

## TC Document

### I. Basic Information for TC

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| ▪ Country/Region:  | REGIONAL   |
| ▪ TC Name:   | Supporting Data Openness of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) National Statistical Offices   |
| ▪ TC Number:   | RG-T3659   |
| ▪ Team Leader/Members:   | Mejia-Guerra, Jose Antonio (IFD/ICS) Team Leader; Muent Kunigami, Arturo (IFD/ICS) Alternate Team Leader; Gamba, Jacopo (IFD/ICS); Mahfouz, Giovanna L. (IFD/ICS); Manzur Madariaga, Michelle (IFD/ICS); Negret Garrido, Cesar Andres (LEG/SGO); Yee Amezaga, Karla Mirari (IFD/ICS) |
| ▪ Taxonomy:  | Client Support   |
| ▪ Operation Supported by the TC:                                   | .  |
| ▪ Date of TC Abstract authorization:                               | 24 Mar 2020.   |
| ▪ Beneficiary:   | El Salvador, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago   |
| ▪ Executing Agency and contact name:                               | Inter-American Development Bank  |
| ▪ Donors providing funding:  | Transparency Trust Fund(AAF)   |
| ▪ IDB Funding Requested:   | US\$150,000.00   |
| ▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:                               | US\$0  |
| ▪ Disbursement period (which includes Execution period):           | 24 months  |
| ▪ Required start date:   | July 2020  |
| ▪ Types of consultants:  | Individuals; Firms   |
| ▪ Prepared by Unit:  | IFD/ICS-Innovation in Citizen Services Division  |
| ▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:                             | IFD-Institutions for Development Sector  |
| ▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):                           | N/A  |
| ▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):  | N/A  |
| ▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020: | Social inclusion and equality; Institutional capacity and rule of law  |

### II. Objectives and Justification of the TC

- II.1 Fully incorporating an open data policy into the work of National Statistical Offices (NSO), and having quality and timely official data that is produced at disaggregated levels and is freely available online, are key conditions to enable governmental and non-governmental actors to advance evidence-based policies and initiatives across sectors. Reliable open data is a key factor to ensure an efficient, transparent and equal access to basic services. It can help boost economic growth, facilitate scientific research, and improve public confidence in institutions, as well as contribute to the achievement of international commitments, such as the measurement of progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data](#)

- II.2 The International Open Data Charter<sup>2</sup> defines “open data” as data that is available “with the technical and legal characteristics necessary for it to be freely used, reused, and redistributed by anyone, anytime, anywhere”. The Open Data Charter defines six core principles for open data: a) Open by default; b) Timely and comprehensive; c) Accessible and usable; d) Comparable and interoperable; e) For improved governance and citizen engagement; and f) For inclusive development and innovation.
- II.3 The levels of current and historical data openness and transparency of countries, specifically the data produced by NSOs and all offices within the National Statistical System, have been measured through different systematic assessments and standards. This has allowed to measure progress over time and make comparisons across countries within the region and outside of it. Examples of such assessments are the [Open Data Inventory \(ODIN\)](#),<sup>3</sup> the [Statistical Capacity Indicator](#),<sup>4</sup> the [Open Data Barometer](#),<sup>5</sup> the [Global Open Data Index](#),<sup>6</sup> the [General/Special Data Dissemination System \(GDDS/SDDS\)](#),<sup>7</sup> and the [Tool for Assessing Statistical Capacity \(TASC\)](#),<sup>8</sup> which has been applied by the IDB in 24 countries across LAC.
- II.4 Compared to other regions, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has the largest number of governments adopting the International Open Data Charter, both at the national and subnational levels, and the open data ecosystem keeps growing year by year<sup>9</sup>. However, there is a wide variation within the region: some countries have made progress in publishing open data, reaching positions of world leadership and creating a national community that includes citizens, civil society, academia, and public officials. Other countries have not yet managed to fully design and/or implement their open data initiatives at more basic levels.
- II.5 According to the ODIN ranking,<sup>10</sup> published by Open Data Watch, the scores in LAC range from 68.9 in Mexico to 10.9 in Haiti (on a scale of 0 to 100, 100 being the most desirable score), as shown in Table 1. As a reference, the top ten scores from developed nations range between 78 and 86, with Singapore and Denmark topping the list.<sup>11</sup> The success of Singapore in the global rank can be mainly attributed to the

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<sup>2</sup> The Open Data Charter is a collaboration between governments and organizations working to open up data based on a shared set of Principles. With 73 government adopters and 53 organizations endorsers, our goal is to embed open data as a central ingredient to achieving better solutions to the most pressing policy challenges of our time. [International Open Data Charter](#).

