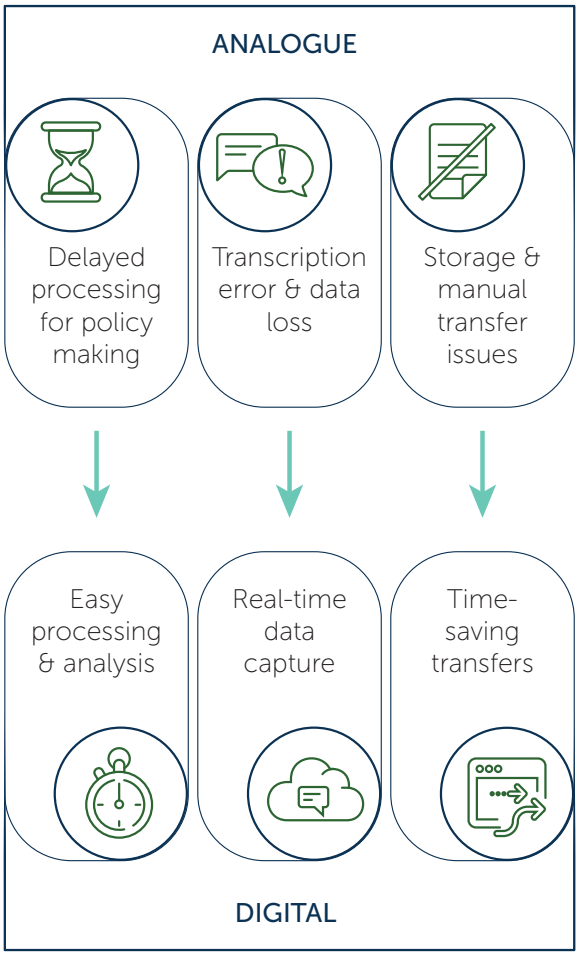
In addition to digitizing data collection and processing, the project team also ran a pilot test to explore ways of leveraging existing administrative data for statistics production. Since 2002, the GSO has used tax registration data to support its enterprise surveys, and in recent years, the Tax Office has embraced online tax reporting, which has created the opportunity to use this administrative data for more comprehensive statistics.

In 2015, the GSO and the Tax Office formally agreed to ensure regulated cooperation and information exchange, which further increased the use of administrative data for economic surveys. Under this agreement, the project team and the GSO were able to analyze the tax registration data of 1,912,177 enterprises. The project team used balance sheets and income statements from the tax registration data to assess the convertibility and comparability of these data points for use in the enterprise surveys. The findings were then validated, and the project team made recommendations on the use of indicators that could be produced consistently, such as assets, capital, business results, inventories, expenses, and profitability.

While tax registration data cannot completely replace enterprise surveys, mainly because the financial statements of state-owned and FDI enterprises are not available, information from financial statements can significantly increase the accuracy of economic indicators and serve as a basis for enterprise surveys. For example, data from the tax records can be used to fill in gaps in coverage of the enterprise survey data and can be used as a basis for finding and recording the existence of enterprises when conducting field surveys.

The project has empowered the government to improve data collection and create better and more accurate statistics. The introduction of digital data collection tools and the support to leveraging administrative data for more comprehensive statistics production has created a stronger data foundation for public service delivery and increased the effectiveness of policies and interventions.

BENEFITS OF ADVANCED DATA PROCESSING METHODS



ZAMBIA

Creatively Leveraging Existing Data for Enumeration Processes

Censuses are a core part of a country's statistics and play a critical role in informing policy through up-to-date information on the population. They also pose a significant undertaking, requiring both financial and technical resources, especially in countries where updated maps of enumeration areas are not available. These enumeration areas are critical in planning censuses to ensure that the survey teams include all households in the data collection.

In Zambia, a large country with a vast area and population to cover, the planning for the August 2020 census experienced delays due to the labor-intensive and costly enumeration process that would make up the foundation for the census. The planning was losing momentum, putting the entire census at risk and raising concerns that many households would be left out. Furthermore, the approaching rainy season, which would make traveling to different areas of the country logistically impossible, added pressure to complete the planning process and get the census underway.

