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REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) COOPERATION ACTIVITIES



**NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE OF THE STATISTICAL
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THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
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(CARICOM) COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN
STATISTICS**

THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) COOPERATION **ACTIVITIES IN STATISTICS**

A. BACKGROUND - THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS AND THE STATISTICAL FRAMEWORK

The Regional Integration Framework

The establishment of the Caribbean Community and Common Market by the Treaty of Chaguaramas in 1973 was the result of a 15-year effort to fulfil the aspirations of the people of the Caribbean at regional integration, which was born with the establishment of the British West Indies Federation in 1958. The West Indies Federation came to an end in 1962 but its end may be regarded as the real beginning of what is now the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The CARICOM Member States are: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. CARICOM also comprises Associate Members which are: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands.

In 1989, Member States reaffirmed and broadened the Community's core objectives to include the creation of a CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), setting new strides for the regional integration process a major aspect of its response to the challenges and opportunities presented by the changes in the global economy. In essence, the CSME was conceived to facilitate economic development in an increasingly globalised environment through the transformation of the Common Market into a Single Market and Economy, in which factors move freely as a basis for internationally competitive production of goods and services. The CSME comprises the CARICOM Member States excluding The Bahamas, Haiti and Montserrat.

The Critical Role of Statistics in Servicing the Integration Process

The production and dissemination of statistics are critical to the deepening of the integration process and specifically for the establishment of the CSME. Statistics are useful in monitoring and evaluating the provisions of the CSME which include the rights of establishments, movements of services, capital and community nationals. Statistics can help the private sector and nationals of the community in general in participating in the CSME and in taking advantage of the provisions and deriving the benefits of the integration process. Specifically, statistics are needed by policy-makers, planners, businesses and all persons of the Community, for the following: negotiations, planning and decision-making at the international, regional and public and private levels; in fulfilling the developmental goals such as improving the living standards of the peoples of the Caribbean Community; for achieving full employment; to undertake relevant research and analysis; to work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals; for enabling good governance and accountability.

The CARICOM Secretariat which is based in Georgetown, GUYANA, functions to service the regional integration process. Among the units or programme areas of the CARICOM Secretariat is the **Regional Statistics Unit** which compiles statistics on the Member States and Associate Members of CARICOM. Statistics are submitted to the Secretariat by the countries, either by the National Statistical Offices or the Central Banks, depending on the nature of the data. In compiling statistics to service the integration process, a fundamental issue is the production of **harmonized statistics on a sustainable** basis. This aim is addressed through the overall goal and key results of the programme of work in statistics.

The overall goal of the programme of work in statistics at the CARICOM Secretariat is to provide the Community with high quality statistical products for decision-making and to monitor, guide and assess the impact of the development process. The key results areas to achieve the above goal are:

- Comprehensive and harmonised systems of statistics developed including Economic, Social, Environment and Information and Communication Technology statistics in Member States/Associate Members and at the Secretariat;
- Statistical capacity in Member States and at the Secretariat strengthened and sustained through the development and implementation of appropriate mechanisms and programmes;
- Statistics and indicators with metadata including the Caribbean Specific Targets and Indicators for the Millennium Development Goals, produced and disseminated to users on a timely basis and in accordance with regional and international standards;
- A framework for assessing quality including compliance with international/regional standards developed and implemented;
- The profile and culture of statistics in the region improved and a strategic approach enabled through preparation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).

Institutional Arrangements – The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians

The Regional Statistics Unit works with the statistical institute, offices, bureau and departments in the Member States/Associate Members to facilitate improvement in the range and quality of the statistics produced.

A major Committee in the working relationship is **the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS)**, which was established in 1974 within the framework of the Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community, in accordance

with **Resolution No. 54/74/4 of the Fourth Meeting of the Common Market Council of Ministers (Council)** and subject to the general supervision of Council.

The objectives of the SCCS are to:

- Foster increased recognition of the importance of adequate statistical services to the countries of the Region;
- Widen the scope and coverage of statistical data collection; and
- Improve the quality and comparability and timeliness of statistics produced.

The SCCS comprises heads of statistical offices, representatives of international and regional organizations and universities and meets annually. Its activities as articulated in 1974 are to:

- Develop and harmonize statistical concepts and methodology;
- Coordinate and initiate programmes for statistical; training;
- Co-ordinate programmes for technical assistance in the field of statistics;
- Initiate and execute, where necessary, statistical projects of a regional nature;
- Advise and assist Member Governments at their requests in carrying out statistical projects, in the organization or reorganization of their statistical services, and in all other areas where such assistance is required; and
- Carry out any other function as may be deemed necessary to achieve its objective.

The SCCS plays a critical role in recommending, designing and approving cooperation activities and in the monitoring and evaluating of the activities, outputs and achievements and in recommending to the various organs of the Community actions to be taken by countries in the implementation of the actions required to improve statistics.