<sup>3</sup> [Open Data Watch](#).

<sup>4</sup> [DataBank Statistical Capacity Indicators](#).

<sup>5</sup> [The Open Data Barometer](#).

<sup>6</sup> [Global Open Data Index](#).

<sup>7</sup> [IMF Standards for Data Dissemination](#).

<sup>8</sup> [Sistemas Estadísticos Nacionales: Conocimiento e Innovación](#).

<sup>9</sup> [Los datos abiertos en América Latina y el Caribe](#).

<sup>10</sup> ODIN is one of the most comprehensive assessments of open data progress, in terms of the number of indicators and countries it covers. ODIN is conducted by Open Data Watch (ODW) and reviews published statistics in twenty-one categories, grouped in social, economic and financial, and environmental statistics. ODIN analyzes representative datasets that are the most pertinent to managing and monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the social, economic, and environmental development of a country. Its fourth edition, the *2018/19 ODIN*, provides an assessment on the coverage and openness of official national statistics in 178 countries around the world, covering 25 out of the 26 IDB borrowing countries (Barbados' national statistical office does not have a functioning website, so it could not be included in the analysis). ODIN evaluates openness on a spectrum, measuring the degree of openness rather than classifying datasets as open or closed. This nuance allows countries to utilize ODIN to inform specific practical actions to improve their open data strategies, as well as use ODIN as a benchmark for measuring progress.

<sup>11</sup> [Open Data Inventory 2018/19 Annual Report](#).

NSO (SingStat) website's high accessibility and openness, including a bulk download function, an application programming interface (API), easy navigation, and a fully open data use policy.

**Table 1. ODIN Country Scores**

| IDB sub-regions/country | 2018/2019         |                   |               | Change since 2016 (%) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|                         | Coverage subscore | Openness subscore | Overall score |                       |
| <b>CAN<sup>12</sup></b> | <b>46.56</b>      | <b>51.72</b>      | <b>49.3</b>   | <b>113%</b>           |
| Bolivia                 | 40.9              | 55.6              | 48.7          | 19%                   |
| Colombia                | 57.2              | 52.8              | 54.9          | 33%                   |
| Ecuador                 | 47.7              | 63.2              | 55.9          | 0%                    |
| Peru                    | 56.7              | 57.3              | 57            | 60%                   |
| Venezuela               | 30.3              | 29.7              | 30            | 1%                    |
| <b>CCB</b>              | <b>32.92</b>      | <b>38.9</b>       | <b>36.1</b>   | <b>286%</b>           |
| Guyana                  | 25.5              | 22.3              | 23.8          | -14%                  |
| Jamaica                 | 47.3              | 71.2              | 60            | 237%                  |
| Suriname                | 34.2              | 37.3              | 35.9          | -5%                   |
| The Bahamas             | 34.5              | 31.9              | 33.1          | 17%                   |
| Trinidad and Tobago     | 23.1              | 31.8              | 27.7          | 51%                   |
| <b>CID</b>              | <b>42</b>         | <b>41.25</b>      | <b>41.6</b>   | <b>552%</b>           |
| Belize                  | 41.5              | 36.8              | 39            | 34%                   |
| Costa Rica              | 47.1              | 59.4              | 53.6          | 187%                  |
| Dominican Republic      | 46.9              | 46.8              | 46.9          | 3%                    |
| El Salvador             | 42.6              | 39.8              | 41.1          | 98%                   |
| Guatemala               | 36.1              | 36.3              | 36.2          | 41%                   |
| Haiti                   | 13.1              | 9                 | 10.9          | 142%                  |
| Honduras                | 42.7              | 37.1              | 39.7          | 41%                   |
| Mexico                  | 57.6              | 78.8              | 68.9          | 3%                    |
| Nicaragua               | 49.9              | 30.1              | 39.4          | 5%                    |
| Panama                  | 42.5              | 38.4              | 40.3          | -2%                   |
| <b>CSC</b>              | <b>47.22</b>      | <b>42.02</b>      | <b>44.46</b>  | <b>129%</b>           |
| Argentina               | 41.7              | 38.4              | 39.9          | 31%                   |
| Brazil                  | 59.2              | 49.9              | 54.3          | 27%                   |
| Chile                   | 42.3              | 30.9              | 36.2          | -18%                  |
| Paraguay                | 46.7              | 39.2              | 42.7          | 21%                   |
| Uruguay                 | 46.2              | 51.7              | 49.2          | 68%                   |

