

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

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| ▪ Country/Region: | REGIONAL/IDB |
| ▪ TC Name: | Statistical Use of Administrative Records: The Opportunities and Challenges in a Digital Government |
| ▪ TC Number: | RG-T3664 |
| ▪ Team Leader/Members: | MEJIA-GUERRA, JOSE ANTONIO (IFD/ICS) Team Leader; BEUERMANN MENDOZA, DIETHER WOLFGANG (CCB/CCB); YEE AMEZAGA, KARLA MIRARI (IFD/ICS); MAHFOUZ, GIOVANNA L. (IFD/ICS); RIVERA, KATIA (IFD/ICS); CHRETIEN, LOUIS-FRANCOIS (LEG/SGO) |
| ▪ Taxonomy: | Client Support |
| ▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC: | N/A |
| ▪ Date of TC Abstract: | 24 Mar 2020 |
| ▪ Beneficiary: | National Statistical Offices in Latinamerican and Caribbean countries |
| ▪ Executing Agency: | INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK |
| ▪ IDB funding requested: | US\$200,000.00 |
| ▪ Local counterpart funding: | US\$0.00 |
| ▪ Disbursement period: | 24 months |
| ▪ 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): | No |
| ▪ TC included in CPD (y/n): | Yes |
| ▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020: | Social inclusion and equality ; Productivity and innovation ; Institutional capacity and rule of law |

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of this project is to work together with countries in LAC to support the transition to more integrated statistical systems that make a more intense statistical use of administrative records for the purpose of producing timely official statistics, that allow for a more coordinated and faster response, and a more efficient provision of services by government agencies.
- 2.2 Up-to-date and quality official statistics are an essential input for the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies in a country. They are also essential to monitor progress in the context of the internationally agreed development agenda, which in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) has established the need for producing quality statistics to measure the achievement of the indicators that support each of the goals.
- Traditionally, official statistics have been produced predominantly from censuses and sample-based surveys in the region. While these continue to be the most direct and common sources, collecting data through these methods requires costly field operations and face-to-face interactions, which in times of emergencies, such as pandemics, can be seriously affected or completely inviable. As a result, the advantages of generating statistics from existing administrative sources are attracting greater attention, particularly in these times of emergency that demand a

fast response. Governments at different levels generate information from their daily interactions with citizens, and hence collect information on many areas of public interest such as civil registry (births, marriage, deaths), education, social security, health, employment, migration, tourism, etc. These administrative records, collected for the purpose of managing an organization, have significant potential as a source of statistical data.

The granularity and frequency of administrative data makes it a key resource in contexts of emergency to keep governments informed about the state of the population, to identify the most affected areas, populations or sectors, and to track the effectivity of policies put in place. Currently, administrative data has proven to be a key resource to track the spread of the coronavirus and to assess the effectivity of social distancing policies to “flatten the curve”; the impact of this pandemic in labor markets, the economy and other sectors; the continuity in the provision of public services, and to design mitigation policies targeted at the populations and sectors most affected by the crisis.

Despite these advantages, in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) administrative records remain the source of statistics that are less frequently used compared to census and sample-based surveys. Therefore, there is an urgent need to help NSOs achieve greater statistical use of administrative records, in addition to the need to invest in methods that allow for remote data collection (for example, completing the census online).

Thus, the region should explore ways to strengthen the ties between national statistical offices (NSOs) and other authorities to better define concepts, design questionnaires and determine data validation rules in an integrated strategic framework for the construction of statistical information systems that can take advantage of administrative records for a more coordinated and faster government response. This is particularly relevant in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the transition to increasingly digital governments has become more necessary than ever, which will imply a more intense flow of information on citizens' interactions with governments and better interoperability between the data systems used by different government agencies.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Identifying areas of opportunity and defining a roadmap (US\$ 120,000).** Finance the carrying out of in-depth dialogues with selected countries to: (i) collect detailed information about the country's current situation on the use of administrative registers (diagnosis); and, (ii) determine an action plan for the country that focuses on capacity development. The diagnosis and the action plan will be designed taking into consideration the areas of opportunity and the challenges that the COVID-19 crisis has presented for the production of official statistics.
- 3.2 **Component II: Peer to peer exchanges and production of learning materials. (US\$ 80,000)** Focuses on the development of technical skills among NSOs employees through the organization of a regional seminar, so that the countries present their advances in the statistical use of administrative records and to exchange lessons learned and best practices, and the generation of learning materials with actionable recommendations, study cases and innovative methodologies to improve the use and integration of administrative records for statistical purposes.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

| Activity/Component | IDB/Fund Funding | Total Funding |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Identifying areas of opportunity and defining a roadmap | US\$120,000.00 | US\$120,000.00 |
| Peer to peer exchanges and production of learning materials | US\$80,000.00 | US\$80,000.00 |
| Total | US\$200,000.00 | US\$200,000.00 |

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 Based on the regional nature of this operation the Bank will fulfill the role of executing agency. 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 IDB can also contribute to the generation of innovative solutions by attracting experts who are producing advanced knowledge on issues related to the use of administrative registers for a coordinated emergency response and to support the implementation of population censuses in other parts of the world.

The Bank will contract consultancy services in accordance with the current policies and procedures at the Bank. 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-2765-1) and its operational guidelines (OP-1155-4), Complementary Workforce Policy (AM-650), and the IDB Corporate Procurement Policy (GN 2303 20).

- 5.2 The Bank has been working over the years to become the lead institution in promoting the statistical use of administrative records in LAC. The Bank has also explored ways to work with partners that can transfer knowledge on the topic from the countries that have advanced in producing statistics from this source, including Nordic countries (Sweden and Denmark), Spain, and the Republic of Korea. These and other countries could also share valuable knowledge and experience on the use of administrative registers in times of emergency. The Bank has also promoted the standardization of a knowledge base on the subject. In 2012, in coordination with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI), the Bank financed the translation into Spanish, the publication and distribution of the book Register-based Statistics. Statistical Methods for Administrative Data. The Bank has also funded projects to improve the quality and use of administrative records to produce agricultural statistics (Development of a methodology to implement agricultural data systems, RG-T2526) and population and housing statistics in the Andean countries (Population and Housing Statistics Produced with the Use of Official Administrative Registries, RG-T2430), both financed through the Regional Public Goods Initiative. These operations were limited in sectoral scope (agriculture) and country coverage (Andean sub region).

These projects have contributed to create more interest and commitment in countries throughout the region to invest in the statistical use of administrative records, particularly in the area of population statistics. Moving forward, it is crucial to have more in-depth dialogues with countries, to determine key challenges and priorities, and develop together tailored and actionable plans with innovative solutions, for a more coordinated, cost-effective and intensive use of administrative records for statistical purposes. This is particularly important in the current emergency scenario, where timely data needs to keep being collected and be accessible for a fast and coordinated government response. The development of administrative records also gains importance in the

context of the implementation of the 2020 population census round, which presents an opportunity to innovate through the integration of administrative records data with census information. Hence the need to continue working on the subject.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 Risk: This TC has a low risk level given the current level of interest from NSOs in LAC countries to make a more intense use of administrative records for statistical purposes. The main risk is that this interest won't be matched by access to administrative records from the other organizations in government that own them. Mitigation: The way to reduce the risk is to focus the work on agencies with which the NSO already has a good working relationship and/or those for which the current legal framework provides clear support. Work meetings with countries and the regional seminar can be adapted to a virtual format if necessary, in case any travel restrictions or other contingency measures are in place.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".