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TRUST FUND FOR  
STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING:

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
(APRIL 1, 2015 – MARCH 31, 2016)

TFSCB ADMINISTRATION UNIT



DEVELOPMENT DATA GROUP  
THE WORLD BANK

APRIL 2016

**List of abbreviations and acronyms**

AP	TFSCB Advisory Panel
BAPS	Busan Action Plan for Statistics
GRM	Grant Reporting and Monitoring application
HLP	High-Level Panel
MAPS	Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
SCB	Statistical Capacity Building
SRF	Statistics for Results Facility
SRFCF	Statistics for Results Facility Catalytic Fund
TFSCB	Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building
TTL	Task Team Leader

## TRUST FUND FOR STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 2016

### HIGHLIGHTS

1. The year 2015 has seen a major change in the remit of the TFSCB in that it has now taken on the funding of data production projects (funding for surveys) in addition to its tried and proven support of statistical capacity building projects in the broader sense. This expansion of its scope was made possible by receiving an additional contribution of \$23 million from the UK/DFID and a commitment of \$3 million from the government of the Republic of Korea.
2. A record total of 32 new project proposals were approved over the past year, of which 4 are from the new data production window. Total commitments to new capacity building and data production projects amounted to \$16 million.<sup>1</sup>
3. Since the TFSCB was established, 268 projects have been approved and the total disbursement/commitment is around \$67 million. Projects have been approved in all regions, with the largest number, 85, in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Table 1: Project Commitments and Disbursements by Region from 2000 to 2015**  
(millions of US Dollars)

Region	Total Commitments and Disbursements
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	\$23.3
<b>East Asia and the Pacific</b>	\$7.8
<b>Europe and Central Asia</b>	\$7.2
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	\$9.3
<b>Middle East and North Africa</b>	\$2.7
<b>South Asia</b>	\$2.9
<b>Global</b>	\$13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$67.0</b>

4. Of the 268 approved projects, 201 have been completed and closed. 54 projects are currently being implemented and an additional 13 have been approved, but activities have not yet started because of the need to prepare and sign grant agreements.
5. TFSCB III – the current version of the Trust Fund – has been extended through 2020, which means that projects can be approved until the end of 2018. Following the exit of the Netherlands and Canada from TFSCB III in 2014, DFID later was joined by the Korean government as the newest member of the TFSCB III in June 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the record number of proposals received for the Fall Window in 2014, the approvals process for the 2014 Fall Window moved into calendar year 2015, resulting in a higher than usual level of commitments and disbursements for this specific year.

6. Over 2015, the Government of Korea released the first annual tranche of \$1 million and DFID disbursed \$9 million from their new commitment. Of the \$59 million provided for the TFSCB III program (from donors, investment income and transfers from TFSCB I and II), \$51 million has been allocated, leaving around \$9 million available for new projects (not including future tranche releases).

7. The 2016 Advisory Panel Report noted that several important changes took place in the TFSCB program over the past year, as noted regarding the new Data Production window described later in this report. The expansion of coverage of the TFSCB should lead to closer cooperation between the TFSCB program and respective responsible policy units at the World Bank, as well as with international donor community involved with SDGs and with policy makers.

8. Despite these improvements to the TFSCB program, the 2016 Advisory Panel report did point out that issues of ownership and sustainability of projects will still need to be addressed. The overall aim of the TFSCB program should be to contribute to a complete integration of the grant-funded data production and other technical assistance into the country's National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) or corresponding statistical plan. That said, it is also important to continue the support of the TFSCB's "traditional projects", including creating new or updating existing NSDS, which continue to play a strong role in statistical capacity building in general.

## 1. Introduction

The Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) is a multi-donor trust-fund, administered by the World Bank, and closely coordinated with the work of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21) and other donors as part of the worldwide effort to reduce poverty by strengthening the evidence base for decision making.

Over the years, the TFSCB has been repositioned to meet new demands. Due to the internationally driven identification of data gaps in connection with the SDGs, and to meet the increased demand for data and indicators, the TFSCB initiated in Fall 2015 a pilot window for funding of data production projects, and in particular household surveys. This expansion of the TFSCB mandate was made possible by additional contributions to the TFSCB from UK/DFID and the Government of the Republic of Korea.

