

## Technical Cooperation Abstract

### I. BASIC INFORMATION

Country/Region:	All member countries/Regional
TC Name:	Promoting the use of Administrative Registries for Statistical Purposes (the AR4S Initiative)
TC Number:	RG-T2485
Team Leader/Members:	Gilberto Moncada (IFD/ICS), Janine Perfit (IFD/ICS), Alicia Álvarez (IFD/ICS); and Mariko Russell (IFD/ICS, Project Team Leader)
Taxonomy	Research & Dissemination
Date of TC Abstract:	June 10, 2014
Beneficiary:	IDB member countries
Executing Agency and contact name	IDB/IFD/ICS
IDB Funding Requested:	US\$270,000 (to be requested Special Program for Institutional Development (SPID) )
Local counterpart funding:	N/A
Disbursement period (which includes execution period):	18 months
Required start date:	June 2014
Types of consultants	Individual
Prepared by Unit:	IFD/ICS
Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD/ICS
Included in Country Strategy (y/n);	Yes as part of "County Systems"
TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
GCI-9 Sector Priority:	Yes (poverty targeted)

### II. OBJECTIVES AND JUSTIFICATION

2.1 The **main objective** of this Technical Cooperation (TC) is to establish a continuous platform for promoting the use of administrative registries (AR) for statistical production and sharing knowledge on this theme on a global basis – *Administrative Registries for Statistics (AR4S)*.

2.2 **Statistics as a country system.** As the need for making public institutions more effective, efficient and open is increasing, the role that official statistics are expected to play also is rapidly becoming more important. Specifically in the context of promoting results-based public sector management many countries in the region are looking for ways to **modernize the national statistical system (NSS), which is an integral part of the non-fiduciary country system**. The sources of official statistics produced by the NSS generally include censuses, sample-based surveys and AR, which are a potential source of low-cost, continuous, and geographically complete statistical data that usually already exist as part of the administrative processes of various government ministries and agencies.

2.3 **Problems and proposed solutions.** In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), AR is the source of statistics that is less frequently utilized compared to censuses and sample-based surveys, which are more costly. This causes multiple problems: i) collection of information from citizens is often duplicated or triplicated across the public sector, resulting in the dissatisfaction among them; ii) more than one source for similar statistics exist; and iii) statistics are not timely due to the long period of time needed for processing surveys and other instruments. To improve this situation, national statistical offices need to exercise authority over the production of AR across the NSS and the ministries and agencies need to strengthen the capacities to manage registries. Since the lack of the use of AR is a common problem across the region, solutions should be sought in a joint manner. For this reason, a series of actions including a continuous dialogue with the countries of the region, determination of a common methodological framework and strategic positioning of AR4S will be necessary. This TC will support this line of actions to contribute to the institutional development of the public sector targeting a higher level of effectiveness, efficiency and openness. The impact of this TC will be the strengthening of the non-fiduciary national system (statistical system) and the

objective is to have at least three countries promoting AR4S with new programs and/or organizational units. The TC also seeks to mobilize additional resources for future AR4S interventions on a broader scale in the participating countries.

- 2.4 **The role of the Bank.** The Bank has been exploring ways to work with partners that can transfer knowledge regarding the use of AR from the countries that are advanced in producing them, including Nordic countries and the Republic of Korea. Based on the lessons learned from these activities, the Bank has positioned itself as the lead institution in promoting the use of AR in the context of the MDB MoU Contact Group<sup>1</sup>. As the first operation in this theme, the Bank is beginning to implement a Regional Public Goods (RPG) program with the countries of the Andean Community to promote the use of population and business registries for statistical production<sup>2</sup>. A conceptual framework and common methodology will be developed to create an Integrated System of Population and Business Registries, drawing on the experiences of the participating institutions. For the Bank to effectively fulfill its function in the MOU group and play a catalytic role in the institutional strengthening of the NSS in the region, it is necessary to establish a high-profile technical secretariat that promotes the development and use of AR. This secretariat will function as the center of all AR activities for: i) generating and sharing knowledge regarding the production and use of AR on a global level; and ii) coordinating events for outreach and knowledge sharing purposes.

### **III. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES/COMPONENTS AND BUDGET**

- 3.1 The TC proposes to establish a technical secretariat for Promoting the use of Administrative Registries for Statistical Purposes (AR4S) through the following activities:

3.2 **Component I – Diagnostics of the Current Situation and Strategic Positioning of AR4S**

**(a) Preparation of an AR4S Base Document**

To promote AR4S, it is important to set a theoretical basis that supports the creation of more efficient statistical systems using AR4S, emphasizing that the statistical system forms part of the non-fiduciary national systems which allow governments to incorporate the management results in the process of formulation and improvement of public policies. Subsequently it is essential to find out the current situation of AR4S in the countries of the region. For this purpose a technical paper will be produced that will: i) make a business case for further promoting AR4S; ii) provide a brief diagnosis of the AR4S situation of LAC countries; and iii) make recommendations on strategic directions for the AR4S initiative. Since this activity is an integral part of this TC, it will be carried out using in-house resources.

**(b) Organizing and Launching of the Statistics Expert Group**

The statistical community of the LAC region is responsible for voicing the need for and importance of AR4S. To make this case, a group of international statistical experts who can advise the Bank on how the Bank can assist the region on globally important matters and trends, with an emphasis on AR4S, will be formed as the Statistics Expert Group. Members of this Group will support the promotion of AR4S on a continuous basis.

