

Big Data activity in Africa & Next Big Data Conference

Note by African Development Bank

The African Development Bank Group recently joined the Global Working Group on Big Data for official statistics by participating actively in the last UN Big Data Conference in Bogota from 8 to 10 November 2017. The Bank also sponsored some participants from African countries during that Big Data conference.

To better contribute to the Global working group activities the Bank was invited to join the Bureau of the Global Working Group on Big Data. This document describes Big Data activities that the bank aims to conduct in Africa in partnership with the GWG and also inputs on next the Big Data Conference that will be held in Africa next year.

1. Big Data activities

The main activities that need to be done in Africa regarding the Big Data for official statistics are capacity building in order to introduce and initiate NSO in African countries on how Big Data can assist in official statistics production.

Two regional workshops are so proposed to start activities in Africa with Big Data:

➤ Regional Workshop for English speaking countries

This workshop could be conducted in Kigali, Rwanda sometime in **October 2018**. This will regroup around 10 English speaking countries with one participant per country. This could be also one of the first steps on Big Data conference organization, (to check the option for location, etc.) and start coordinating with Statistics Rwanda and AfDB on the organization of the Big Data conference as it will be organized in Rwanda.

➤ Regional Workshop for French speaking countries

This workshop could be conducted in Abidjan sometime in **December 2018**. The same with the first workshop, the target will be 10 French speaking countries with one participant by country. And the main objective will be introducing Big Data for official statistics.

A partnership with the Global Working Group, the bank will organize these two workshops and need trainers from the GWG to assist in preparing these two courses.

After these two workshops, we can focus on 5 pilot countries and the main activities for these pilot countries will be:

- Assessment of institutional readiness in the country to work on a Big Data project for Official Statistics
- Implement a pilot case for producing Official statistics based on Big Data

The objective will have African countries presenting the first result of the pilot project during the Big Data conference in Kigali next year.

2. Big Data Conference

For this point, the bank is fully available and ready to assist on the organization of the next Big Data conference that will be held for the first time in Africa.

The bank is also committed to facilitating the participation of African countries to the Big Data conference.

The bank is also ready to assist on any specific request from the Big Data bureau in order to make this first big data conference in Africa a successful one.