## 2. Progress in 2015

### 2.1. Expanding TFSCB Coverage to Data Production

The Fall 2015 TFSCB Window launched a pilot window in “Data Production” (household surveys, National Accounts, economic statistics, etc). These projects can support a budget above the standard \$500,000 ceiling, helping to increase the amount of commitments for the 2015 windows to \$14 million. 16 non-NSDS projects were approved, including three grants for implementation of high priority activities outlined in individual countries' NSDS (such as Sustainable Agriculture, Gender Statistics, Health Statistics, and Innovative Approaches), three grants for advancing the implementation of Open Data in developing countries and 4 grants from the Data Production window.

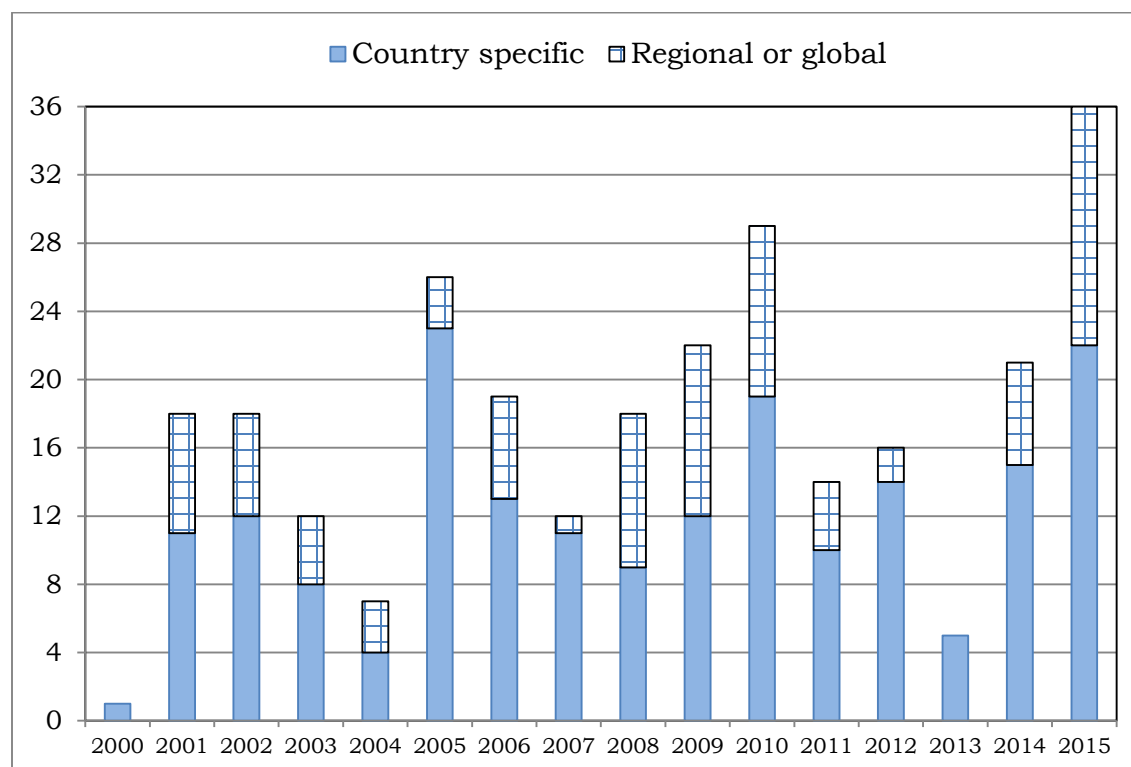
### 2.2. TFSCB Investments in Statistical Capacity

Since its inception, the TFSCB program has approved 268 separate projects over a fifteen year period. Out of this number, 189 are or have been country specific, providing support to statistical capacity building in more than 80 countries in all of the Bank's regions. The Annex to this report provides information on active and pending projects. In calendar year 2015, a total of 32<sup>2</sup> projects were approved, of which 19 were country specific and 13 were global or regional in scope. No NSDS submissions were received during this period. The total value of the approved projects in calendar year 2015 was \$14 million.

Figure 1 shows the rate of approval of projects for each year since 2000, distinguishing between country specific and regional or global projects. It is difficult to identify a firm trend in approvals over time. Changes from year to year are more likely to reflect the level of available funds as much as any underlying changes in demand. There is some suggestion of an increasing level of approvals from 2007 to 2010 in both country specific and global projects. The low amount in 2013 reflects low funds availability at the time, rather than a lack of interest on the part of TTLs. In contrast, the large jump in 2015 is a result of the combination of a spill-over of approvals from the Fall 2014 Window, as well as the introduction of the pilot Data Production Window in the Fall 2015 Window.

