



Project Information Document (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 19-Nov-2020 | Report No: PIDC30560



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country OECS Countries	Project ID P174986	Parent Project ID (if any)	Project Name OECS Data for Decision Making (P174986)
Region LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Estimated Appraisal Date Mar 22, 2021	Estimated Board Date Jul 09, 2021	Practice Area (Lead) Poverty and Equity
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)	Implementing Agency St Lucia Central Statistics Office, St Vincent and the Grenadines Central Statistics Office, Grenada Central Statistics Office, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To improve the capacity of select Eastern Caribbean countries to produce and publicly disseminate statistical data in a timely manner for evidence-based policy making at both the country and regional levels.

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	29.00
Total Financing	29.00
of which IBRD/IDA	29.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	29.00
IDA Credit	24.00
IDA Grant	5.00



Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Moderate

Concept Review Decision

Track II-The review did authorize the preparation to continue

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Regional / Country Context

The Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is an inter-governmental international organization dedicated to fostering regional integration in the Eastern Caribbean and comprised of eleven member states – seven full member states¹ and four associate members. To enhance economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection in all member states, the OECS is guided by the following five strategic objectives: (1) advance, support and accelerate regional trade, economic and social integration; (2) mainstream climate, economic, environmental and social resilience; (3) promote and support equity and social inclusion; and leverage the cultural and linguistic diversity of the OECS; (4) support alignment of foreign policy of Member States with the development needs of the OECS; and (5) align and strengthen the institutional systems of the Commission to effectively deliver its mandate.

The OECS strategic objectives require comparable data to monitor progress across member states and to inform the formulation of regional policies. To inform regional policy making and to measure development and integration progress of the OECS Economic Union – nationally and regionally, the OECS created a Regional Statistical System (RSS). The OECS Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) (2017-2030) was adopted to support the OECS Economic Union's development and integration agenda by formalizing, empowering, consolidating and promoting the RSS, so that it can respond to the demand for relevant, high quality and Treaty-enabled data and official statistics. The RSDS aims to determine and schedule the statistical requirements for economic, social, human and environmental development.

Three IDA-eligible OECS member countries (Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines), which are the focus of the country level components of this project, are among the world's smallest countries and face a high degree of economic volatility. These countries have populations ranging from around 110,000 people in Grenada and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to 180,000 in St. Lucia. By leveraging external demand, they have overcome their challenge of small internal markets and labor forces, which, however, has exposed them to greater economic volatility. Their narrowly based economies are highly dependent on services, in particular, tourism. In addition, these countries are heavily exposed to natural disasters, namely hurricanes. With limited resources, narrowly-based economies, and vulnerability to natural disasters, they face a high degree of exposure to economic volatility which in turn has the

¹ The full member states are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines; while the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Martinique, and Guadeloupe are associate members.



potential to impact livelihoods and well-being. Although the limited available data suggest these countries rank comparatively well in poverty and human development, unemployment has been high, with unemployment rates in 2019 reaching 18.9 and 20.7 percent in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia, respectively, well above the 8.6 percent average for all small states globally.²

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Data deprivation among OECS member states limits data-driven decision making. The IDA-eligible OECS members are considered data deprived³ as household surveys to monitor poverty are conducted once every ten years or less frequently. Moreover, although three of the four countries have conducted a Household Budget and Living Conditions Survey (HBS-SLC) recently, only St. Lucia has published a report of the survey results, meaning the latest data and analyses available for the other countries are from the mid-2000s (see Table 1. **Recommended and actual frequency of key surveys in IDA-eligible OECS countries**). Outdated data and analysis of poverty prevalence, root causes of poverty, or distributional aspects prohibit identifying the poor and vulnerable population and adequate targeting policies to reduce poverty. Other key socioeconomic information, such as labor market data, is also not collected systematically and made available in all countries, although this information is critical for policymaking. Although St. Lucia and Grenada conduct quarterly labor force surveys (LFS), St. Vincent and the Grenadines only conducts an LFS every other year, and in Dominica, the last LFS was conducted in 2013. Data from specialized health surveys, such as the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) or the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), do not exist, apart from St. Lucia, where the MICS was conducted in 2012. Given the centrality of household survey data to sectoral analyses, such as education, health services, labor markets, and skills, the lack of up-to-date statistics limits the provision of important inputs for decision making. This has been particularly evident this year when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the region, and social protection and emergency assistance responses needed to be designed quickly.

