Statistics for
Results
Facility

Catalytic Fund
Charter

SRF-CF Administration Unit
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Catalytic Fund supporting the Statistics for Results Facility (SRF Catalytic Fund) 
Charter

A. Background and Purpose

1. The goal of the Statistics for Results Facility (SRF), initiated following extensive discussions in 2007 / 2008 through PARIS21, is to increase the capacity of developing countries in formulating policies and decision-making for development through the sustained improvement in the production, availability and use of quality statistics in participating countries for managing and measuring country development results. The Catalytic Fund supporting the SRF (the SRF Catalytic Fund) is intended to support this goal.

2. The SRF Catalytic Fund may consist of one or more trust funds administered by the World Bank to provide assistance and catalytic financing in response to country proposals emerging from national partnerships of donors, local governments and other stakeholders (the National Partnerships). This Charter establishes the partnership framework in which contributing donors and the World Bank intend to make such assistance and catalytic financing available to developing countries.

3. The SRF Catalytic Fund is being established with an initial pilot phase. During the pilot stage, 5-6 countries are expected to participate and to scale-up investments in statistical capacity to better manage for and measure development progress. Once these programs are well underway, progress towards achieving results will be evaluated and assessed and the scope of the SRF Catalytic Fund is expected to be widened to include additional countries. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements will be specified in a separate paper to be agreed by the SRF Catalytic Fund Council.

B. Objectives and Principles

Objectives

In each participating country, to be selected among IDA-eligible countries, the SRF Catalytic Fund will aim to:

a. Promote a system-wide approach in statistics at country level.

b. Substantially increase resources for implementing country-owned National Statistical Plans.

c. Explicitly link improvements in the statistical system to the needs of national and sectoral monitoring frameworks and promote an improved national dialogue and partnership between statistics users and statistical producers.
d. Deliver more efficient and effective aid and technical assistance for strengthening statistical systems and results measurement, through better coordination and alignment to agreed National Statistical Plans and through better alignment to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

**Principles**

4. Developing countries who wish to apply for grants and/or technical assistance from the SRF Catalytic Fund must decide to:

   a. Exercise leadership over their statistical development by developing National Statistical Plans that are comprehensive, realistic, prioritized, and costed. These plans should be consistent with good practice, have clear government commitment and approval, and have been developed by national authorities through a participatory and inclusive process with data users. They should respond to priority national data needs, including the design, monitoring, and evaluation of Poverty Reduction Strategies, sector strategies and other national development plans, as well as assessing progress toward the Millennium Development Goals.

   b. Allocate resources and be ready to carry out the administrative reforms required for proper implementation of the National Statistical Plans.

   c. Take the lead in coordinating donor and government support to statistics, statistical capacity building and results measurement of national and sub-national development plans, within overall aid coordination frameworks that go beyond the SRF.

   d. Ensure that the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are put into effect, in particular to ensure that users have confidence in the quality and integrity of national statistics.

   e. Measure improvements in statistics and statistical capacity using clear results frameworks, with well-defined output and outcome indicators, such as those described in the Indicative Results Framework of the SRF.

5. Participating donors and development partners who wish to be part of the SRF Catalytic Fund must:

   a. Respect country leadership and help build country capacity to develop and implement high quality, actionable, measurable and properly costed National Statistical Plans focused on the achievement of results.

   b. Support statistical activities that are part of National Statistical Plans and are approved by the National Partnerships, and mobilize additional resources for the implementation of National Statistical Plans.
c. Strengthen national statistical systems whenever they sponsor data collection efforts, and avoid diverting scarce resources from nationally agreed statistical priorities.

d. Deliver statistical capacity building programs in a harmonized and coordinated manner, utilizing program-based approaches and country systems and procedures wherever possible consistent with paragraph 21 below.

e. Support countries that demonstrate a willingness to use good quality data in decision making, for example in public expenditure resource allocation processes, and in their efforts to establish results-oriented measurement frameworks for Poverty Reduction Strategies and other sectoral development plans.

6. All participants must:

a. Work together to conduct periodic harmonized and joint assessments of statistical capacity and data quality and the relevance of statistical outputs for measuring progress towards achieving national and sectoral development goals in participating developing countries, utilizing existing frameworks and mechanisms where possible.

