What are the distinct characteristics of SIDS statistical systems?
Key Points

- Overview of SIDS Statistical Systems
- Challenges in the NSS
- Characteristics of SIDS NSS
- Workshop expectations
Who and Where are SIDS?

PARIS21 recognizes SIDS from:

- 38 UN members, 20 territories Non-UN members per UN-OHRLLS \(^1\) 
- regions of Caribbean, Pacific, AIMS (Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea)

\(^1\) Non-UN members/associate members of Regional Commissions
Overview of SIDS Statistical Systems

1. NSDS/statistical strategy or plan ¹/
   - Currently implemented: 10
   - In design stage: 9
   - Expired: 5

2. With Statistical Legislation ²/
   - 40 SIDS

¹/ PARIS21 NSDS Status Report 2016, NSO websites, NSS assessment reports
²/ PARIS21 library, UNSD website, NSO websites, internet resources
3. External financing for statistics reported in PRESS, 2010-2016 (in USD)

- **Total amount for SIDS: 41.1 M**
  - AIMS: 11.8 M
  - Caribbean: 7.5 M
  - Pacific: 21.8 M
- **25 SIDS countries**
4. WB Statistical Capacity Indicator (average scores for the 3 categories in 2015)

- 80-100%: 1
- 50-79%: 18
- Below 50%: 12
- Average SIDS: 54.7% (with high of 93.3% and low of 34.4%)
5. New innovations in statistics

• Use of PDAs/handheld devices in census data collection (i.e., Cabo Verde)

• Administrative data use for policy such as CRVS, immigration, imports and exports, tourism

• “Tails” app for mobile or tablet to record fish catch of small-scale fishermen (i.e., Pacific)

• Geographic Data Management System or GDMS to disseminate census and survey data across ministries for planning purposes in several sectors (i.e., Trinidad & Tobago)

• Use of drone in collecting data to assess damage in the aftermath of disaster (i.e., Vanuatu)
Challenges in the SIDS NSS

• Weak role of NSO in NSS (no concept of NSS in some SIDS, no recognition of the important role of NSO in policy and development, lack of autonomy of NSOs)
• Results-based management not widely practiced in many SIDS (weak link between statistics and policy)
• Inadequate budgetary resources to meet expenditures required by a standard statistical system (i.e., basic statistical operations)
• Human resources are insufficient and infrastructure underdeveloped
• Statistical requirements of international statistical community are often not suitable for SIDS
• Low national demand/use for data in many SIDS
Characteristics of SIDS NSS

1. Institutional

- Outdated statistical legislation, no statistical strategy/plan
- Lack of coordination framework for NSS
- Weak or absent statistical leadership
- No statistical advisory council/board/committee
2. Resources (human, financial, infrastructure)

- Narrow skills base; limited statistical capacity to perform specialized tasks
- Few personnel to deal with diverse sets of statistical functions (i.e., in NSO, other ministries)
- Insufficient domestic funds for statistics; reliance on external funding even for basic statistical collections
- Inadequate and sometimes poor IT infrastructure
3. Geographic and demographic profile

- Larger sample size required for statistical surveys
- Higher per capita cost of data generation due to uneven and sparse population distribution
- Special treatment for aggregating data to ensure anonymity of statistical units
- Diversity of population and sub-populations impacts harmonization and standardization
4. Issues on confidentiality and fragility/vulnerability

- Lack of suitable indicators to measure SIDS fragility/vulnerability (economic, social, and environmental including climate change-related indicators)
- Adequate backup data facility is needed to avoid loss of data in cases of disasters, system failure, etc.
- Data confidentiality a big concern particularly in collecting business-related data
5. Reliance on regional centers for statistical support

- Technical assistance (survey design, data analysis, data dissemination, specific statistical expertise)
- In improving data quality (integrity, comparability, timeliness)
- In facilitating accessibility to data
- Collective voice of SIDS statistics in international discussions
At the end of the Workshop...

1. Update the SIDS paper prepared by PARIS21 in 2014
2. Recommendations for a SIDS- specific action plan on statistics
3. Advocacy and venues to promote the action plan
4. NSDS/RSDS for SIDS
5. Identify partnerships to strengthen SIDS statistical systems
Thank you

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