The Need for Data Financing in CARICOM SIDS - Grenada’s Experience

UNSC 2020 side event:
“More and better financing of data for development”
2 March 2020
The Main Challenges Facing Grenada in Data Financing

• Given that Grenada has graduated out of a Home Grown IMF Structural Adjustment Programme. The Government has put strict measures in place to control Government expenditure and increase revenue. Fiscal Responsibility Legislation (FRL) along with the Public Finance Management Act

• Based on the FRL For certain expenditure to be approved there must be fiscal space

• The National Statistical System has been affected by the attrition policy of the structural adjustment programme in reducing the Government’s wage bill. (3 for 10 policies)

• NSO has no control over its budget. Spending has to be approved by Permanent Secretary.

• The increasing awareness of the importance of statistics in Government has not been translating into funds allocated to the various entities within the NSS to effectively carry out statistical work programme.

• Lack of Statistical Literacy and in general statistical advocacy result in a low demand for Statistics. Hence there is no public drive for more data and better data. The area of statistics it not seen by young people as a lucrative career path.

• Lack of a proposal like an NSDS that can guide donors in the coordination of efforts to achieve the goals of the NSS

• No scholarship for persons to pursue statistics and related degrees and specialised statistical training programme makes it difficult to furnish NSS with the right skillset.
Opportunities in data Financing

• Prime Minister of Grenada Being a National, Regional and international Champion for Statistics. He is committed to the development of Statistics in Grenada and CARICOM

• Grenada has a National Sustainable Development Plan that is aligned to the SDGs which would justify additional resources for monitoring

• Statistics Development is currently on Grenada’s the Medium Term Strategic Agenda

• PM, who is responsible for Science and Technology in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet- led on the endorsement of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development Statistics- Strategic Framework

• An NSDS to be done this year with the assistance of PARIS21

• CARICOM RSDS

• Regional entities responsible for supporting statistical development CARICOM, Secretariat OECS Commission, ECCB, CDB, CARTAC, UN subregional Agencies, ILO.
**New areas of statistical development in Grenada and the wider Caribbean Requiring Funding Support**

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<th>STATISTICS INITIATIVE</th>
<th>RESOURCE CHALLENGE</th>
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<td><strong>Development of Labour Market Statistics:</strong></td>
<td>• More qualified and competent staff needed for field work, Data processing, Analysis of Results to ensure timeliness and quality</td>
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<td>• The Move to quarterly Labour Force Surveys</td>
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<td>• The conduct of establishment JOLTS Survey annually</td>
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<td><strong>Taking advantage of available Technology:</strong></td>
<td>• Funding required for Tablets and Laptops to replace those that are non-functioning</td>
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<td>• Conducting all household surveys with CAPI technology with survey solutions software</td>
<td>• Better IT infrastructure needed for data storage, security and anonymisation</td>
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<td><strong>Census 2021</strong></td>
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<td>• Preparing to undertake the first paperless census</td>
<td>• Funding needed for tablets, Software upgrade, Stata, SPSS, ARC GIS Software needed for Mapping, vehicle etc</td>
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<td>• GIS development and geo-referencing all buildings to identify all households in preparation for census 2021</td>
<td>• Staff needed for census prelisting activities and geo-referencing</td>
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| **Measurement of poverty and living standards**  
  • To Conduct Survey of Living Conditions and household budget survey more often than every 10 year  
  • Using LFS and SLC to capture and measure multi-dimensional poverty |  
  • Training in Data analysis and interpretation. More staff trained in Stata and ADEPT to conduct analysis |
| **Development of National Accounts and Economic Statistics:**  
  • Rebasing of the GDP and CPI and development of SUT and maintenance of quarterly GDP  
  • Development of the Statistical Business Register  
  • Tourism Satellite Accounting  
  • Improving agriculture statistics |  
  • Additional staffing required given magnitude of work in the Area of Economic Statistic. Two trained National Accountants  
  • Specialised Training in National Accounts due to the loss of National Accountants in the region  
  • Resources needed to undertake agricultural survey/census and build capacity in ministry of agriculture |
| **Statistical Literacy and Statistical Advocacy and Communication** |  
  • Sponsorship of Outreach programmes to schools, Quizzes, competitions, Statistics committees in schools, sponsorship of activities that would engage committees  
  • Need for dedicated Statistics PR Staff and a PR Budget |
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| Monitoring the SDG and the Goals of Grenada’s National Sustainable Development Plan | • Funding required to support the production of some of the indicators. Huge financial burden on SIDS given number of SDG indicators  
• Support needed in the development of an indicator Framework for the National Sustainable Development Plan and aligning to that of the SDG indicator Framework |
| Transitioning to the National Statistics Institute of Grenada | • A major challenge in light of fiscal space |
| Growing the pool of Statisticians in Grenada and CARICOM | • Funding for more scholarships in Statistics and Statistics related fields (undergraduate and graduate studies)  
• Funding for more specialised training in Sampling, Demography, National Accounts, Data Science |
| CARICOM RSDS | • As part of the CARICOM RSDS an Implementation Plan and a Communication Strategy have been prepared and work is in progress on the preparation of an M and E framework and a resource, mobilisation strategy being prepared which we would like IDPs to support |
Recommendations on how partners and governments could better support data for development efforts of Grenada and the wider SIDS

• There should be more coordination among development partners to be able to utilize grant funding in the most effective way eliminating duplication of efforts and resources.

• To support the work of the RSDS and NSDS which is to be aligned to the RSDS – there are many elements of the RSDS that can be supported to enable sustainable capacity-building in Grenada and in the Region- this include public/private partnerships- given the need/usefulness of statistics by the private sector;

• A regional approach is being recommended for small countries- this approach has had its successes, through CARICOM such as a regional Census-Strategy – production of a common Census Questionnaire – that can be adapted; and other key Regional public Goods such as a CARICOM Model Statistics Bill, a common Regional Statistical Work Programme, regional training including in Leadership and Management of NSOs;

• More concerted effort by Government in ensuring statistical component for monitoring is budgeted for on every project geared towards the achievement of the SGDs. The monitoring framework should not be excluded from implementation.
Thank you