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The Advisory Panel of the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building

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Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the TFSCB Advisory Panel (AP)

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***The TFSCB: Responding to Urgent Demands
while Keeping the Long Perspective***

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The recommendations proposed in this report and the views presented therein are those of the two members of the Advisory Panel and do not necessarily correspond to those of the TFSCB's Administrative Unit.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AP	Advisory Panel (TFSCB)
AU	Administrative Unit (TFSCB)
BAPS	Busan Action Plan on Statistics
BRICS	Brazil Russia India China South Africa (emerging countries)
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
CMU	Country Manager Unit (WB)
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DECDG	Development Economics - Data Group
DFID	Department for International Development (UK Government)
GFR	Grant Funding Request
GPSDD	Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
HHS	Household Survey
ICP	International Comparison Programme
IEG	Independent Evaluation Group (World Bank)
IMC	Internal Management Committee (TFSCB)
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Survey
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (PARIS21)
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century (consortium)
RSDS	Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (PARIS21)
SAP	Strategic Action Plan (WB)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
STATCAP	Lending program to support more efficient and effective statistical systems in developing countries (WB)
TA	Technical assistance
TFSCB	Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building
TTL	Task Team Leader (WB projects)
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 and the discussions within the UN family throughout the year 2016 about the production of indicators for measuring the implementation of the SDGs have enlarged the remit and the scope of the TFSCB through the start-up of the Data Production Window and the creation of the new Innovation Window. While this has resulted in 48 new projects approved under these two new windows, the number of 19 approved project applications for the traditional Fall and Spring windows of the TFSCB has remained similar compared to the previous year.

Even as discussion is ongoing with two potential donors, and despite the Korean pledge announced at the end of 2015, DFID still remains in practice the only major donor, which raises concerns that the TFSCB will be exhausted by the end of 2018 unless new substantial donors can be found. It is, therefore, of utmost importance for the TFSCB to actively approach new potential donors through wider propagation of its results and successes and also via new cooperation platforms such as the Global Partnership.

While the launch of the “Data Production Window” has focused primarily on countries in Africa, countries of the South Asian and Middle East and North Africa regions also make up a substantial portion of recipients. This window allows for the funding of data production activities proper as well as supporting technical assistance in connection with household surveys. Care is taken to ensure that the technical assistance will benefit overall statistical capacity building in the recipient institutions so as to contribute to the sustainability of efforts. The concerns of recipient ownership and lack of competition which arise from the target group and the application and management processes of the grants awarded under this window still remain. At the same time, the continuing involvement of the TFSCB in policy relevant areas such as evidence based data for SDG monitoring can make the Fund more attractive to potential donors from government and private spheres.

The new pilot window “Innovation in Development Data”, was introduced in Fall of 2016. This pilot is a result of the World Bank commitment to data innovation through its participation in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 15 projects submitted and approved under this window are either regional in scope or, while being conducted at country level, aim at a wider applicability of results.

While the expansion of the TFSCB remit and the response evoked by the two new windows can be expected to create greater visibility and, associated with this, increased attraction to new donors, care must be taken that the core competence of the TFSCB, namely statistical capacity building and support in devising NSDS will not be neglected and that the new workload attached to the two new windows will not cause an over-extension of TFSCB management and administrative capacities.

Still, internally, the position of the TFSCB has been strengthened by the decision of the World Bank Data Council in connection with its Strategic Action Plan to maintain the structure and expanded remit of the Fund while at the same time streamlining or phasing out other respective Trust Funds within the World Bank.

In view of the above findings the AP has proposed thirteen recommendations, the most important of which are presented in the following:

- The TFSCB AU should encourage recipient countries to contribute matching funds or support in kind to TFSCB grants, in particular for grants to non-IDA countries. It should encourage client countries to complement projects on data production with grants on SCB in order to enhance the capacity building aspects of data production projects and to foster sustainable capacity building through household survey projects.
- The TFSCB AU should continue to support SCB projects, including the creation of new or updating of existing NSDS, to reconcile new challenges with the core objectives of the Fund. It should alert client countries to the medium-term need of adjusting their NSDS to the implications of innovative technologies and innovative methods to the statistical infrastructure and processes.
- The TFSCB AU should collect best practices from successfully conducted data production and SCB projects to be presented in a handbook on “Best Practices of preparing and implementing TFSCB funded projects”. It should use the PARIS21 and regional statistical meetings as a platform to present and exchange best practices of TFSCB funded projects.
- More attention should be paid to training staff of recipient statistical offices in general management and administrative skills in connection with data production projects.
- Results of TFSCB funded projects should be widely shared on the regional and global levels in terms of methods developed, standards applied, best practices and lessons learned.
- Project applications and selection procedures within the data production window should be made competitive with greater emphasis on demand and initiative coming from the recipient countries.
- Project ownership should be promoted and demand based applications from client countries should be encouraged by actively involving client counterparts in the collection and presentation of best practices and in exchange of experience on the regional level.
- In line with the original remit of the TFSCB, all project applications in the field of data production should specify the potential cross-sectoral statistical capacity component of the project.
- Attention should be paid to the regional distribution of TFSCB grants.

INTRODUCTION

An Advisory Panel (AP) was created in 2003 to conduct a yearly technical review of the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) activities and propose recommendations to enhance its operation. Since its inception, the AP consists of two external consultants who meet the managers and other stakeholders of this TF (AU: Administrative Unit; IMC: Internal Management Committee; etc.) once a year at the Headquarters of the World Bank (WB). The 14th AP meeting was held from February 27 to March 3, 2017¹. According to their terms of reference the two consultants are commissioned to reflect on the past practices and results of the Trust Fund, on recent changes to the scope and remit of the Trust Fund and to make recommendations on its future scope and practices. Specifically, they will:

- review and evaluate project proposals and approval decisions taken in the year of 2015 by the IMC in a general manner;
- prepare an annual report containing the findings from the above mentioned tasks; and
- reflect and give their recommendations on the future direction and overall management of the TFSCB.

In the course of this mission, the consultants conducted a series of interviews with management and stakeholders of the TFSCB, namely:

- Ms Haishan Fu, Director of the Development Data Group in the Development Economics Vice-Presidency (DECDG); Mr Grant Cameron, Manager, Development Data Group, DECDG, and Head of the IMC; Ms Ingrid Ivins, former member of the TFSCB AU and the IMC; and Ms Masako Hiraga, member of the TFSCB AU and IMC;
- other IMC members: Ms Amparo Ballivian, Ms Barbro Hexeberg, Mr Olivier Dupriez, all DECDG; Mr. Gregory Kisunko, ECA region; Mr Victor Sulla, Africa Region; and Alejandro Giopp and Simon Davies, LAC Region;
- Ms Rena Badiani-Magnusson, TTL Data Production project (Myanmar); Mr Abdoullahi Beidou, TTL Data Production project (Gabon); Ms Amparo Lopez and Mr Alvin Ndip, Data Production administrators;
- Mr Andrew Dabalén, Global Practice African Poverty;
- Mr Umar Serajuddin, DECDG's representative of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on SDG's indicators;
- Mr Tariq Khokhar, and Ms Alla Morrison, administrators Innovation window; and
- Mr Rasmus Heltberg, member of Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), WB.