3.3 **Component II - Country Engagement in the Theme of AR4S**

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<sup>1</sup> Following an agreement among several international organizations to improve collaboration on statistical activities to support the post-2015 framework, the Heads of the Multilateral Development Banks, the World Bank, the IMF and the UN Secretary General signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on April 19, 2013 to foster improved collaboration in building the statistical capacity of client countries. The MOU lays out the guiding principles necessary to improve the scope, quality and accessibility of the data, and to strengthen client countries' capacity to produce high-quality statistics for monitoring development outcomes, including post-2015 development goals.

<sup>2</sup> "Population and Housing Statistics Produced with the Use of Official Administrative Registries" (ATN/OC-14340-RG).

#### **(a) Participation of experts and stakeholders**

The Bank's continuous dialogue with the regional statistical community through different venues<sup>3</sup> has revealed that some countries in the region are already highly interested in developing the AR4S agenda. This is particularly the case among the Andean countries that organized a seminar on the theme featuring a European expert. Starting the AR4S initiative with an emphasis on the Andean countries will have a catalytic effect to further spread the initiative to other countries in the region. In this subcomponent the Bank will carry out in-depth dialogue with select countries to: i) collect detailed information about the country's current situation and future plans regarding AR4S; and ii) determine actions that the country and the Bank can take jointly to promote the initiative, including the themes to be covered in the international conference described in 3.4 (a).

#### **(b) Involvement of the RPG project by the Andean Community**

To generate knowledge and learn from successful as well as not-so-successful experiences, this TC will make a direct link to an actual Bank project currently in execution. A technical workshop of the above-mentioned Regional Public Goods project "Population and Housing Statistics Produced with the Use of Official Administrative Registries" will form part of the AR4S agenda.

#### **(c) Creation of AR Portal**

At present the region has no mechanism through which countries can share knowledge about the use of AR for statistical production. Neither is there a forum where the importance and practicality of AR4S is voiced on a continual basis. For this reason creating a knowledge sharing platform as a way to engage the countries is important for the region. To this end, this subcomponent would create an AR Portal which will: i) become a one-stop source and repository for the theme of AR for statistical purposes; and ii) create an avenue for communication for all parties interested in the theme. For this purpose, the use of the IDB tool *Comunidades* will be explored in consultation with the Knowledge and Learning Sector (KNL).

### **3.4 Component III – Dissemination of Results**

#### **(a) Organization of an AR4S Knowledge Sharing International Conference**

To share the knowledge gathered through components I and II, an international conference will be organized involving the countries that were not engaged in component II. The deliverables of this subcomponent are: i) identification and invitation of relevant participants in the AR4S international conference to be held in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2014, which will be comprised of global AR4S experts from the countries where the use of AR for statistical purposes is at an advanced stage, international organizations that form part of the MoU Contact Group and LAC statistics producers from NSO and other NSS agencies; and ii) all logistical arrangements and related conference services.

#### **(b) Preparation of the final document through the discussion during the conference**

The paper mentioned in I-(a), to be distributed to the participants of the conference prior to the event, will incorporate a set of agreed-upon principles and proposed actions to promote AR4S. It will be published as the final product of the conference and will be the base operational document for the AR4S initiative. Since this activity is an integral part of this TC, it will be carried out using in-house resources.

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<sup>3</sup> The venues include the 2013 "Statistics for Development" conference organized jointly by the Bank and the Statistics Korea, as well as regular meetings of the United Nations Statistical Commission and of the Statistics Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, and PARIS21 among others.

- 3.5 The project is expected to be implemented over an 18-month period with technical oversight provided by a principal consultant, who will be an expert in the theme. The indicative budget of the TC is shown in the table below:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Budget for item US\$</b>
<b>Comp. I. Diagnostics of the Current Situation and Strategic Positioning of AR4S</b>	Consultancy to support the organizing and launching the Statistics Expert Group (\$5,000/month x 4 months)	US\$20,000
<b>Comp. II. Country Engagement in the theme of AR4S</b>	Consultancy to carry out in-depth dialogue with key countries in the region to promote the AR4S initiative (\$500/day x 20 days per country x 5 countries) (\$3,000 per trip x 5 countries)	US\$65,000
	Consultancy to design, launch, maintain and facilitate the AR4S portal (\$5,000/month x 15 months)	\$75,000
<b>Component III. Dissemination of Results</b>	Organization of the AR4S International Conference (air ticket \$2,500 x 20, Per diem including lodging \$1,000 x 20, conference logistics \$30,000)	\$100,000
	<b>Contingencies</b>	US\$10,000
	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>US\$270,000</b>

#### **IV. EXECUTING AGENCY AND EXECUTION STRUCTURE**

- 4.1 The administrative and technical supervision of the proposed TC will be under the responsibility of IFD/ICS.
- 4.2 Any contracting will be undertaken following the Bank's policies and procedures. The procurement of individual consulting services will be carried out by the IDB in accordance with Human Resources Department (HRD) policies. The procurement of services different from consultants will be carried out by the Bank in accordance with Corporate Procurement Policies (GN-2303-20).

#### **V. MAJOR ISSUES**

- 5.1 This TC requires a strong commitment and ownership on the part of different stakeholders of the participating countries, not only by the national statistical offices (NSO) but also by the policymaking bodies such as planning offices of the central governments. The project team will ensure that beneficiaries agree to proactively participate in the knowledge-sharing platform on a continuous basis. Also, the TC will ensure that the materials developed, particularly the AR4S base document, will be peer reviewed by a broad range of experts.

#### **VI. EXCEPTIONS TO BANK POLICY**

- 6.1 No exceptions to Bank policy are envisioned.

#### **VII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STRATEGY**

- 7.1 According to the Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy (OP-703), the TC has been classified as category C. No potential negative environmental and/or social impacts of the TC were identified and therefore no mitigation strategy is required to address any impact. See [IDBdocs#38742580](#)