7. The SRF Catalytic Fund may also provide customized support to countries where the capacity or environment to develop, agree and implement National Statistical Plans is limited, such as fragile states.

C. Approach

8. The approach consists of donors and governments (National Partnerships) working together to provide coordinated support to implement agreed National Statistical Plans.

9. The precise composition and operational arrangements of National Partnerships will vary from country to country. Representatives may include:

   a. The national statistical agency, ministries of planning and/or finance, and key sectoral ministries. The National Partnership should make connections with other sectoral programs and sector groups that are not represented, to better understand the nature of statistical requirements in those sectors.

   b. National Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) coordination and monitoring/evaluation bodies (including those responsible for performance assessment frameworks).

   c. Donors involved in supporting statistical systems, including those financing
statistical work or results measurement in key sectors, and

d. Stakeholders from academia and civil society.

10. Within the National Partnership, lead government agencies should be identified, including a key policy body (such as the finance or planning ministry, or the convening body of the PRS monitoring and evaluation group). In many countries, this would mean a joint leadership arrangement with the national statistical agency.

11. A lead donor with the appropriate skills, experience and time for this task should be identified. The lead donor will liaise with national authorities, take the lead in promoting coordination, and convene donor consultation processes where required. A lead statistician should also be identified either from within the existing donor community or by new appointment. Further details on the role of the lead statistician will be specified in a separate paper to be agreed by the SRF Catalytic Fund Council.

E. Country Selection

12. The SRF Catalytic Fund Council will determine which developing countries may be eligible to apply for grants from the SRF Catalytic Fund or receive technical assistance. During the SRF Catalytic Fund pilot phase, a limited number of developing countries will be identified by the SRF Catalytic Fund Council as potential grant recipients. Participants will be selected with consideration of the extent of weakness in statistical capacity and the extent of commitment to the Principles.

F. Governance Structure

SRF Catalytic Fund Council

13. The SRF Catalytic Fund Council will have the following roles and responsibilities:

a. Approve SRF Catalytic Fund strategies and priorities and providing other guidance, such as with respect to donor participation in National Partnerships.

b. Select the SRF Catalytic Fund Council chair.

c. Promote and participate in resource mobilization for the SRF Catalytic Fund.

d. Adopt provisions for the processing, selection and implementation of grants, such as the Grant Application Procedures and Grant Allocation Criteria.

e. Determine which developing countries are eligible to receive grants from the Fund.
f. Allocate grants to eligible countries.

g. Review and approve reports from the Administration Unit.

h. Review and evaluate the SRF Catalytic Fund’s overall performance against its Objectives, including specifying monitoring and evaluation arrangements and commissioning evaluations as desirable.

i. Provide strategic advice to the World Bank and all participants in the SRF Catalytic Fund.

j. Approve and amend this Charter in accordance with the provisions set forth herein.

k. Approve the annual work program and budget for the SRF Catalytic Fund, and proposals for calls of funds.

14. The composition of the SRF Catalytic Fund Council will be (i) one representative from each of the donors committing at least $5 million to the SRF Catalytic Fund under AAs (as the term AA is defined in paragraph 21 (Administrator) below), (ii) the developing country co-chair of PARIS21 or a designated alternate, and (iii) the World Bank’s Vice President of Operations and Country Services or a designated alternate (who should not be from the Development Economics Vice Presidency). Membership of the SRF Catalytic Fund Council is reviewed on an annual basis. SRF Catalytic Fund Council representatives should have sufficient authority to speak on behalf of the organization they represent. The Administration Unit will attend SRF Catalytic Fund Council meetings but will not participate in SRF Catalytic Fund Council decisions.

15. The SRF Catalytic Fund Council will select its chair from among its membership for a one year term. The SRF Catalytic Fund Council chair may invite representatives of other members of PARIS21 or of participating countries to take part in SRF Catalytic Fund Council meetings as observers.

16. The SRF Catalytic Fund Council is expected to meet in person at least twice a year, around March/April and October/November. If unforeseen circumstances exist, the timing may be adjusted. The Administration Unit provides SRF Catalytic Fund Council members with written notice of meetings (including date, place, time and purpose) not less than 30 days before the date of the meeting unless such notice is waived by the intended recipient.