The AP members thank their counterparts for the fruitful discussions and the valuable information gained which are reflected in the review and recommendations below.

¹ The reports of the previous AP meetings are available on the WB Website: <http://www.worldbank.org/tfscb>

The AP was provided with documents for review and discussions on project proposals submitted to the Internal Management Committee (IMC) of the TFSCB since the 13th meeting of the AP in 2016, in particular:

- Initiation Notes with their grant financing plans and budget tables for the proposals made under the Spring (17 proposals) and Fall (18 proposals) for the Non-NSDS Windows²;
- the Concept Note on “Program to Improve the Production, Availability and Utility of Household Survey Data with TFSCB Funding”, that introduced the pilot Data Production Window within the TFSCB created by the end of the year 2015;
- the minutes of the IMC meeting held on June 14, 2016 and on November 22, 2016 for the proposals made under the Spring and Fall Non-NSDS Windows respectively;
- a list of 33 projects accepted under the Data Production Window;
- a list of 15 projects accepted under the new Innovation Window;
- the updated “Guidelines and Procedures” of the TFSCB, published in April, 2016;
- the Summary Sheet of the Annual TFSCB Review by DFID of May 2016;
- an approach paper produced by the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) on Evaluation of the WB Support for Data and Statistical Capacity; and
- the TFSCB Annual Progress Report of April 2016.

1 - PAST EXPERIENCE AND RESULTS

1.1 History of the TFSCB

The TFSCB is a multi-donor fund established in 1999 by the Development Data Group of the Development Economics Vice-Presidency of the World Bank. It was closely coordinated with the partnership’s activities of the Consortium PARIS21.

The TFSCB has evolved over a period of its operations into a sound financial and management tool for providing, in cooperation with the development partners, small grants to developing countries for statistical projects in a very flexible manner. It has built up organization, management, guidelines and procedures for operations with well-defined objectives. Since its establishment, PARIS21 supported more than one hundred countries in setting up their NSDS (National Strategies for Statistical Development). Some of these NSDS were created or updated with the financial help of the TFSCB. Up to the end of 2015, 288 projects submitted to a funding from the TFSCB have been approved and the total disbursement/commitment was around \$ 65 million. Projects have been approved in all regions, with the largest number, 85 (around 30 %), in sub-Saharan Africa. The projects granted by the TFSCB were small-scale, with project volumes ranging from \$ 100,000 to \$ 500,000³. The project activities encompassed both preparation of NSDS and statistical capacity building activities as well as statistical subject matters, the latter responding to pre-defined and emerging topical priorities resulting for instance from the

² No proposal was made under the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) Window in 2016.

³ The TFSCB rules impose a ceiling of \$ 500,000 to the budgets of the proposals. This ceiling doesn’t apply to the projects funded by the Data Production Window.

Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS) and the Data Revolution Initiative of the WB, such as data for measuring sustainable development, open data, data for improving production and use of gender statistics and exploration of innovative approaches to data collection and dissemination. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 and the discussions within the UN family throughout the year 2016 about the production of indicators for measuring the implementation of the SDGs have enlarged the remit and the scope of the TFSCB through the start-up of the Data Production Window and the creation of the new Innovation Window.

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

1.2 Results for 2016

In recent years, the number of donors has decreased and by mid-2013 the resources of the Fund had reached a balance of just about \$ 2 million of unallocated funds. In the fall of 2013, the DFID agreed to contribute \$ 20 million to the TFSCB and transferred this sum in one single tranche in November 2013. Accordingly, the closing date of the TFSCB program was extended from end of 2015 to end of 2020. Recently, the TFCB AU received additional funding pledges and new donors are expected to join.

To some extent and paradoxically, the AP feared during its twelfth meeting in 2015 TFSCB to be in danger of becoming a victim of this new donation from DFID. The question arose whether it is possible to maintain the initial spirit of the TFSCB when the number of proposals increases very quickly as it was the case in 2014 (63 proposals received over 2014). During the year 2016, a total of 31 proposals⁴ have been received for the two traditional windows as in 2015 (13 proposals during the Spring Window and 18 during the Fall Window). That means that the total amount in 2014, 2015 and 2016 for the approved or conditionally approved proposals has approached \$ 25 million. At this trend, even with the new pledges that were announced, the Fund will be exhausted by the end of 2018 which is not in line with the objective to disburse the funds by 2020. During its thirteenth meeting in 2016, the AP proposed two solutions to be considered: (i) finding urgently new donors (ii) being more selective in the approval process, or a mix of these two solutions. The percentage of rejected applications tends to increase: in 2016, compared to 2015 and 2014, the AP noted that the decisions made by the IMC were much more selective (38.7 % rejected compared to 32.1 % in 2015 and 17.4 % in 2014 This could be either because of greater attention to

⁴ See the Annex of this Report for a detailed survey of the project proposals received by the TFSCB AU in 2016.

certain criteria, or just attention to the funding available to TFSCB. It seems that the TFSCB AU and IMC may be becoming more cautious as the Fund's money may become depleted too soon.

The percentage of proposals coming from the Africa region for the two Spring and Fall windows (25.8 % of the proposals and 38.9 % of the accepted proposals) has returned to the level of 2014 (compared to 40.6 % and 42.9 % respectively in 2015⁵). The percentage of proposals coming from the Latin America and Caribbean region has significantly increased (29.0 % instead of 18.7 % in 2015).

Only three proposals concerning preparation or updating of NSDS were proposed in 2016⁶. It is maybe because a very large majority of developing or transition countries have now prepared SNDS or SMP. It should also be noted that these three proposals were not presented in a "NSDS Window⁷" as it was the case until 2014 but discussed by the IMC during the two traditional face-to-face Spring and Fall meetings.

2016 saw also the launch of the additional "Data Production Window" created at the end of the year 2015 to support projects related to data production in key areas. The proposals are accepted by invitation only and submitted by Country Representatives or by Country Units. The proposals have to be approved by the IMC through virtual meetings⁸ and the coordination is by two people in Global Practice Poverty in relation with the AU. At the moment, a list of thirty-three eligible projects concerning technical assistance for preparing and implementing household surveys (e.g. survey design and methodology, preparation of sampling, use of new technologies such as CAPI), and staff training has been established. This TA is now a component of the TFSCB activities. The African region was the main beneficiary of this new window in 2016 with 44 % of the proposals and more than 59 % of the funds allocated. The Middle East and North Africa and South Asia Regions are in second place with 16 % of the proposals for both regions and 13 % and 10% of the funds allocated respectively.