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<sup>2</sup> This number is higher than usual. A record number of proposals were approved in the Fall 2014 TFSCB Window, leading to a delay in system approval to calendar year 2015.

**Figure 1: Number of Projects by Calendar Year of Approval**

As can be seen from Table 2, the largest investment by the TFSCB program has been in Sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for 35 percent of the total.

**Table 2: Project Commitments and Disbursements by Region and Type of Project from 2000 to 2015 (millions of US Dollars)**

	SCB Projects	NSDS Projects	Mixed SCB & NSDS Projects	Data Prod.	Other Proj. <sup>3</sup>	Total
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	\$11.5	\$2.7	\$5.4	\$3.7	\$0.0	\$23.3
<b>East Asia and the Pacific</b>	\$5.1	\$1.3	\$1.4	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$7.8
<b>Europe and Central Asia</b>	\$5.1	\$0.9	\$1.2	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$7.2
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	\$7.3	\$1.3	\$0.7	\$0.7	\$0.0	\$9.3
<b>Middle East and North Africa</b>	\$1.3	\$0.2	\$0.5	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2.7
<b>South Asia</b>	\$1.7	\$0.8	\$0.5	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2.9
<b>Global</b>	\$8.2	\$0.1	\$0.0	\$4.5	\$0.9	\$13.7
<b>Total</b>	\$40.3	\$7.4	\$9.5	\$8.9	\$0.9	\$67.0
<b>Percentage</b>	60%	11%	14%	13%	1%	

<sup>3</sup> "Other Projects" include an evaluation project and support for participation in important workshops and conferences.

### 3. Administration and Finance

#### 3.1. Contributions and Financial Status of TFSCB

The financial status of the TFSCB as of March 10, 2016 is shown in Table 3. Of the \$59 million provided to TFSCB III from donor contributions, investment income and transfers from TFSCB I and II, \$51 million has been allocated/committed, leaving about \$9 million available for new projects.

#### 3.2. Monitoring Project Performance

The biannual assessment of the Task Team Leaders (TTLs) and the management responsible for the projects - undertaken through the World Bank's grant reporting mechanism (GRM) - indicates that most projects have successfully carried out the planned activities and have achieved or are likely to achieve the intended objectives.

Supervision of projects has, for the most part, not posed any major problems. As most World Bank country units have provided sufficient resources for supervision, only a few TTLs have needed supervision funds allocated centrally from TFSCB III. However, the Administration Unit recognizes that fragile states may require special attention, especially in cases where lack of budgetary support for supervision from the World Bank's country unit results in inability to initiate or implement projects despite countries' requests. A small budget is also being offered to TTLs of recently closed projects to submit a more detailed project report than what is required by the World Bank's internal systems.

**Table 3: TFSCB III Financial Status (Millions of US Dollars)**

<b>TFSCB III</b>	
<b>A. Donor contributions, investment income and transfers</b>	<b>\$59.2</b>
<b>B. Total allocation</b>	<b>\$50.6</b>
B1. Allocation to projects	\$45.7
B2. Refunded to donors	\$1.5
B3. TFSCB oversight, proposal review, reporting & monitoring (2007-2015)	\$ 2.0
B4. TFSCB project supervision (2007-2015)	\$ 0.2
B5. Administration fee (2%)	\$ 1.2
<b>C. Unallocated available funds (C = A - B)</b>	<b>\$8.7</b>

### 4. Future Directions

To maximize its impact, the TFSCB strives to respond to changes in the drivers of demand for support for capacity building, increase the visibility of statistical needs in the Bank's partner countries, catalyze increases in financing for statistics, focus on results, and ensure that its procedures and processes are cost effective and efficient.

Although we have seen progress over the past decade, development data remain a scarce resource. Given their value in measuring – and propelling – social and economic progress, the High-level Panel (HLP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda called for a “data revolution.” Consistent with the Busan Action Plan on Statistics (BAPS) and the HLP's recommendations, the TFSCB is putting special emphasis on supporting projects aiming at: (i) making government

data more accessible; (ii) improving the production and use of Gender Statistics; (iii) improving the data foundation for measuring sustainable development; and (iv) funding innovative approaches while continuing its support to help countries selectively strengthen their capacity to produce and disseminate statistics. The TFSCB's focus on emerging issues and successful adaptation to new data needs were also recognized by the Advisory Panel in their latest report.

