



CARICOM





CARICOM

Agenda 2030 and the SIDS: Strengthening Statistical Capacity and Readiness

**Regional Assessment of statistical capacity in [CARICOM]
SIDS**

19-20 May 2016

OVERVIEW

- ▶ Developmental Priorities in CARICOM;
- ▶ Role of Statistics - the impact of leadership in the Community;
- ▶ Major regional initiatives in Statistics;
- ▶ Some key Challenges facing SIDS -2030 Agenda and Samoa Pathway;
- ▶ Opportunities for SIDS.

Developmental Priorities

- ▶ Accelerate implementation and use of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME);
- ▶ Introduce Measures for Macro-Economic Stabilisation;
- ▶ Build Competitiveness and Unleash Key Economic Drivers to Transition to Growth and Generate Employment;
- ▶ Human Capital Development;
- ▶ Advance Health and Wellness;
- ▶ Enhance Citizen Security and Justice;

Developmental Priorities

- ▶ Climate Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Mitigation and Management;
- ▶ Develop the Single ICT Space;
- ▶ Deepen Foreign Policy Coordination;
- ▶ Public Education, Public Information and Advocacy;
- ▶ Reform of the CARICOM Secretariat, the Organs, Bodies, Institutions and Governance Arrangements.



CARICOM

Role of Statistics

- ▶ Vital role of Statistics is in informing policies and decision-making in:
 - ▶ Improving the standard of living of the peoples of the Community;
 - ▶ Guiding and monitoring the progress of the integration movement, specifically CSME establishment and implementation ;
 - ▶ Assessing the impact of integration thrust on the population;
 - ▶ Contributing to evidence-based policies that will maximise efficiency in resource use for development.



CARICOM

Role of Statistics

- ▶ Statistics has received support of its importance at the highest levels of regional leadership:
 - ▶ Pride of place was given to trade statistics in the early efforts of regional integration;
 - ▶ The Common Market Council of Ministers of CARICOM exercised great foresight in establishing the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians in 1974 one year after the establishment of CARICOM;
 - ▶ The SCCS establishment was endorsed at the highest level of the Community by the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in 1974;
 - ▶ Statistics continued over the years to reach the attention of the highest levels of the Community - the Community Council and at the other organs including in 2001, 2005 and more recently 2016 for Council (forthcoming)
 - ▶ Leadership of the NSOs - contribution to decision-making at the regional level and South-South co-operation;

Major Regional Initiatives



CARICOM

- ▶ Among the key initiatives that serve to strengthen capacity and enable more harmonised statistics are:
 - ▶ **Development of core data sets, strategies and guidelines** - CARICOM Minimum Data Set (MDS) ; core data set in specific area, Environment, Social/Gender, Caribbean Specific MDG Indicators; 2008 SNA Strategy, Guidelines , templates and Data Submission Protocol in a number of areas;
 - ▶ **Sustained the functioning of the SCCS forum and subsidiary bodies**- Regional Census Coordinating Committee, CARICOM Advisory Group and Technical Working Groups for harmonisation, increased networking, sharing of best practices;
 - ▶ **Statistical Advocacy increased focus at the highest level of CARICOM**- High Level Advocacy Forum and follow-up and commemoration of Caribbean Statistics Day with outreach to schools and other citizens in Member States/regionally;
 - ▶ **Strategic Planning in Statistics** - Training in NSDS and support at the national level as well as regional;



Major Regional Statistical Initiatives

CARICOM

- ▶ Major initiatives (continued):
 - ▶ Common Frameworks for statistics production and creation of Regional Public Goods including:
 - ▶ Common Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP-approved by the Community Council of Ministers of CARICOM);
 - ▶ CARICOM Model Bill - to establish an integrated national statistical system and enable the establishment of an autonomous/semi body corporate to modernise and transform the statistical infrastructure;
 - ▶ IT frameworks -Data Management Framework, Data Warehousing and a Data Policy have been developed with support from the AGS;
 - ▶ Common Census Framework - to further augment longstanding regionally coordinated census strategy to support countries - mapping templates and guidelines, to common questionnaire and common methodologies/ guidelines
 - ▶ Online facilities for statistics and documents- Help Desk, Trade Information System, Census e-portal and CaricomInfo;
 - ▶ Creation of a “Permanent” Attachment Programme / Centres of Excellence.

Major Challenges facing SIDS



CARICOM

- ▶ Challenges have been exacerbated since CARICOM Countries have been affected by the economic and financial crisis and/or the decrease in the price of oil:
- ▶ ***Resource Constraints:***
 - ▶ Reduction in budget allocated to NSOs that impact the availability of human, financial and material requirements to produce the data required by users;
- ▶ ***Capacity constraints due to increasing demands for data:***
 - ▶ E.g. Given the number of indicators for the 2030 Agenda and the need to monitor the Samoa in Pathway CARICOM SIDS have already indicated that it would not be possible to produce the full set of indicators approved by the UNSC;
- ▶ ***Limited technical/professional capabilities:***
 - ▶ Impact the ability to deal with increasing demand, adhere to international methods/standards, and to acquire data from structured and unstructured sources- sampling experts for surveys and to treat with Big Data:

Opportunities

- ▶ Building on work already put in place/current work by IDPs in CARICOM, specifically the EU, IDB, UNSD, CARTAC, CDB, STATISTICS CANADA;
- ▶ **PAST EFFORTS THAT CAN BE OPPORTUNITIES:**
 - ▶ *Statistics Programming* -Common updated **Region Statistical Work Programme (RSWP)** -harmonization of statistics;
 - ▶ *NSDS* -introductory training and initial launch -envisioning of the National Statistical System Strategic Planning and Implementation;
 - ▶ *ICT Infrastructure*- Data management, warehousing, archiving, data policy including micro data access - utilization of data scientists;
 - ▶ *Technical assistance support* - to enable Implementation by countries of these frameworks;
 - ▶ *Legislative Framework* - Draft Model Bill exists for use by countries;
- ▶ Concept of **ONE Virtual NSO** building on the regional initiatives and enabling information exchange and training- Help Desk;

CORE AREAS OF STATISTICS

- ▶ **Adoption of 2008 SNA** :Integrated framework that can impact development across the entire NSS- questionnaires and Business Register Manual, Technical Assistance, High Frequency Indicators;
- ▶ Advancement of Statistics on **International Trade in Services**- Service-orientation of CARICOM Economies- Common Approach (initially CIDA funded) USAID funding and EU- Common Guidelines , Draft Common Questionnaire;
- ▶ **Trade Data processing**:- New Eurotrace, Editing module, dissemination and analysis modules (Indices and Mirror Statistics) put in place;
- ▶ **Gender Statistics** - 2000 with UNSD Support/Census Data Analysis which incorporated Gender- 2010 Census Data Analysis and UN WOMEN Gender Equality Indicator Framework;
- ▶ **Environment Statistics** filling of data gaps/Inter-agency co-operation/metadata development- critical re the SDGs/Samoa Pathway;
- ▶ **Population and Housing Census**- impact on household surveys, mapping, GIS etc. and of course benefits of the regional approach.

HIGH LEVEL SUPPORT:

- ▶ *Proactive approach* by countries in response to the 2030 Agenda/engagement at the technical level;
- ▶ *Follow-up to the Second High Level Forum on Statistics by the AGS/SCCS-* production of Action Plan and presentation to a key champion of statistics at the Prime Minister Level;
- ▶ *Placement of Statistics at the highest level of the Community-* on the Agenda of the Conference of Heads of Government by the Rt. Hon Prime Minister of Grenada- evidently is a high point for statistics.



CARICOM

END