A new pilot window, called "Innovation in Development Data", was introduced in fall 2016. This pilot came about the WB's commitment in data innovation in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.3 Statistical capacity building still a core competence of TFSC, not forgetting NSDS

The AP strongly supports the notion that statistical capacity building remains a core competence of the TFSCB. There is no sustainability for the development of statistical systems without attention to statistical capacity building. As countries assume the responsibilities of project application and full project management under TFSCB auspices, more attention should be given to

⁵ 22.2 % and 25.0 % in 2014

⁶ None in 2015

⁷ Until 2014, the projects concerning the preparation or updating of NSDS were proposed to the AU through a specific "NSDS Window" and immediately sent to the IMC members for a rapid decision through a virtual meeting.

⁸ The AP did not receive any document about the holding of these IMC virtual meetings concerning Data Production projects.

train staff of statistical offices in management skills as part and component of statistical capacity building and subject matter grants such as data production. The critical importance of administrative competences and management skills to the success of projects should be impressed on counterparts in the course of project preparations.

Statistical capacity building should be a component of all TFSCB projects. The TFSCB should raise the awareness among donors and recipients that statistical capacity building must remain an ongoing concern to foster sustainability and self-reliance. In order to emphasize this point, the statistical capacity building component of projects, i.e. the expected impact on or contribution to the overall development of the recipient institution, should be identified within project applications and its results should be evaluated separately on completion of the project.

As statistical capacity building remains a core competence of the TFSCB, so does the support of national statistical offices in the formulation and updating of NSDS. According to PARIS21, by now almost all statistical systems have an NSDS⁹ although there is no reliable overall information on NSDS implementation and updating. As the existence of an NSDS was initially a prerequisite for receiving World Bank funding for statistical systems, there was an incentive on the national level to formulate their development strategies and to secure assistance for this task through TFSCB grants. Presently, there seems to be no strong demand for updating or revision of the NSDS. There were in 2016 only three new proposals, since a very large majority of developing or transition countries having now prepared NSDS or SMP. But this conclusion is somewhat misleading insofar as it confuses NSDS of the first and second generations. Efforts should continue to be made by PARIS21 and the WB to encourage the countries to prepare more comprehensive NSDS really adapted to the situation of the statistical system and to update, or re-draft the NSDSs of the first generation¹⁰. PARIS21 expressed the opinion that NSDS should continue to play a pivotal role in strengthening statistical capacities. This is why the AP welcomes that the “NSDS Window” is to remain open. In view of the expected impact of innovations and the resulting data revolution on statistical systems it seems very reasonable to assume that there will emerge a need for the larger scale revision of strategic development plans for statistical systems in the foreseeable future. The TFSCB should then be ready to lend its assistance as before.

During its previous sessions, the AP recognized that funding the participation of statisticians from developing countries in international conferences or seminars through the TFSCB can contribute to international co-operation by encouraging the participation of developing countries in the dialogue on the development of policy, framework, standards and methodologies on statistics. DECDG and the ISI have been collaborating for seven years. ISI has proposed to renew this collaboration through a new proposal covering the period 2017 - 2019; this proposal is coherent with TFSCB’s objective and tends to facilitate and support the participation of statisticians from less developed countries, and especially from the low income countries, in statistical conferences.

⁹ See for instance the last Progress Report on NSDS published by PARIS21 in February 2017.

¹⁰ In 2016, the PARIS21 Secretariat has endorsed proposals made by its NSDS Guidelines Reference Group. The update includes in particular the problem of fragile states, sectoral strategies, sub-national strategies and Regional strategies (RSDS). The 2017 budget of PARIS21 has allocated 633,617 € to creating and updating NSDS and RSDS upon a total budget of 4,140,477 € (i.e. 15.2 %).

2 – NEWS DEVELOPMENTS IN 2016

2.1 The TFSCB with regard to the WB Strategic Action Plan

The Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Addressing Development Data Gaps 2016-2030 which had been proposed by the World Bank Data Council in 2016 has now been adopted.

The Data Council was established by the Chief Economist in 2015 to: (i) provide a governance framework for managing the WBG's data assets and (ii) to make strategic decisions about support for data activities in WBG client countries and for allocation of financial and human resources for data activities within the institution. The Council has two pillars, one for corporate data assets and another for development data¹¹ assets.

The SAP has identified a number of critical data gaps at country level which impede the formulation, implementation and monitoring of economic development and reduction of poverty goals. In particular, there is a lack of up-to-date data from Household Surveys (HHS) in many countries. This situation is in urgent need of being remedied because data from Household Surveys can supply a large part of the data demands of the Sustainable Development Goals on the national level. In response to this need, the Strategic Action Plan has resulted in a broadening of the remit of the TFSCB to encompass support to data production and technical assistance in connection with Household Surveys.

The decision to broaden its remit is to be regarded as a firm endorsement of the goals and functioning of the TFSCB and recognition of its many years of successful operation. This is a significant development because according to the Strategic Action Plan, existing respective Trust Funds with the exception of the TFSCB will be phased out¹². The unique position assigned to the TFSCB in the SAP should be helpful in attracting further donors who are looking for a highly recognized and well established structure for the disbursement of grants to support the development of statistical systems and the improvement of the data situation in relation to economic development and poverty reduction at national level.

2.2 New demand driven activities in connection with SDGs: The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

The TFSCB has launched a new window called "Innovation in Development Data" in partnership with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD). The TFSCB is funding this pilot window, and the GPSDD is facilitating the network with a wider community. The WB has joined the GPSDD, that is a global network of 150 governments, international organizations, companies, philanthropic foundations, civil society groups, and statistics and data communities dedicated to support the development and improvement of data which is relevant to monitor achieving the global SDGs by 2030. Goal achievement of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to be measured by 230 indicators on which general agreement has

¹¹ Development data are defined as data "that are produced by country systems around social, economic, and environment issues, such as data from censuses, household surveys, administrative records and civil registration."

¹² The AP was told that at the moment no new creation of Trust Funds within the World Bank

so far been achieved. These indicators have been further broken down into over 1000 sub-indicators, the vast majority of which are numeric in nature.

The GPSDD has been launched in 2015 to address this need for evidence based and policy relevant data to measure the state-of-play and goal achievement in terms of the SDGs¹³. It is a unique endeavor in that it comprises more than 150 organizations united by a common concern: the critical gaps in relevant data on the national level and the lack of know-how, administrative structures and resources which impede the utilization of innovative technologies for data production and analysis on the country level. Thus, the GPSDD proposes to serve as a global platform for bringing together the critical data needs and associated problems of evidence based policy making with the solutions to be generated by technological innovations in the data field. This implies playing an advocacy role for sustainable development statistics and statistical institutions while providing a forum for prospective donors and recipients of technical assistance for measuring SDG's goal achievement at national level.