II.6 Even though there is a strong relationship between income level and overall open data scores, every year some of the largest improvements are made by low- and middle-

<sup>12</sup> All sub-regional scores are simple averages.

income countries. In LAC, the case of Jamaica shows that a well-designed technical support program, paired with strong involvement from the local counterpart can have a significant impact, as shown by the country's ODIN score which increased from 17.8 to 60 in the 2016-2019 period. The success of Jamaica is explained by several factors, including tailored in-country technical assistance and a strong involvement and commitment from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) for the design of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). The strategy entailed the adoption of open data standards, increasing the coverage and availability of data, publishing more datasets that were not previously publicly available, adjustments to their existing data portal, the creation of an open data terms of use, and increased coordination between domestic statistical producers.

- II.7 Currently, many challenges remain in the region, such as the need for more governmental institutions to formalize and adopt open data initiatives in a sustainable way; expanding the open data ecosystem to include different sectors and non-governmental actors, such as the private sector, NGOs and academia; strengthening the open data ecosystem through regional initiatives; promoting the generation of basic capabilities to make data more available and accessible to general audiences, and achieving better systematization of existing knowledge or initiatives that document what works and what does not work- and the generation of new knowledge about open data in the region.<sup>13</sup>
- II.8 Moving forward, countries that have achieved great progress will need more specific and tailored assistance to further open their data, for example through more detailed open data licensing; that is, standard, public legal tools used to manage copyright that clarify ambiguities and promote commercial and non-commercial use and unrestricted reuse of data.<sup>14</sup> Other countries will require a more in-depth assistance to lay a solid foundation of basic open data standards and help to achieve support from leadership and willingness from NSO staff to make sustainable improvements within their capacity.
- II.9 This TC will take into consideration key results and lessons learned from previous IDB initiatives implemented in this field, such as [“Open Data for Inclusion and Transparency in LAC” \(RG-T2976\)](#), to guide the assistance provided to the National Statistical Offices (NSOs). Several initiatives emanating from this and other TCs, for example the publications [Los datos abiertos en América Latina y el Caribe](#), [Open Data Demand Templates](#) and [Toward an Open Data Demand Assessment and Segmentation Methodology](#), which explore the open data agenda in the region and the necessary conditions to build sustainable digital strategies; the [open data online courses](#) offered to public officials in Costa Rica, Uruguay and Argentina on data openness, quality and use of data by the government; or the models for the creation of open data institutions, designed to support the Coordination of the National Digital Strategy of Mexico to strengthen the digital transformation in the country, will be a central part of the theoretical and empirical knowledge base that guides the initial evaluation of current data openness and the proposed actions for NSOs, part of the **Component I**, and will be a reference for the development of the regional training course and seminar's format and contents, which are part of the **Component II**. Both components are described in more detail below.

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<sup>13</sup> [Los datos abiertos en América Latina y el Caribe](#).

<sup>14</sup> [Open Data](#).

- II.10 Thus, the general objective of this Technical Cooperation (TC) is to provide technical assistance to NSOs across LAC to foster practices and promote innovations that lead to more openness and accessibility of official data, thus increasing the transparency and the governance of statistical data management.
- II.11 The specific objectives are: (i) to provide tailored and innovative solutions to NSOs based on their current degree of data openness<sup>15</sup> and their interest in improving it; and; (ii) to support the organization of regional training courses and seminars to promote a regional dialogue and exchange of knowledge and best practices on open data among officials from NSOs.
- II.12 This TC is consistent with the Bank's Update to the Institutional Strategy (AB-3190), since quality data –for example, on natural resources, health, education, government operations, public services, and population demographics- that is produced and made accessible to all governmental and non-governmental actors (academia, private sector or civil society organizations) can benefit decision making and policy design, which in turn can help to reduce major barriers to development, such as poverty, and contribute to promote Social Inclusion and Equality.
- II.13 This TC is also aligned with the cross-cutting theme of Institutional Capacity and the Rule of Law, by promoting transparency and coordination among government actors to ensure quality data is produced, widely disseminated and openly accessible.
- II.14 While the activities of the TC focus exclusively on NSOs, ensuring a sound Open Data strategy is in place is going to benefit both governmental and non-governmental actors, by promoting a more transparent public administration and making official data more accessible. Thus, this TC can contribute to enhance citizens' trust in state institutions and improve public services delivery.
- II.15 This TC will be based on the progress achieved by previous IDB TCs focused on supporting public information agencies, strengthening government capacity, modernizing existing information systems and promoting greater data openness, such as [“Open Data for Inclusion and Transparency in LAC” \(RG-T2976\)](#), [“Promoting Open Government, Innovation and Open Data in Latin American & the Caribbean countries \(LAC\)” \(RG-T3225\)](#), [“Diagnostics on Digital Government and Development Effectiveness Country Systems” \(RG-T2969\)](#), [“Modernization of Statistical Legislation in Latin America and the Caribbean” \(RG-T3188\)](#) and [“Sociodemographic statistics: A common approach for Central American Integration System \(SICA\) countries” \(RG-T2973\)](#).
- II.16 The results achieved through this TC will help lay the ground for greater quality official data availability and openness, to better inform our dialogue with the countries and support the design, execution and evaluation of future Bank operations.