Table 1. Recommended and actual frequency of key surveys in IDA-eligible OECS countries

	Household Budget and Living Conditions Survey	Labor Force Survey	Health survey (DHS, MICS)	Agricultural Census
<i>Recommended frequency</i>	<i>every 3-5 years</i>	<i>Quarterly</i>	<i>every 3-5 years</i>	<i>every ten years</i>
Dominica	1995, 2005	2013	none	1995, 2015
Grenada	1998, 2008, 2018*	Quarterly	none	1995, 2012
St. Lucia	1995, 2005, 2016	Quarterly	2012	1996, 2007
St. Vincent and Grenadines	1996, 2008, 2018*	Every two years (2015, 2017, 2019)	none	1986, 2000

* data/report not yet available/published

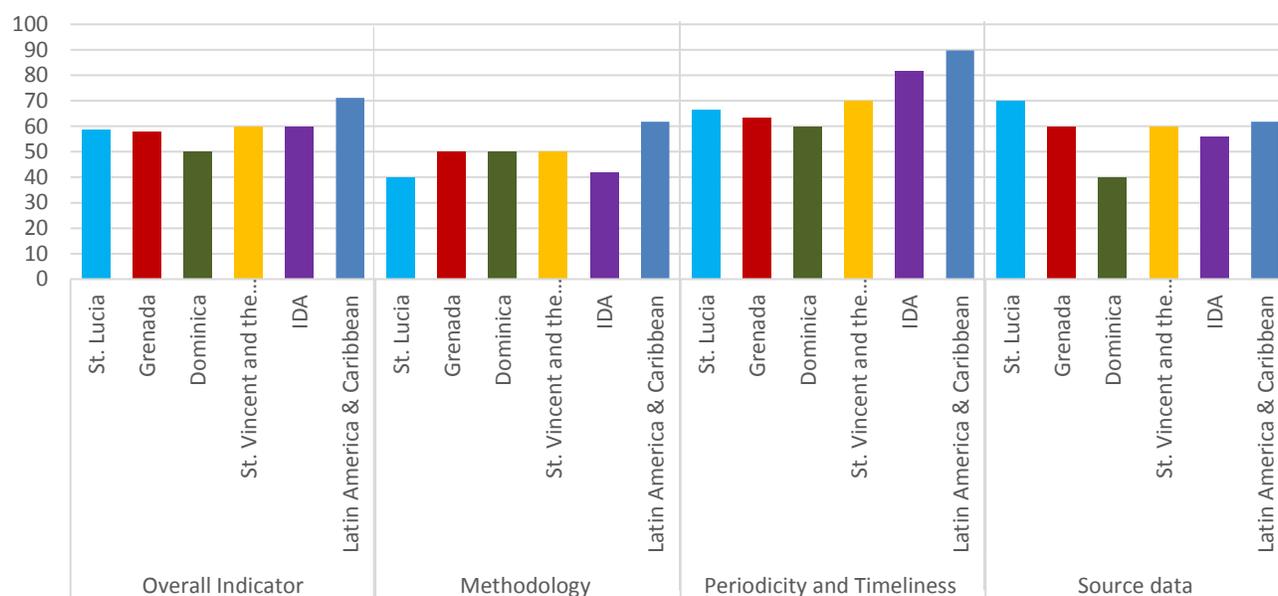
² These are modeled ILO estimates and might differ from national estimates.

³ Serajuddin, Umar; Uematsu, Hiroki; Wieser, Christina; Yoshida, Nobuo; Dabalen, Andrew L.. 2015. Data deprivation: another deprivation to end. Policy Research working paper; no. WPS 7252. Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group.

A country is considered to be data deprived if one or fewer poverty estimates are available within any ten year period.



Figure 1. Statistical Capacity Indicator (2019)



Source: World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator. <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/statistical-capacity-indicators>.

Statistical capacity is relatively low, although there is variation across countries. In 2019, the World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator (SCI)⁴ ranged between 50 in Dominica to 60 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, similar to or below the average for IDA countries, despite being upper-middle-income countries. They all scored 10 or more points below the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) regional average. For the SCI, countries are assessed on three dimensions of statistical capacity: (i) methodology – capacity to meet internationally recommended standards, methods and data reporting practices in economic and social statistics, (ii) periodicity and timeliness – availability and periodicity of key socioeconomic indicators, including the extent to which data are made accessible to users through the transformation of source data into timely statistical outputs, (iii) source data – the extent to which a country meets international recommendations for collecting five key data sources (agricultural Census, health survey, population census, poverty survey, and vital registration system coverage). While the four OECS IDA-eligible countries overall performed comparatively well on methodology, with respect to the average among all IDA countries, they scored much lower than IDA or LAC countries on periodicity and timeliness. The results for the source data category were mixed, with St. Lucia exceeding the IDA and LAC averages, and Dominica scoring much lower than the average scores.