It is still early days for the Global Partnership, and, thus, its remit, governance, tasks and operational procedures have not been specified yet in concrete terms. However, the UN Foundation has been tasked with providing the secretariat, and a first round of calls to apply for grants for innovative projects has been conducted. It has met with considerable response worldwide, over 400 project applications having been accepted to be processed by the UN Foundation. If the Global Partnership were to grow beyond being an advocacy platform and a forum for discussion and exchange of information of SDG driven data demands and on how to supply them using innovative ways and means, it could become a powerful vehicle for financing and producing a data revolution for evidence based policy making. In future, it would be important that the co-operational structures between its members be worked out, and that a proper division of tasks and responsibilities be specified in order to avoid overlap and duplication.

As the WB is a member of the Global Partnership, the TFSCB can be expected to benefit from this Partnership network in terms of advocacy for the TFSCB objectives. In addition, the Partnership opens up perspectives of new donors from the public and private sectors that plan to engage themselves in innovation for SDG's evidence based monitoring.

2.3 Start-up of the Data Production Window

The year 2015 has seen the opening of the new Data Production Window as a way to meeting the SDG driven data needs. The window on data production was set up because a recent survey by the World Bank of 155 countries for which the World Bank monitors poverty issues during the ten-year period between 2002 and 2011 established considerable to severe gaps in the availability of household survey data for 77 countries. This means that there were either no statistics or outdated and poor quality statistics for poverty monitoring. This lack of data becomes especially critical in view of the fact that data demands for an estimated 30% of SDG indicators can be supplied from statistics which could be produced on the national level from multiple purpose household surveys (HHS).

¹³ During the UN World Data Forum held in Cape Town from 15 to 18 January, 2017, was launched a Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP). The CTGAP was endorsed by the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission held in New York from 7 to 10 March, 2017.

In response to this situation, the TFSCB was able to secure in 2015 a significant increase of \$ 20 million in contributions from DFID, making a total commitment by DIFD of \$ 42 million over the period 2015 to 2017. The additional contribution of \$ 20 million USD was to be earmarked for funding data production and related technical assistance to conduct HHS in countries where respective data was either lacking or seriously deficient.

To this respect, the TFSCB opened a new window for data production where applications were accepted by invitation only to ensure, i) that the recipient group was the very target group intended, i.e. national statistical offices who were in greatest need of respective assistance and expected to benefit to the greatest extent from it, ii) that the number of applications did not exceed the available funds. The application for the pilot data production window procedures were different from those for other windows in that the applications were invited based on the countries' status of the "data deprivation" and availability of upcoming surveys. The application could cover data production, e.g. conducting the survey or a pilot survey, and or technical assistance in its preparation, data storage, analysis and dissemination. The majority of recipients were from the African region although the South Asian region and MENA region were also represented to a certain extent. Out of the \$ 20 million, to date more than \$ 11 million have been awarded to data production activities proper, while more than \$ 5 million have been awarded to TA activities related to these surveys. Thus, the total of grants cover such activities as preparation of household surveys, survey design and methodology, preparation and testing of sampling, use of new technologies such as CAPI, and staff training.

Funding through the data production window is untypical for the operations of the TFSCB in that in this window the initial demand is defined, perhaps determined, by the World Bank and the results are expected to contribute to alleviate the data gaps which impede World Bank policy implementation, i.e. reduction of poverty and economic development, with regards to the recipient countries. It is also untypical for TFSCB procedures that there appears to be no competition among the different project applications. Once invitations have been issued, there is a reasonable expectation on the part of the recipient that the project funds will be forthcoming.

It has been pointed out in the Thirteenth Report of the Advisory Panel that this procedure opens questions of ownership¹⁴. These concerns still remain in principle. The data production window on the other hand allows for the recipient countries to use a mix of funding instruments for their household surveys, for example funds from competitive grants from other sources or own funds from the national budgets, thus providing for country ownership and eventual integration of the household surveys into the regular program of work of the statistical institution of the recipient country. It also helps countries which, due to very low capacities, would otherwise not be able to initiate the application process on their own because they are not yet experienced in grant acquisition and management.

A welcome feature of the data production window is the possibility of receiving relevant technical assistance either in conjunction with the data production grant or in addition to a data production project funded from other sources. This provides for flexibility and presents an opportunity to extend the technical assistance beyond its immediate use for household surveys to also support statistical capacity building in more general terms. The technical assistance component

¹⁴ See § 4.1 of the AP 13th Report

of data production grants can support the sustainability of the project and of national statistical capacities in general.

Thus, the data production window provides opportunities for countries which lack the operational infrastructure and the budget to regularly conduct household surveys to use the grants from the data production window either i) to acquaint themselves with the work and procedures attached to World Bank grants under the guidance the World Bank, ii) to introduce household surveys into the national plan for the development of the statistical system and to actively seek further funding for the next round, iii) as seed money to set the next rounds of household surveys in motion as part of the regular program of work of the statistical system. In all three cases, the data production window would have fulfilled its purpose, namely to work toward and eventually foster proper ownership of data production from household surveys. Still, the long term goal should be the integration into the national work program for statistics and, ultimately, its funding from the national budget.

In view of the data demands deriving from the SDGs, the data production window of the TFSCB which is presently focused on household surveys could be extended to one or two further SDG relevant topics if funding can be made available.

2.4. Opening of the new Innovation Window

The Innovation Window is a very recent addition to the tasks of the TFSCB. This window owes its existence to the growing awareness that global evidence based monitoring of SDGs can only be achieved by concerted cross-sectoral efforts of major stake holders at global level utilizing the most innovative technologies and methods of data production, dissemination and analysis.

The “Innovation in Development Data” window was launched as a partnership of the TFSCB and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD). The TFSCB is funding this window, and the GPSDD provides an umbrella and a venue for bringing respective efforts. The highly successful call for project applications which was launched as a pilot exercise in 2016 has resulted in funding granted to 15 projects. The World Bank itself executes five of the 15 projects, while the other ten are executed under the Global Partnership.

The original scheme to refer innovations applications to the UN Foundation for processing and administration seems meanwhile to have been abandoned. The AP welcomes this development because the transfer of project responsibilities from the TFSCB to another agency would possibly result in higher administrative expenses, it would also increase coordination work for the TFSCB and impinge upon the core competences of the TFSCB. While the TFSCB is presently administrating 15 innovation projects under this new window, it is possible from the overall response in the fall of 2016 to expect an increasing number of applications for the next round.

The Innovation Window provides a great opportunity for the TFSCB to enter a new field with major implications for statistical capacities at national level and, eventually, for the further development of national strategy plans for statistics in line with technological and methodological innovations. The use of innovative technologies and methods presents a challenge to all statistical systems. It also provides an opportunity for developing statistical systems to benefit to an even greater extent than more mature systems, if the innovations are cost saving and do not require a complex infrastructure in order to function. Thus, developing statistical systems would enter a level

playing field with mature statistical systems, provided that requisite funding can be secured and efforts are made to ensure that results and solutions will be globally accessible. The TFSCB can play an important part in this.

This new field could also attract new donors from private and public sectors. As the expected results of the innovation projects tend to be widely applicable, they lend themselves to multi-country approaches in project funding. Statistical systems worldwide stand to benefit from them as the results would enter the public domain upon completion of the projects. The TFSCB should be tasked with providing global access to the solutions generated by innovative technologies and methods via an open data scheme on the World Bank website.