### III. Description of activities/components and budget

- III.1 **Component I: Targeted support and training (US\$100,000).** This Component will include the following activities: (i) initial evaluation of current data openness to determine country needs and discuss current open data strategy; (ii) development of a preliminary report with proposed actions based on the assessment and with key recommendations based on the country's priorities; (iii) feedback from country and approval of action plan; (iv) development of agreed activities and materials;

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<sup>15</sup> [Open Data Inventory \(ODIN\)](#)

(v) preparation of a final report that covers the action plan, main lessons learned during the process, and any relevant recommendations for the action plan implementation; and (vi) remote technical support over an estimated 6-month period to support the implementation of the action plan. The design and implementation of the TC will take into account several factors: Open Data principles and best practices determined by international organizations and other leading organizations in the field; both short term needs related to the COVID-19 context and long-term needs to ensure a sustainable open data system over time, and the experience and replicable elements from successful technical assistances in the region, such as the case of Jamaica. The proposal is to provide this technical assistance to El Salvador, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago. Countries were selected based on different factors,<sup>16</sup> such as: i) interest in the project shown by the country; ii) level of progress in open data initiatives, iii) ability to generate results; iv) relevance of the activities financed by this TC in the operational priorities and dialogue between the IDB and each country, and v) feasibility of institutional and budgetary arrangements to ensure the sustainability of the solutions generated.

- III.2 **Component II: Promotion and exchange of knowledge and best practices on open data in LAC (US\$50,000).** (i) Develop a regional training course to teach and disseminate good practices and recommendations that could be adopted by countries with different levels of development in their NSOs' open data initiatives, and (ii) organize a regional seminar to promote the exchange of lessons learned among NSOs that have implemented successful open data initiatives in their countries. Both, the training course and the regional seminar will include lessons learned and testimonies from NSOs that received technical assistance, as described by **Component I**. Both events will be open to all countries in the region.
- III.3 If necessary, the technical assistance, training course and/or regional seminar will be adapted to a remote/online format, using digital tools such as Teams or Zoom, depending on the technological capacity of the country, to ensure an agile implementation, address pressing needs of the country in terms of Open Data given the COVID-19 context, and compliance with any travel restrictions or social distancing policies in place.
- III.4 The Transparency Trust Fund (AAF) Technical Secretariat will be informed on the results and products obtained through this TC.<sup>17</sup> The AAF will be properly acknowledged when publishing knowledge and dissemination products or events.<sup>18</sup> This TC is strategically aligned with the AAF as it promotes wide dissemination of the products of national statistical offices, balancing maximum openness with data integrity and protection.
- III.5 The total cost of this TC will be US\$150,000.00, which will be financed entirely by the Transparency Trust Fund (AAF).

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<sup>16</sup> Countries with which the Bank has a current dialogue on the statistical sector will be given priority.

<sup>17</sup> The intellectual property of all material financed by this operation will belong to the Bank.

<sup>18</sup> All materials produced by this operation will be disseminated using the channels available at the Bank (i.e. website).