Looking ahead, and following the recommendation of the Advisory Panel, the TFSCB will continue to review its sphere of influence and strive to further reconcile its original objective of developing and implementing national strategies for the development of statistics and statistical capacity building with emerging funding opportunities for subject matter areas. One example where the TFSCB has responded to the upcoming need for filling key data gaps in order to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals has been the launching of the new (and currently pilot) Data Production window in Fall 2015. Countries identified as "data deprived" or "vulnerable to data deprivation", and close to implementing a survey, have been invited to participate in this window. The Data Production grants are larger than previously and cover operational costs as well, thereby co-financing household surveys in several needy countries. Tentative plans have been drafted to continue to broaden the scope of the TFSCB in 2016 via a possible "Innovation Fund" window, prioritizing projects that advance innovations in the production, dissemination and use of data and statistics. For these new windows to be maintained the TFSCB would need to receive further funding from donors. It is believed however that focusing on filling data gaps for monitoring the SDGs, for example, could be attractive to a larger pool of donors.

The 2016 TFSCB Advisory Panel's Report is valuable in proposing new areas of support, suggesting strategies for increasing the donor base, and identifying potential improvements in TFSCB administration. Box 1 provides the key recommendations of the Advisory Panel (AP). The TFSCB Administration Unit is taking a hard look at implementing the AP's specific recommendations to leverage the most of TFSCB-funding activities and increasing the donor base while remaining relevant to global needs and challenges.



**Box 1: Key Recommendations of the 2016 Advisory Panel**

1. Encourage client countries to complement projects on Data Production with grants on SCB in order to both enhance and foster the sustainability of the capacity building aspects of household survey projects.
2. The TFSCB should continue to support SCB projects, including the creation of new or updating of existing NSDS programs, in order to reconcile new challenges with the original core objectives of the TFSCB.
3. Present case studies of successful TFSCB-funded projects on a national level to prospective donors and clients.
4. 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”.
5. Conduct concluding guided interviews with clients to assess ownership aspects of Data Production and to gather suggestions on how to foster ownership in future projects.
6. Increase the flexibility of TFSCB procedures to allow for Bank Executed grants in such cases where there is a manifest demand on the client side but a lack of administrative infrastructure for grant administration.

**ANNEX 1****Active or Pending TFSCB Projects as of end-March 2016**

<b>Country/Region</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Financed Amount (\$)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Status<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Project Type<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Approval Year</b>
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>					
Cape Verde	Statistical Capacity Building	287,600		SCB	2010
Niger	Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building	299,156		NSDS & SCB	2011
Togo	Support to NSDS Implementation	375,842		NSDS & SCB	2012
Mauritania	TFSCB Support to NSDS	451,259		NSDS & SCB	2013
Burkina Faso	ODRA and Drought Risks	300,000		SCB	2014
Gambia	Statistical Capacity Building	435,000		SCB	2014
Lesotho	Improvement of the HBS	395,000		SCB	2014
Mali	Improving the Quality and Access to Data	450,000		SCB	2014
Somalia	Statistical Capacity Building program	500,000	Pending	NSDS	2014
Sudan	Statistical Capacity Building	500,000		SCB	2014
Zambia	Strengthening Capacity for Poverty & Economic Statistics	250,000		SCB	2014
Benin	Statistical Capacity Building	264,040	Pending	SCB	2015
Ethiopia	Supporting Open Data Initiative	300,000		SCB	2015
Liberia	Strengthening National Statistics	500,000		SCB	2015
Ethiopia	2017 Population & Housing Census	500,000	Pending	SCB	2015
Sierra Leone	Support for the 2016 Integrated Household Survey	1,388,801		DP	2016
Tanzania	Mainland Household Budget Survey	2,300,000		DP	2016
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa - Regional</b>					
Africa	Statistical Capacity Building in the SACU Region	470,000		SCB	2015