Relationship to CPF

Closing data and knowledge gaps for policymaking are priorities for the World Bank and IDA-eligible OECS member countries. Strengthening statistical capacity to inform policymaking was one of the areas outlined in the World Bank

⁴ The World Bank’s Statistical Capacity Indicator is a composite score assessing the capacity of a country’s statistical system. It is based on a diagnostic framework assessing the following areas: methodology; data sources; and periodicity and timeliness. Countries are scored against 25 criteria in these areas, using publicly available information and/or country input. The overall Statistical Capacity score is then calculated as a simple average of all three area scores on a scale of 0-100.



Group Regional Partnership Strategy for the OECS (FY15-20). The 2018 Systematic Regional Diagnostic (SRD) for the OECS highlighted substantial data gaps in the region. The included data and analytics on poverty, the labor market, migration, remittances, and tourism. The SRD further suggested that data and knowledge challenges may be best tackled at a regional level rather than individual countries alone.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

To improve the capacity of select Eastern Caribbean countries to produce and publicly disseminate statistical data in a timely manner for evidence-based policy making at both the country and regional levels.

Key Results (From PCN)

The expected outcomes of this regional project include the following: (i) the use of modern methods for data collection, archiving, and dissemination; (ii) the increased public availability of regionally harmonized poverty and labor statistics and anonymized microdata, and (iii) increased capacity of national authorities to conduct welfare surveys beyond the duration of this project.

D. Concept Description

The project seeks to achieve the PDO by strengthening national and regional level capacities to collect, analyze, and disseminate data quickly and regularly. This project will address the short-term financial constraints created by the Covid-19 pandemic and technical capacity constraints. This way it will strengthen the statistical capacity of participating countries to increase data availability, which in turn will strengthen governance by enabling evidence-based decision-making and results-based management. The development of the regional and national statistical systems to produce new and improved data will open new avenues of work, such as developing a national monitoring and evaluation system, the efficient allocation of expenditures, performance-based public sector management, and improved accountability. Thus, the project will lay a solid foundation for planning, design, monitoring, and evaluating public programs and policies, both nationally and regionally.

The approach for this proposed project is based on other successful country-level and regional statistics projects⁵. The methodology's core is to strengthen the National Statistical Office (NSO) in activities for which there is substantial demand at the country level and invest in building skills transferrable to other NSO work plan projects. This capacity-building extends to the packaging and dissemination of data, promoting a virtuous demand and implementation cycle. At the national level, Component 1 and Component 2 of the project will strengthen NSOs through (1) Statistical modernization and capacity building and (2) Data production and dissemination. The country projects will provide IDA credit financing between an estimated US\$6 million (in St Vincent and the Grenadines) to a maximum of approximately US\$9 million (in the case of the St. Lucia and Grenada), for a projected total of US\$24 million for the country level operations. At the regional level, the project will strengthen the regional capacities by supporting the OECS Commission's Statistical Unit. Component 3 of the project will support the OECS's mandate for regional integration and strengthening of the regional statistical system. This will include the transitioning of the OECS SSU from its current facilitation role to the direct provision of technical assistance to member states, namely the development of highly specialized skills that

⁵ The Statistical Innovation and Capacity Building in Pacific Islands regional project (P168122) was examined closely due to its similarities involving several small island states.



are only required periodically in the member states, such as sampling, developing consumption aggregates and poverty lines, while at the same time supporting the development of a forum to incorporate new innovations and technological advancements into the future. The regional financing will be up to US\$5 million IDA grant for the OECS Commission's Statistical Services Unit.

Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The overall environmental and social risk classification of the project is moderate.

The Environmental Risk classification of the project is low. The project will largely focus on statistical modernization, institutional capacity, and capacity building activities for data collection, analysis and dissemination for statistical systems. Project activities will include the procurement and installation of software and electronic equipment -mostly servers and computers. Potential environmental risks are related (i) minor retrofitting activities (re-wiring, drilling holes in walls, moving furniture, and others) that may be needed for the installation of electronic equipment; (ii) management and disposal of non-hazardous and hazardous waste, including electronic waste (e-waste) in case of the replacement of old electronics; and, (iii) occupational health and safety hazards for the workforce. Possible negative impacts are expected to be minor, site-specific, temporary and fully reversible. The project is not expected to finance any type of construction activities.