"Zambia is a great example of a project where we had to adapt to conditions where there were not much funding and lending opportunities. This is where the TFSCB is very helpful in providing the right amount of expertise in just the right time in the process."

Keith Patrick Garrett
Project Task Team Leader
the World Bank

RESULTS

With the support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the project made a significant contribution to the Zambian census by:

- Building capacity for the statistics office to use innovative approaches in census cartography
- Training 28 new hires in enumeration area demarcation and automating elements of the workflow
- Automating the overall workflow for the Zambia Statistics Agency

GRANT DETAILS

Title
Support Zambia's Census with Novel Enumeration Pilot

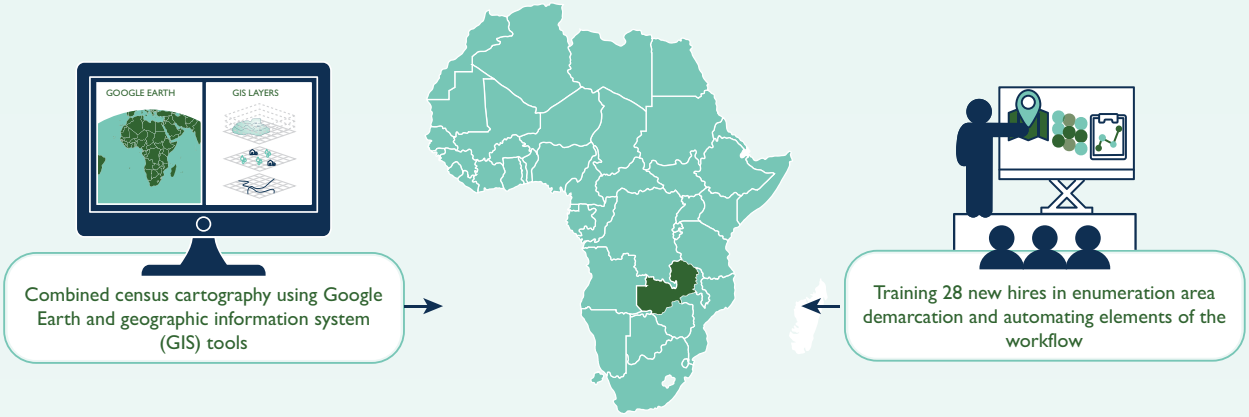
TFSCB Program
Statistical Capacity Building

TFSCB Grant
USD 150,000

Project Period
January 2018 – June 2020

TFSCB SUPPORT

To help the census get back on track, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), together with the Columbia University's Earth Institute and the Geo-Reference Infrastructure Data for Development project implemented by the United Nations Population Fund, supported the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZSA) with the planning process. The project team introduced an innovative approach to the mapping and planning of enumeration areas using Geospatial Information Software (GIS) tools and trained the local statistics staff in its use.



The training focused on empowering newly hired census cartographers on GIS tools and Google Earth Engine to update the enumeration maps and develop household listings in a cost-effective manner. In a short timeframe, the project team helped census staff familiarize themselves with satellite imagery packages and the mapping software, which was faster and more consistent than labor-intensive field surveys.

Another component of the TFSCB support focused on increasing the census management capacity at the ZSA. The project team worked with the Census Division on a range of areas related to the complex census undertaking, from planning the implementation of census activities and setting up the necessary IT systems to ensuring procurement of equipment and coordinating with multiple donors. The support to the Census Division team was an important element of the project, as the census required interaction with multiple development actors in the country. The Census Division also had to handle issues related to limited funding, staff shortages, unstable internet connections, and damaged equipment, which further complicated its efforts.

The project helped to speed up the process of retrieving and preparing the listing data into organized data files ready for the ZSA to use, helping to simplify their process of demarcating enumeration areas. The listing automation saves the Information Technology department trouble, complexity, data duplication, and inadvertent errors, as well as saving the GIS unit time. Finally, the project team supported the ZSA census planning by reviewing budgets and work plans, resulting in the downward revision of the census budget, leading to USD 20 million in cost savings.

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