17. Decisions may be made at in-person meetings or by email, telephone or video conferences between in-person meetings. Decision-making is done by consensus of all representatives physically present (including participation by audio and video) at an in-person meeting, and by no objection by all representatives after a reasonable specified
period of review for email decisions, unless affirmative consent is required (as in the case of original adoption of, and amendments, to this Charter).

**SRF Catalytic Fund Administration Unit**

18. An Administration Unit will be located at the World Bank for the purpose of day-to-day administration of the SRF Catalytic Fund, supporting meetings of the SRF Catalytic Fund Council and performing other activities in support of the SRF Catalytic Fund. The Administration Unit reports to the Vice President of Development Economics in the World Bank and operates in accordance with the World Bank’s operational and administrative policies and practices.

19. The Administration Unit’s roles and responsibilities include:

a. Handling the SRF Catalytic Fund’s day-to-day operations, including liaising and coordinating among participants.

b. Arranging SRF Catalytic Fund Council meetings, maintaining records of SRF Catalytic Fund Council business, including meeting minutes and no objection decision making, and reviewing and presenting to the SRF Catalytic Fund Council any proposed amendments to the Charter.

c. Providing proposed strategies, priorities, and other operational aspects, such as monitoring and evaluations systems, to the SRF Catalytic Fund Council.

d. Providing the SRF Catalytic Fund Council with recommendations, advice and monitoring reports arising from the internal Bank coordination mechanism referred to in paragraph 19 below.

e. Providing technical assistance, with prior approval of the Country Director concerned and adhering to World Bank policies and procedures, to help initiate or strengthen National Partnerships and prepare applications to the SRF Catalytic Fund.

f. Reviewing country applications for approval by the SRF Catalytic Fund Council, in accordance with this Charter and any provisions for grant processing, selection and implementation approved by the SRF Catalytic Fund Council, including providing detailed feedback to countries which submit unsuccessful applications to the SRF Catalytic Fund.

g. For SRF Catalytic Fund activities supervised by another entity, as allowed by this Charter, (a) receiving reports and passing them to the SRF Catalytic Fund Council, and (b) other functions in accordance with provisions approved by the SRF Catalytic Fund Council when designating the other entity.
h. Developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for consideration by the SRF Catalytic Fund Council, no later than 6 months from the date of adoption of this Charter.

i. Providing annual progress reports to the SRF Catalytic Fund Council within four (4) months after the end of each calendar year on the status of SRF Catalytic Fund grants, including as they relate to country progress. The progress reports will include reporting against the monitoring and evaluation framework approved by the SRF Catalytic Fund Council, as well as summaries of implementation status.

j. Managing the SRF Catalytic Fund website.

k. Preparing the annual work program and budget of the SRF Catalytic Fund as well as proposals for calls of funds for the SRF Catalytic Fund Council’s review and approval.

Internal World Bank Coordination

20. An internal committee of the World Bank will provide a mechanism for coordinating activities of the SRF Catalytic Fund within the Bank and for providing strategic advice to the SRF Catalytic Fund Council. Specifically, the Committee will:

   a. Develop recommendations to the SRF Catalytic Fund Council on countries selected for the pilot phase;

   b. Develop recommendations to the SRF Catalytic Fund Council on funding proposals and applications;

   c. Monitor the implementation of SRF Catalytic Fund funded programs;

   d. Develop advice for the Bank’s representative on the SRF Catalytic Fund Council on country proposals and implementation of those selected.

Administrator

21. The World Bank acts as administrator (“Administrator”) of the SRF Catalytic Fund. Donor contributions are made to the SRF Catalytic Fund under administration agreements or arrangements, as the case may be (“AA’s”) entered into by the World Bank and each of the participating donors. The SRF Catalytic Fund will be administered in accordance with the AA’s.