### Indicative Budget

| Activity/Component  | Description  | IDB/Fund Funding   | Total Funding      |
|---|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Component I. Targeted support and training.                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial evaluation of current data openness.</li> <li>- Development of a preliminary report.</li> <li>- Development of agreed activities and materials.</li> <li>- Preparation of a final report.</li> <li>- Remote technical support over a 6-month period to support action plan implementation.</li> </ul>   | <b>US\$100,000</b> | <b>US\$100,000</b> |
| Component II. Promotion and exchange of best practices on open data in LAC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organization of a regional training course and seminar to promote the exchange of best practices and lessons learned.</li> <li>- Preparation of training course and seminar agenda and materials.</li> <li>- Facilitation of training course and seminar.</li> <li>- Travel costs (airfare, transportation, hotel accommodation, meals) for facilitator and participants.</li> <li>- Translation services.</li> <li>- Rent of the venue.</li> <li>- Catering services for approx. 30 people.</li> </ul> | <b>US\$50,000</b>  | <b>US\$50,000</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>  |  | <b>US\$150,000</b> | <b>US\$150,000</b> |

#### IV. Executing agency and execution structure

- IV.1 This project will be executed directly by the Bank, through IFD/ICS, in coordination with the country offices (COFs) of participating countries. The IDB has extensive experience in the provision and coordination of technical assistance and in the development of advances in capacity building and the institutional strengthening of NSOs. The regional leadership of the Bank in open data and statistical capacity make it uniquely positioned to be a clearinghouse for knowledge on these topics. The IDB can also contribute to the generation of innovative solutions by attracting experts who are producing advanced knowledge on issues related to the objective of this project. This decision is aligned with appendix 10 of GN-2629-1 which establishes that the Bank can be responsible for the execution of a TC at the request of the beneficiary countries.
- IV.2 The Bank will contract the consultancy services enumerated in the Procurement Plan (Annex IV) in accordance with the current policies and procedures. Acquisitions and services will be carried out in accordance with the Bank's applicable policies and procedures, including the Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting Firms for Bank-Executed Operational Work (GN-2765-4) and its operational guidelines

(OP-1155-4), Complementary Workforce Policy (AM-650), and the IDB Corporate Procurement Policy (GN-2303-28).

- IV.3 The TC will be executed by José Antonio Mejía (the sector specialist in IFD/ICS) in coordination with the ICS sector specialist in the selected countries. With an estimated total FTE of 0.2.
- IV.4 Regarding Component I of the TC, targeted support and training, the consulting firm will be chosen by means of single source selection (SSS). The firm that has been identified for this purpose is Open Data Watch. This firm is uniquely positioned to perform the activities described in the component, given its experience in providing technical assistance to promote data openness in national statistical offices. This experience justifies SSS for the proposed activity. As for the SSS in Component II, the justification is based on the amount of the consulting service contract and that the resources will be used to procure non consulting services (travel arrangements: tickets, per diem and hotels for regional events). These justifications are aligned to Section IV A 4.1.3 of the "Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting Firms for Bank Executed Operational Work" (GN-2765-1).

## **V. Major issues**

- V.1 The main risk is linked to the low interest from countries to participate in the project. To mitigate it, the project will work exclusively with governments that show interest in the initiative; will work closely with government counterparts within the NSOs to develop an open data action plan that is compatible with the country's priorities and other related ongoing national strategies, and offers institutional, technical and budgetary feasibility to ensure the sustainability of the solution generated over the long term.
- V.2 A second risk is related to potential delays or logistical difficulties in the proposed activities, related to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Close communication will be maintained with NSO officials to properly coordinate and adjust the work plan. If necessary, the technical assistance, training course and/or regional seminar will be adapted to a remote/online format.
- V.3 A third risk is that the activities implemented under the program are not sustainable. To mitigate this risk, the TC comprises tailored technical assistance, with actionable recommendations that respond to the particular country needs and resources; follow-up assistance to assess the implementation of the recommended action plan, to make any necessary adjustments; the provision of a training course to reinforce open data standards and skills development, and the organization of a regional seminar for the exchange of regional best practices. All these components seek to promote a better incorporation, easier maintenance and greater sustainability of the open data strategy over the long term.

## **VI. Exceptions to Bank policy**

- VI.1 The project does not include exceptions to the Bank's policies.

## **VII. Environmental and Social Strategy**

- VII.1 There are no expected environmental or social risks associated with the activities outlined in this operation. It is therefore anticipated that its environmental classification will be "C", according to the Environment and Safeguard Compliance Policy (OP-703) (See [Safeguard Policy Filter Report and Safeguard Screening Form](#)).

## **Required Annexes:**



[Request from the Client\\_33251.pdf](#)

[Results Matrix\\_12568.pdf](#)

[Terms of Reference\\_57752.pdf](#)

[Procurement Plan\\_2936.pdf](#)