3 – THE DONOR SITUATION

The donor situation has not really improved for two years, which is very worrying. At the moment, the current version of the TFSCB (TFSCB III) is de facto a single-donor fund (UK's DFID). TFSCB III has been extended through 2020 (projects can be approved until the end of 2018) and by the end of 2015, the government of the Republic of Korea has emerged as a new donor to the TFSCB by committing \$ 3 million to the fund, but this pledge has not yet fully materialized. Belgium and Ireland have pledged a few hundred thousand dollars each; this would be a small amount but may convince former donors¹⁵ to resume their remittance or encourage new ones, especially emerging countries from the BRICS group, to come forward. Funding by BRICS may focus on certain regions such as sponsoring regional training activities or joint methodological endeavors on a regional level.

In addition, the DFID has significantly increased its contribution by \$ 20 million in 2015 in order to support household survey activities in client countries. Thanks to this additional contribution, TFSCB was able to launch the new Data Production Window.

The overall donor situation on the government side is still quite difficult because the traditional donor countries, especially those in Europe, as well as the potential emerging donors are faced with their own economic and financial challenges. Donor activities on the national government level are in most cases increasingly focused either on selected topical policy issues or on specific target regions. The same seems to hold true for private donors and their trust funds. In view of the TFSCB's broadening its funding activities to include statistical subject matters of direct policy relevance such as the production of data on household income, health, education or gender equality, it should perhaps be easier than before to attract government and private donors who are already supporting such issues. Another potential benefit to be pointed out to prospective donors would be that, by channeling their funds through the TFSCB, the latter would provide know how and a network of experienced advisors and any requisite administrative and managerial support, thus relieving potential donors from the burden of managing grants of comparatively moderate size but still ensuring considerable impact for the funds they provide.

¹⁵ Six countries (incl. UK) participated in the funding of TFSCB I and three in the funding of the TFSCB II.

The WB's participation in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) – with its network of 150 governments, international organizations, companies, philanthropic foundations, civil society groups, etc. - could be an excellent opportunity to convince new partners to participate in the funding of projects under the TFSCB umbrella and maybe to look at innovative ways to develop new projects, for instance through private-public partnerships that have not been exercised so far in the area of official statistics. This search for more donors could perhaps be more “customized”, i.e. the TFSCB should identify where the potential donors' interests and priorities lie and then define either a topical area of statistics such as for example agriculture or health statistics or a component of statistical capacities building such as IT skills or training in management so as to convince donors to engage themselves.

A joint effort should be made by DEDDG and the PARIS21 Secretariat to prepare such strategies for new donor acquisition.¹⁶

4 - ASSESSMENT OF RISKS AND BENEFITS OF CURRENT SITUATION OF TFSCB

4.1 Rapidly increasing demand vs vulnerable funding situation

The opening of two new windows has generated new demands for TFSCB grants but presently, its funding situation must be considered precarious. There is still only one major donor, the British DFID. In this role, the DFID can largely determine the remit and funding priorities of the TFSCB. As a case in point, the recent DFID contribution of \$ 20 million was earmarked for data production in household surveys. While this purpose was certainly in alignment with World Bank concerns about the lack of respective data from low capacity countries, a situation could arise where DFID goals in this respect would not be completely in line with TFSCB funding objectives. Attached contributions by a major donor can carry the risk of changing the remit of the TFSCB from its original or core goals if this major donor is responsible for almost the entire TFSCB budget.

Furthermore, financial dependence on one donor makes the TFSCB quite vulnerable to policy changes affecting IDA in the major donor country. A change of government priorities or budget cutbacks could quickly result in a critical funding situation of the TFSCB. Generally speaking, the dependence on one major donor can negatively affect the stability, the topical flexibility and the demand orientation of the TFSCB.

It is, therefore, very important that the TFSCB attract new substantial donors. The Global Partnership could be an appropriate venue to gain access to new donors, be they emerging economies, e.g. BRICS countries, or those of the G20 countries which have so far not been engaged in the funding of international statistical work, be they foundations or private companies which could be approached by pointing out to them the benefits of open data and a solid statistical information base to their own international strategic planning.

¹⁶ The motto of the PARIS21 Annual Meetings in 2017 is *Revisiting Capacity Development to deliver on the SDGs*.

4.2 TFSCB provides a coherent approach to statistical development

The TFSCB is unique in that its activities encompass grant support to strategy development, statistical capacity building, data production and innovations in statistics. This cross-sectional approach fosters sustainable development of statistical systems in recipient countries. The inherent flexibility of the TFSCB allows for funding which is demand driven and responsive to emerging issues such as the data demand in connection with the SDGs or the need of statistical systems to adapt to innovation and the challenges of Big Data. The TFSCB is operated in a way which provides good value for money, i.e. modest size grants are proven to have generated results which have significantly benefitted the recipient statistical systems. It is important that the TFSCB maintain its present cross-sectional scope and flexibility while continuing to pay attention to emerging needs and resulting challenges to the remit and operation of national statistical offices.

Due to its coherent approach to statistical development the TFSCB is in a unique position to gather and widely disseminate information on methods and standards developed or applied successfully in connection with TFSCB funded projects and on respective best practices and solutions.

4.3 Risks and benefits of policy related project funding by the TFSCB

In view of the need to attract new donors, the TFSCB would be well advised to consider taking on more policy related project funding. There is, however, the risk that an emphasis on large volume subject matter projects might detract from the original remit of the TFSCB. If this were to occur, the unique features of the TFSCB, i.e. funding of cross-sectional concerns such as statistical capacity building and, eventually, a new round of updating the national NSDS, could be reduced to a marginal position causing an undue imbalance in the overall goals and activities of the TFSCB. In order to avoid such developments, the TFSCB should actively promote its successes and ongoing activities in statistical capacity building in a quest for new donors for this component of its remit.

Another risk of policy related project funding is that policy related projects tend to respond to an urgent demand either on the global or national level, thus, resulting in a rapid increase in project applications. As they are likely to comprise data production activities, they tend to be larger in volume than for example cross-sectional projects like statistical capacity building. The administrative capacities of the TFSCB, however, are quite limited and still reflect a previous state-of-play. Having projects increasingly executed by recipient countries may be a solution to some extent. However, this solution is not applicable to low capacity countries, those very countries which have the greatest need of support to their data production. In view of limited capacities at the TFSCB, an increase of World Bank executed projects does not seem to be a solution unless the TFSCB can draw to a greater extent on capacities from other units of the World Bank which may pose a problem.

4.4 The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data as an opportunity for the TFSCB

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data is the largest initiative of its kind which was ever brought into being in response to global policy related data demands. While its governance, structure and operational procedures will still have to be clarified, it could already in its present form provide a forum for the TFSCB to approach prospective donors and to advocate the need for statistical capacity building in conjunction with data production in the relevant areas of the SDGs. The fact that the seventeenth goal¹⁷ of the SDGs stipulates international donor support of national statistical systems so as to facilitate the production of national data for SDG monitoring is a point in case when it comes to approach donor countries, foundations and international companies to help stabilize and increase the TFSCB budget.