Africa	Improving Statistics for Sustainable Agriculture	442,000		SCB	2015
Africa	West Africa Welfare Survey Modernization Program	489,200		SCB	2015
<b>East Asia and the Pacific</b>					
Vietnam	Improvement of the Dissemination of Vietnam's National Statistics	308,300		SCB	2012
Myanmar	Developing an NSDS	202,400		NSDS	2013
Philippines	Updating the Philippines NSDS	500,000		NSDS	2014
Cambodia	Enhancement of Poverty Analysis Capacity	349,300		SCB	2015
China	Capacity Building & Support Program to Open Data Initiatives	100,000	Pending	SCB	2015
Mongolia	NSO Capacity Enhancement	480,000		SCB	2015
Vietnam	Transport & Trade Logistics	498,460	Pending	SCB	2015
<b>East Asia and the Pacific - Regional</b>					
EAP (Pacific Islands)	Preparation of the Pacific Regional Data Repository for Sustainable Energy for All	229,910		NSDS	2014
EAP (Mongolia & Vietnam)	Statistical Capacity Building in Public Procurement	480,000		SCB	2015
<b>Europe and Central Asia</b>					
Moldova	Strengthening Capacity of Ministry of Education	365,000		SCB	2015
Moldova	Skills Data Capacity Building	300,000	Pending	SCB	2015
Turkmenistan	Development of a National Welfare Monitoring System	328,210	Pending	SCB	2015
<b>Europe and Central Asia - Regional</b>					
ECA	Developing Statistical Capacity in NA, Price Statistics, & PPPs in CIS Region	390,000		SCB	2015
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>					
Dominican Republic	Strengthening Gender Statistics	225,000		SCB	2014
Nicaragua	Capacity Building for Health Statistics	212,000		SCB	2014

Panama	Integrated National Health Statistics System	290,000		SCB	2014
El Salvador	Indicators for Educational Opportunities	98,680		SCB	2015
Bolivia	Living Well Indicators	300,000	Pending	SCB	2015
Haiti	Strengthening the Education M&E System	500,000	Pending	SCB	2015
Guatemala	Improving Quality & Accessibility of Data for Evidence-Based Decision Making	397,500	Pending	SCB	2015
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean - Regional</b>					
LAC (Caribbean)	ODRA Action Plan	200,000	Pending	SCB	2014
LAC (Caribbean)	Energy Statistics (OLADE)	500,000	Pending	SCB	2015
LAC (Caribbean)	Measuring the Economic Impact of Tourism in the OECS	400,000		SCB	2015
<b>Middle East and North Africa</b>					
West Bank/Gaza	Palestine PECS 2016/17	700,000		DP	2016
<b>South Asia</b>					
Bangladesh	Enhancing Capacity for Urban Poverty Statistics	300,000		SCB	2014
Sri Lanka	Improving Poverty Estimation	160,000		SCB	2014
Pakistan	NSO Capacity Building	140,000		SCB	2015
Bangladesh	NSO Capacity Building	383,300		SCB	2015
<b>Global</b>					
Global	Supporting the Implementation of the Scaling-Up Initiative for SCB	455,000		SCB	2008
Global	Workshops and Seminars	400,000		Workshops and seminars	2010
Global	Support for Open Government Data Initiatives (SOGDI)	500,000		SCB	2012
Global	3rd Round of ODRA & Action Plans	350,000		SCB	2014
Global	Open Data e-Learning	274,500		SCB	2014
Global	ISI Support for Developing Country Participation in Conferences	500,000		SCB	2014

Global	Africa Open Data Regional Conference & Community Development	200,000		SCB	2015
Global	Implementation of the 2020 Census Program	299,600		SCB	2015
Global (ESCWA countries)	Harmonization of Price Statistics & NA Activities & Production of Biennial PPP	388,410		SCB	2015
Global	Improvement of Survey Data Quality & Timeliness Using CAPI Technology	300,000		SCB	2015
Global	Integrating Gender into National Statistical Systems	400,000		SCB	2015
Global	Support for Implementation of Open Data in Developing Countries (2)	450,000		SCB	2015
Global	TA for Improving Household Surveys	4,479,774		DP	2015

#### Notes

1/ The committed amount is shown.

2/ Projects are active unless otherwise indicated.

3/ "NSDS" indicates projects for the preparation of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics. "SCB" denotes statistical development projects. "NSDS & SCB" are projects combining these two types of activities. "DP" reflects the new Data Production window.