The Social risk of the project is expected to be moderate, because the project will be implemented in a context where social exclusion patterns exist, invisibility of vulnerable groups is usually a problem, and where processes of community consultation and grassroots participation seems to be weak. In addition, the capacity for the management of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework is observed to be low. In a statistical capacity building project that focuses on data production and dissemination, vulnerable groups are especially at risk of being unaccounted for. This could put vulnerable populations at a further disadvantage. Vulnerable groups are individuals or groups who, by virtue of, for example, their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, physical, mental or other disability, social, civic or health status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic disadvantages or indigenous status, and/or dependence on unique natural resources, may be more likely to be adversely affected. These groups include the poor, migrants, people living in high-crime and slum areas, women, young girls, youth at risks, people with disabilities, among others. There could also be social risks related to technical data protection and cybersecurity, as well as data privacy concerns. There may be other potential avenues of exclusion such as the lack of access to technology or understanding regarding participation in the survey implementation. While improving the IT infrastructure of countries and building new software (if any), these concerns will be taken into account by the project, including measures to ensure that no one is left behind.



Looking at it from a different angle, this project could also represent an important entry point for incorporating an inclusive approach for collecting disaggregated data on vulnerable groups to reflect their interests in policy making. This project may also represent an opportunity to incorporate environmental quality data as part of the collecting and publishing process, that could be useful for monitoring, developing strategies for action and policy making.

The Borrower will prepare, consult, and disclose: Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) proportionate to the Environmental and Social risks and impacts of the project and in line with the Bank's Environmental and Social Standards and the World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines. The ESMF will include: (i) a Screening Tool to assess the risks and impacts related to the electronic installation activities; (ii) a project-level Waste Management Plan (WMP) that will include specific measures for managing non-hazardous and hazardous waste, including e-waste and hazardous construction materials. These instruments will be in line with the Bank's Environmental and Social Standards and World Bank Group (WBG) Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines will be part of the Labor Management Procedure. The social assessment will analyze social issues and solicit stakeholder views for the design of the Project and will help make the project responsive to social development concerns, including seeking to enhance benefits for poor and vulnerable.

The Borrower will prepare and disclose Labor Management Procedures (LMP) before Board Approval to identify the different types of project workers that are likely to be involved in the project and set out the way in which they will be managed, in accordance with the requirements of national law and ESS2. To ensure health and safety of workers during the construction phase of the project, the LMP will include an Occupational Health and Safety Plan (OHSP) that will also consider COVID-19 prevention measures and will be in line with the WBG EHS Guidelines for all project activities. A labor specific Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be prepared by the Borrower, that addresses GBV. In addition, prior to appraisal, the Borrower will prepare and disclose Stakeholder Engagement Plan mapping stakeholders, describing the timing and methods of engagement with them throughout the life cycle of the project, and describing the project's GRM. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will detail for each country the vulnerable groups and how they can be counted within the data collection, production and dissemination. The project will adopt citizen Engagement Approach during its cycle. As the project aims to improve data collection and dissemination for decision making; putting emphasis on the social inclusion perspective is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic, where the vulnerable groups are hit the hardest.

The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan, which will be prepared and disclosed by the Borrower prior to appraisal, will include the necessary measures that the project needs to address during preparation and implementation to ensure compliance with the ESSs and the project's social and environmental instruments.

CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Roy Shuji Katayama
Senior Economist

Borrower/Client/Recipient



St Lucia

Esther Rigobert

Permanent Secretary/Director of Finance

esther.rigobert@govt.lc

Allen M. Chastanet

Prime Minister

pm.sec@govt.lc

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Grenada

Keith Mitchell

Prime Minister

PrimeMinister@gov.gd

Merina Jessamy

Permanent Secretary, Infrastructure, Development and Impleme

ps@moid.gov.gd

Patricia Clarke

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance

psfinancegrenada@gmail.com

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Gale Archibald

Head

gale.archibald@oecs.int

Implementing Agencies

St Lucia Central Statistics Office

Sean Mathurin

Director of Statistics

sean.mathurin@govt.lc

St Vincent and the Grenadines Central Statistics Office

Lavorne Williams

Chief Statistician



lwilliams@svgcpd.com

Grenada Central Statistics Office

Halim Brizan

Director of Statistics

hmbrizan@gmail.com

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Gale Archibald

Head, Statistical Services Unit

gale.archibald@oeecs.int

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank

1818 H Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20433

Telephone: (202) 473-1000

Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Roy Shuji Katayama
----------------------	--------------------

Approved By

Practice Manager/Manager:		
Country Director:	Denis Boskovski	25-Nov-2020