4.5 Longer term strategic and statistical capacity aspects of the TFSCB

The possibilities of tapping into Big Data, broadening and intensifying access to administrative data on the national level, and the use of technological and methodological innovations to data production present challenges to national statistical systems which can only be met by a thorough revision of national strategies for development in statistics, major adjustments to statistical infrastructure, an overhaul of processes and large-scale training of staff in new skills. The TFSCB has the requisite funding mechanisms and it can look back on decades of experience in assisting countries to make the necessary adjustments to their statistical systems in order to cope with new challenges, be it the transition to market economies or meeting the demands for open data in connection with good governance and transparency. The data demand derived from SDG monitoring can only be met by using the above mentioned possibilities. Its ability to flexibly combine support for policy related data production with assistance in strategy development and statistical capacity building will benefit the future operations of the TFSCB.

5 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS¹⁸

1. In order to keep alive the TFSCB until 2020, the WB/DECDG is encouraged to find new donors with the support of PARIS21 and to be more selective in the approval process of proposed requests
2. In view of the dwindling number of government donors for statistical capacity building, the AU and the PARIS21 Secretariat should investigate the possibility of raising funds from the private sector, i.e. charitable trusts, private foundations (e.g. Bill Gates Foundation¹⁹).
3. The TFSCB AU should prepare testimonials by recipients and case studies of its successful projects to be presented to prospective donors. It should explore possibilities of public-

¹⁷ Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the partnership for sustainable development

¹⁸ Some of these recommendation and suggestions were already made during previous AP meetings.

¹⁹ The Gates Foundation contributed two times to the budget of PARIS21 in 2013-2014 and in 2016-2017 for a total sum of 1,175,000 €.

private partnerships in funding and executing projects on data production and innovations in statistics.

4. Approaches to prospective donors should be “customized”, taking into account major donor activities and priorities (e.g. health, agriculture, environment) and relating them to statistical data demands to be met by donor pledges.
5. The TFSCB AU should encourage recipient countries to contribute matching funds or support in kind to TFSCB grants, in particular for grants to non-IDA countries. It should encourage client countries to complement projects on data production with grants on SCB in order to enhance the capacity building aspects of data production projects and to foster sustainable capacity building through household survey projects.
6. The TFSCB AU should continue to support SCB projects, including the creation of new or updating of existing NSDS, to reconcile new challenges with the core objectives of the Fund. In coordination with PARIS21, it should alert client countries to the medium-term need of adjusting their NSDS to the implications of innovative technologies and innovative methods to the statistical infrastructure and processes.
7. The TFSCB AU should collect best practices from successfully conducted data production and SCB projects to be presented in a handbook on “Best Practices of preparing and implementing TFSCB funded projects”. It should use the PARIS21 and regional statistical meetings as a platform to present and exchange best practices of TFSCB funded projects.
8. More attention should be paid to training staff of recipient statistical offices in general management and administrative skills in connection with data production projects.
9. Results of TFSCB funded projects should be widely shared on the regional and global levels in terms of methods developed, standards applied, best practices and lessons learned.
10. Project applications and selection procedures within the data production window should be made competitive with greater emphasis on demand and initiative coming from the recipient countries.
11. Project ownership should be promoted and demand based applications from client countries should be encouraged by actively involving client counterparts in the collection and presentation of best practices and in exchange of experience on the regional level.
12. In line with the original remit of the TFSCB, all project applications in the field of data production should specify the cross-sectoral statistical capacity component of the project. All reports on project results should specify the contributions made to cross-sectional statistical capacity building.
13. Attention should be paid to the regional distribution of TFSCB grants.

A N N E X

SURVEY OF THE PROJECT PROPOSALS RECEIVED

IN 2016 BY THE TFSCB ADMINISTRATION UNIT (AU)

Contents of the annex:

- Introduction
- Projects submitted through the Spring and Fall Windows
- Projects submitted through the Data Production Window
- Projects submitted through the Innovation Window

According to the new guidelines adopted in 2015 for non-NSDS Windows (in line with the WB procedures for the small grants), all TFSCB proposals have now to be operated in a continuous process under the operations' portal of the Bank in order to streamline all WB procedures:

- firstly, an initiation note is sent to the AU by the designated TTL in liaison with the CMU of the recipient country or the GP manager;
- these proposals are discussed during IMC formal meetings (two IMC meetings were organized in 2016, a Spring meeting held on June 14, and a Fall meeting held on November 22); and
- after approval by the IMC, the TTL will proceed in the Operations Portal including filling out of a GFR for submission as a part of the project package.

The proposals presented through the NSDS Window were not affected by these new procedures and continue to be submitted to the IMC through virtual meetings in a continuous process as they arrive at the AU. In 2016 as in 2015, no proposal was submitted under this window. However, the proposal submitted by Azerbaijan during the spring meeting concerned the preparation of a NSDS; the proposal submitted by Djibouti during the Fall Window has in fact two components, one of them being the preparation of a NSDS.

An additional Window, called "Data Production Window", was created at the end of the year 2015 to support projects related to data production in key areas. The proposals are accepted by invitation only and submitted by Country Representatives or by Country Units. In theory the proposals have to be approved by the IMC through virtual meetings. In practice, in 2016, the coordination is by two people in Global Practice Poverty in relation with the AU. At the moment, a list of twenty-three eligible projects concerning technical assistance for preparing and implementing household surveys (survey design, use of new technologies, data quality), and staff training has been established

In addition, a pilot Window, called "Innovation in Development Data", was introduced in Fall 2016. This pilot came about the WB's commitment in data innovation and because it works with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A list of fifteen projects was presented for the time being.

PROJECTS SUBMITTED THROUGH THE SPRING AND FALL WINDOWS

Seventeen proposals were received by the AU and submitted to the IMC through the Spring Window, but four were transferred to the waiting list for Data Production Window²⁰. Out of the remaining thirteen proposals, only one was directly approved, eight were conditionally approved, and four were refused.

Nineteen proposals²¹ were received by the AU and submitted to the IMC during the Fall Window; eleven were conditionally approved and eight refused. The total number of proposals received by the AU (except the four ones transmitted to the waiting list for Data Production Window) was thirty-two, compared to thirty-four in 2015 (but sixty in 2014). In total, out of the thirty-two proposals received during the two Windows, twenty (62.5 %) were approved or conditionally approved and twelve (37.5 %) refused. In 2015 these percentages were respectively 67.9 % and 32.1 %; in 2014, they were respectively 82.6 % and 17.4 %. The percentage of refused proposals tends to increase.