Supervising entity

22. Unless otherwise requested in a country application and approved by the SRF Catalytic Fund Council in accordance with this Charter, the World Bank, as Administrator, monitors and supervises grant implementation based on World Bank
policies and procedures and the following statements. This includes the preparation of a project appraisal document subject to approval by the relevant World Bank Regional Vice President. The World Bank selects the instrument to be used; where direct budgetary support is recommended by the National Partnership (i.e., “Development Policy Loan” in accordance with the World Bank operational policies and procedures), this needs to be approved by the relevant World Bank Regional Vice President. The grant is normally recipient-executed and supervised by a World Bank Task Team Leader, although in the case of fragile states the World Bank may determine that World Bank execution is appropriate, in accordance with its policies and procedures. Program-based approaches and country systems and procedures are preferred for activity implementation, provided, however, that the use of country systems, including for financial management and procurement, will be governed by the decision of the respective World Bank country team, based on financial and procurement capacity, risks and other assessments, in accordance with Bank policies and procedures. A decision not to use country systems in a specific case will be explained in a letter to the SRF Catalytic Fund Council from the relevant World Bank Country Director.

23. The SRF Catalytic Fund Council may decide that another entity (an Alternate Supervising Entity) be responsible for monitoring and supervising grant implementation under the circumstances set forth below. In such cases, after transferring SRF Catalytic Fund funds to the other entity, at which time the Administrator also transfers full fiduciary responsibility for the funds, the World Bank has no further responsibility for the funds, including no responsibility to monitor or address fund use, or provide financial, progress, results or impact reporting. The limited circumstances under which the SRF Catalytic Fund Council can consider designating an Alternate Supervising Entity are as follows (one or more of the following must be true):

   a. The Alternate Supervising Entity has a greater comparative advantage than the World Bank in the field of statistical capacity building in the country concerned;

   b. The use of an Alternate Supervising Entity would reduce transaction costs for the country concerned;

   c. The World Bank has limited presence in the country concerned.

24. SRF Catalytic Fund funds for which an Alternate Supervising Entity is given responsibility will be transferred to the Alternate Supervising Entity by the Administrator through a Transfer Agreement. As specified in the Transfer Agreement, an Alternate Supervising Entity will handle such funds on the basis of the Alternate Supervising Entity’s policies and procedures, except to the extent the SRF Catalytic Fund Council may otherwise specifically direct.

25. Notwithstanding the SRF Catalytic Fund Council’s role in approving strategies and priorities, selecting eligible countries, allocating grants, approving reports, evaluating overall performance and providing strategic advice, and notwithstanding the
Administration Unit’s role in handling operations, managing country applications, and providing progress reports, it is understood that the World Bank will not take responsibility, fiduciary or otherwise, for the implementation or supervision of activities, including the use of funds from the SRF Catalytic Fund, that are transferred to an Alternate Supervising Entity.

**Global advisory inputs**

26. The SRF Catalytic Fund Council and the World Bank may seek strategic advice from the PARIS21 Steering Committee and the Advisory Board of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics, although neither will have a decision-making role with respect to the SRF Catalytic Fund.

**Local advisory inputs**

27. Countries wishing to participate in the SRF Catalytic Fund will normally be expected to have a functioning National Partnership including all key stakeholders to provide support for developing and implementing National Statistical Plans.

**F. Privileges and Immunities**

28. It is understood that nothing herein, nor any of the undertakings to be performed by the World Bank or the any of the SRF Catalytic Fund partners or any of their respective officers or employees, will be contrary to or inconsistent with their respective Articles of Agreement or equivalent documents. Nothing in this Charter will be considered a waiver of, or impair or limit, any privileges or immunities of the World Bank or any of the SRF Catalytic Fund partners under their respective Articles of Agreement or equivalent documents, or any applicable law, all of which are expressly reserved.

**G. Adoption and Amendment**

29. This Charter may be adopted and amended by the SRF Catalytic Fund Council by affirmative acceptance on the part of all SRF Catalytic Fund Council members; provided that approval by mere lapse of a no objection period is not sufficient, whereas approval by all members that are present at a SRF Catalytic Fund Council meeting is sufficient. The SRF Catalytic Fund Administration Unit will maintain and distribute clear records of any such approval or amendment. Any amendments to this Charter will become applicable to the AA’s as such amendments take effect without further need to amend the relevant AA; provided that such amendments do not conflict with Bank practices and procedures and provided further that in the event of any conflict with other parts of the AA’s, the provisions of the AA’s will prevail.