The geographical distribution²² of these thirty-two proposals presented through both Windows is as follows:

Region	Proposals	Accepted proposals	Conditionally accepted proposals	% of approved or conditionally approved proposals
AFR	8	-	7	87.5
LAC	9	1	4	44.4
MENA	1	-	1	100
SAR	1	-	-	0
EAP	3	-	2	66.7
ECA	4	-	4	100
Global	6	-	1	16.7
TOTAL	32	1	19	62.5

The percentage of proposals coming from the Africa region (25.0 % of the proposals and 35.0 % of the accepted proposals) has returned to the level of 2014 (compared to 40.6 % and

²⁰ These four proposals are not examined in this part of the Annex.

²¹ The report of the IMC meeting for the Fall Window mentions only eighteen proposals, but since the proposal submitted by Djibouti during the Fall Window has in fact two components, one of them being the preparation of a NSDS, it seems better to speak of nineteen proposals in the Annex instead of eighteen.

²² The acronyms for the WB's regions are: AFR (Africa), LAC (Latin America and Caribbean), MENA (Middle East and North Africa), SAR (South Asia Region), EAP (Eastern Asia and Pacific) and ECA (Europe and Central Asia).

42.9 % respectively in 2015; 22.2 % and 25.0 % in 2014). The percentage of proposals coming from the Latin America and Caribbean region has significantly increased (28.1 % vs 18.7 %).

The total requested for the thirty-two proposals sent to the AU was \$ 12.284 million²³, comparable to the amount requested in 2016 (12.679 million) but much less than in 2015 (17.922 million). The budget allocated for the twenty approved or .conditionally approved proposals was \$ 7,374,069, comparable to the estimated allocated budget of \$ 6,488,775 in 2016, but much less than the estimated allocated budget in 2014 (\$ 12.087 million). The total budget allocated is now similar to the average funding observed between 2000 and 2010²⁴ (over \$ 5 million every year).

During its 12th meeting, the AP proposed to classify the proposals discussed by the IMC into six categories²⁵:

1. NSDS proposals
2. Implementation of NSDS and Statistical Capacity Building Programs
3. Growth areas proposed by the TFSCB donors and the priorities resulting from the BAPS and MDGs²⁶
4. Other emerging issues
5. Sector specific activities
6. Miscellaneous

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

1. NSDS proposals (three new proposals²⁷)

Proposals presented in this section concern not only new NSDS proposals, but also updates of former NSDS (or Statistical Master Plans), or NSDS replacing “first generation” NSDS that did not comply with the guidelines proposed by PARIS21 after 2005.

²³ The total requested was 13.511 million if including the for proposals transferred to the waiting list for Data Production Window

²⁴ The average funding fell down to \$ 2.77 million during the three years 2011 – 2012 – 2013.

²⁵ These six categories are different from the six ones used in the reports before the 12th one. It is therefore not possible to make detailed comparisons with years 2000 to 2013.

²⁶ MDGs era came to a conclusion with the end of the year 2015. 2016 ushers in the official launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders in September2015 at the UN General Assembly.

²⁷ No new proposal in 2015, 2 new proposals in 2014

Spring Window:	ECA: Azerbaijan - NSDS	\$ 250,000
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Fall Window:

Conditionally Approved:	MENA: Djibouti NSDS ²⁸	\$ 155,031
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Total		\$ 405,031
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Rejected (Fall Window):

LAC: Jamaica – SCB Project for Measuring Poverty and Welfare

9.4 % of the presented proposals

10.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved

5.5 % of the budget allocated (compared to 1.8 % in 2014)

There were only three new proposals, since a very large majority of developing or transition countries having now prepared SNDS or SMP. But this conclusion is somewhat misleading insofar as it confuses NSDS of the first and second generations. Efforts should continue to be made by PARIS21 and the WB to encourage the countries to prepare more comprehensive NSDS really adapted to the situation of the statistical system and to update, or re-draft the NSDSs of the first generation. PARIS21 expressed the opinion that NSDS should continue to play a pivotal role in strengthening statistical capacities. The NSDS Guidelines 2.0 which PARIS21 recently prepared will certainly increase the proposals for new, revised or updated NSDS in the coming years.

2. Implementation of NSDS and Statistical Capacity Building Programs (7 new proposals²⁹)

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

Spring Window

Approved:	LAC: OECS – SCB and Implementation of the RSDS	\$ 450,000
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Conditionally approved:

MENA: Lebanon – SCB in the Ministry of Public Health	\$ 478,450
AFR: Central African Republic – SCB	\$ 496,230

²⁸ Djibouti presented in fact two proposals under the same request NSDS and Strengthening of National Account Production. In this Annex, the two proposals have been dissociated to facilitate their assignment to particular categories.

²⁹ 3 new proposals in 2015 and 10 in 2014

Fall Window

Conditionally approved:

LAC: Costa Rica – Integrated System of HHS; SCB	\$ 468,479
MENA: Djibouti – Strengthening of National Accounts Production	\$ 320,024
AFR: Mauritius – SCB in various fields	\$ 350,000
Total	\$ 2,563,283

Rejected (Fall Window):

EAP: Vietnam – Integration Administrative Data from
Line Ministries and other Relevant Entities

21.9 % of the presented proposals

30.0 % of the proposals approve or conditionally approved

34.8 % of the budget allocated (compared to 7.8 % in 2015 and 31.1 % in 2014)

The proposals concerning the implementation of NSDS and statistical capacity building programs constitute, with the preparation of NSDS, the core orientation of the TFSCB when it was created in 1999. The budget allocated for these two categories of proposals (40.3 %) is better reflecting this priority than in 2015 (7.8 %) and in 2014 (32.9 %).

3. Growth areas proposed by the TFSCB donors and the priorities resulting from the BAPS and MDGs (6 new proposals³⁰)

To address the imbalance between demand and supply of timely and quality data, the World Bank President suggested in a speech pronounced in October 2012 to:

- (a) invest in data and analytical tools building on the success of the Open Data Initiative and,
- (b) work with partners in building statistical capacity to ensure virtually all developing countries have timely and accurate data.

Taking into consideration this broad mandate established by the World Bank President, the growth areas proposed by TFSCB donors and the priorities resulting from the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS) and from the MDGs' framework and the SDGs adopted by the UN General Assembly for the period 2015 - 2030, the AU prepared a note for discussion for the IMC meeting held in February, 2014. According to this note, special emphasis should be placed on:

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

³⁰ 7 new proposals in 2015 and 14 in 2014

5. Improving TFSCB's results focus.

The proposals meeting this emphasis have been classified in this third section.

Spring Window

Conditionally Approved:

Argentina – ODRA	\$ 99,860
Serbia – Implementation of Open Data Plan ³¹	\$ 305,340

Fall Window:

Conditionally Approved:

EAP: Vietnam – ODRA	\$ 150,000
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Total \$ 555,200

Rejected (Spring Window)

Peru: Open for Digital Inclusion Grant
Global: Open Data Communication Plan in Developing Countries

Rejected (Fall Window):

LAC: El Salvador – Satellite Services, Poverty Maps and
Sub-national Socio- economic Statistics

18.7 % of the presented proposals

15.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved

7.5 % of the budget allocated (compared to 30.6 % and 26.7 % in 2014)

4. Other emerging issues (4 new proposals³²)

Proposals presented in this section refer to issues emerging from discussions in global summits or UN meetings at global or regional level. This also includes the issues emerging of the Strategic Action Plan recently approved by the WB Board. The number of proposals classified in this fourth category may increase in the next future.

Spring Window:

Conditionally approved:

Ukraine – Strengthening Evidence-Based Policy making with Education Statistics & Analysis	\$ 340,000
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³¹ This project was submitted during the 2015 Fall Window and resubmitted in 2016.

³² 8 new proposals in 2015 and 5 in 2014

Fall Window:

Conditionally approved:

LAC: Dominican Republic SCB in Producing and Using Quality Education Statistics	\$ 500,000
AFR: Nigeria – Poverty and Conflict Monitoring System in Northern Region	\$ 400,000
Total	\$ 1,240,000

Rejected (Spring Window)

Global: Statistics Denmark (representing Ecuador, Philippines and Vietnam) - Wider Use of Administrative Data in the Production of Official Statistics

*12.5 % of the presented proposals**15.0 % of the proposals approve, conditionally approved or resubmitted**16.8 % of the budget allocated (compared to 15.6 % in 2015 and 10.6 % in 2014)***5. Sector specific issues (6 new proposals³³)**

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

Spring Window:

Conditionally Approved:

Indonesia – SCB for Public Procurement	\$ 297,200
UNECA – Creating a Trade in Value-Added Database for Africa	\$ 497,500

Fall Window:

Conditionally approved:

LAC: Haiti – GDP Rebased Project	\$ 440,000
AFR: East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community – Regional Cancer Registries	\$ 499,980
AFR: IOC – Improving Fisheries Statistics in the South West Indian Ocean	\$ 500,000
Total	\$ 1,784,680

Rejected: Sierra Leone: Statistical Capacity Building and Service Delivery Indicators in Education

³³ 5 new proposals in 2015 and 15 in 2014

15.6 % of the presented proposals
22.2 % of the proposals approved, conditionally approved or resubmitted
24.2 % of the budget allocated (compared to 24.2 % in 2015 and 2.5 % in 2014)

6. Miscellaneous (7 new proposals³⁴)

Fall Window

Conditionally approved:

ECA: Ukraine – SCN in various fields (population censuses and surveys, statistical work in conditions of armed conflict,) \$ 476,000

ISI – Developing Countries’ participation in Conferences, Workshop and Short Courses \$ 300,000

Total \$ 776,000

Rejected (Fall Window);

SAR: Pakistan – Assessment of Disabled Population in KP Province

LAC: Andean Community (Handicap International) – Enhancing the Production and Use of Quality Data on Disability

AFR: Sudan - Data Literacy in Fragile States

Global: WB Indigenous People Global Adviser – Closing the Data Gap for Indigenous People

Global: WB International Training Week on Welfare Analysis

21.9 % of the presented proposals
10.0 % of the proposals approved, conditionally approved or resubmitted
10.5 % of the budget allocated (compared to 16.5 % in 2015 and none in 2014)

During its previous sessions, the AP recognized that funding the participation of statisticians from developing countries in international conferences or seminars through the TFSCB can contribute to international co-operation by encouraging the participation of developing countries in the dialogue on the development of policy, framework, standards and methodologies on statistics. There is merit in funding such participation provided there is an effective contribution by the sponsored participants in the development of standards, methodologies and innovations in statistics and they become vehicles for knowledge transfer to the developing countries.

³⁴ 9 new proposals in 2015 and 3 in 2014

The proposal presented by ISI is coherent with this objective, it tends to facilitate and support the participation of statisticians from less developed countries, and especially from the low income countries, in state of the art statistical conferences, such as the ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC), ISI Regional Statistics Congress (RSC), Associations' conferences, workshops and short courses. All events are first class and organized by the ISI and Associations whose members are among the most qualified and recognized experts and managers across the international statistical community. Such participation strongly contributes to the overall aim of improving the statistical knowledge and capacity and stimulating the dissemination of the acquired knowledge in order to achieve high quality statistical systems. The proposed interactive workshops and sharing of good practices will continue to build a community of innovative and forward looking leaders in official statistics being able to coordinate and collaborate with counterparts from other data communities. This multi-stakeholder dialog will help to find synergies in using data sources, raising resources and producing high quality data and statistics to meet the Post 2015 Agenda.

PROJECTS SUBMITTED THROUGH THE DATA PRODUCTION WINDOW

The additional window, called “Data Production Window“, was created at the end of the year 2015 to support projects related to data production in key areas. The proposals are accepted by invitation only and submitted by Country Representatives or by Country Units. In theory the proposals have to be approved by the IMC through virtual meetings. In practice, in 2016, the coordination is by two people in Global Practice Poverty in relation with the AU.

At the moment, a list of thirty-three eligible projects concerning technical assistance for preparing and implementing household surveys (e.g. survey design and methodology, preparation of sampling, use of new technologies such as CAPI), and staff training has been established. TFSCB funds (\$ 6 million) have been reserved for these TA activities. TFSCB funds are not used for data production itself. However in addition, DFID has secured additional funds (\$ 11.2 million) to help data production and dissemination in the most fragile countries or countries that are the most vulnerable in data deprivation.

The geographical distribution of these thirty-three projects is as follows:

Region	Proposals	% of the total of proposals	TA Activities funded by TFSCB	% of the total funds allocated
AFR	14	42.5 %	\$ 3.137 Million	52.2 %
LAC	2	6.0 %	\$ 0.145 Million	2.4 %
MENA	5	15.2 %	\$ 0.510 Million	8.5 %
SAR	5	15.2 %	\$ 1.525 Million	25.3 %
EAP	2	6.0 %	\$ 0.113 Million	1.9 %
ECA	4	12.1 %	\$ 0.380 Million	6.3 %
Global	1	3.0 %	\$ 0.200 Million	3.4 %
TOTAL	33	100 %	\$ 6.010 Million	100 %

Three projects are “regional”: Mediterranean countries, West African Economic & Monetary Union, Southern African Customs Union.

The list of thirty-three projects includes three of the four projects transferred to the Data Production Window by the Spring IMC meeting (Guinea, Sao Tome & Principe, Tajikistan); one (Macedonia) is still in the waiting list.

PROJECTS SUBMITTED THROUGH THE INNOVATION WINDOW

The pilot window, called “Innovation in Development Data“, was introduced in fall 2016. This pilot came about the WB’s commitment in data innovation and because it works with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For the time being, a list of fifteen projects was presented for a funding by TFSCB for a total requested amount of \$ 2.630 million. Ten of these fifteen projects were presented by GPSDD and five by the WB. They concern technological innovations (e.g. satellite earth observations, machine learning, and digitizing data collection). Some projects are shared by two or more countries, not necessarily in the same region. The African region is represented by eight proposals,