Harmonisation of Statistics: The Common Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) and the Resolution on Strengthening Statistical Capacity 2005

In 2005, the Community Council of Ministers (Council) of CARICOM approved a three-year Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) and passed a Resolution calling on Governments of the Region to strengthen statistical capacity through increasing investment in Statistics as a priority in the Region.

The background to the RSWP and to the call for Governments to invest resources in statistics was a Paper presented by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat to the Resumed Session of the Eighth Meeting of the Community Council held in Nassau, The Bahamas on 7 July 2001. The presentation in Nassau also highlighted the thrust of the Secretariat's Work Programme that centred on the need for more intensive efforts to harmonise statistics in the Region given the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). The Community Council in its decisions noted the information required on the Status and Role of Statistics in the Region and also noted the information presented work being executed in statistics. The Community Council also mandated the Caribbean Community Secretariat in collaboration with the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS), to prepare in its Work Programme **a three-year plan for the improvement of the quality and range of statistics available to the Region.**

The objective of the Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) is to focus on the statistical needs to establish, monitor and evaluate the CSME and also to make available statistical information for decision-making, to keep pace with the changing socio-economic and global environmental changes, as well as technological advances. The achievement of this objective requires actions at the national level to produce relevant statistics for the diagnosis and design of national policies. Similarly, actions at the regional level are also essential to facilitate the development of harmonized national statistical systems and to build regional databases comprising comparable data sets. In order to build these regional databases, the Statistics Legislations in Member States needed to reviewed within the constraints of the confidentiality provisions, to allow for National Statistical Authorities to submit data at appropriate levels of detail to the Secretariat on a timely basis to enrich the research and analytical programme at the regional level and as inputs into regional negotiations.

Resolution on Strengthening Statistical Capacity 2005

In October 2001, at the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the SCCS which was held in Nassau, The Bahamas recognizing the demands being made on statistical agencies in the context of the establishment and the monitoring of the CSME, **a Resolution was prepared seeking to strengthen the statistical systems in Member States** to improve the coverage, reliability and quality of the traditional areas and to develop frameworks to measure for new and emerging issues.

Implementation of the Regional Statistical Work Programme and the Resolution 2005

Efforts to implement the RSWP and to address the actions of the Resolution have led to the establishment of a CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) tasked with the responsibility of facilitating the improvement of statistics through the implementation of the programme areas of the RSWP.

CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS)

The CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) is a main sub-group of the SCCS. The SCCS approved the Terms of Reference of the AGS, at its **Thirty-Second Meeting in 2007 in Paramaribo, Suriname**. The context of the AGS recognises:

- the essential and ever increasing need for reliable official statistics for policy formulation and informed decision-making, with an indisputable nexus to positive sustainable development;
- the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as adopted in 1994 by the United Nations Statistical Commission;
- the Mandate of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community to create a CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and a Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) to fit the Region for advantage in the new environments and to provide the statistics to successfully achieve this fit.

The Objectives of the AGS are:

- (i) Establish and develop a framework to achieve the implementation of the Regional Statistical Work Programme in CARICOM Member States and Associate Members in a manner that will result in the production of a common core of harmonised, high quality and timely information on the Region; and
- (ii) Implement the Resolution on strengthening the national statistical systems.

Membership in the Advisory Group is open to the Chief Statisticians, Directors of Statistics, and the Directors-General of all Member States but initially consists of the following members:

Director-General of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (Chairperson)

Director of Statistics – Suriname (Vice-Chairman)

Director of the Department of Statistics - The Bahamas;

Chief Statistician - Dominica;

Director of Statistics - Saint Lucia;

Director of Statistics - Barbados;

Director-General of the Statistical Institute of Belize; and

Director of Statistics - Trinidad and Tobago.

at least two (one rotating) and at most four (three rotating) representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat, one of which will be the Project Director Statistics, not subjected to rotating. Observer organisations are also part of the AGS.

The Operating Goals of the AGS in support of the Objectives are to:

- (i) Facilitate an assessment at the national level of the current state of the National Statistical System (NSS) in each member country through an understanding of:
 - (a) Users' current and perceived future requirements for statistical information; the assessment of the adequacy of existing statistics and the gaps in existing and planned data; their priorities; and their ability to make effective use of statistical information;
 - (b) Statistics that are available, their sources and how quickly they are made available to users (publication and dissemination policies);
 - (c) The linkages and coordination arrangements among producers and between producers and users of statistics and how priorities are established within the National Statistical System (NSS);
 - (d) The legal and institutional framework in which key producers of statistics operate;
 - (e) Organisational aspects, including how the NSS is managed, human resource policies; and strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats;
 - (f) The quality of statistics and how they are produced (methods and procedures, use of international standards, constraints and problems) processed, analyzed and archived (IT policies, databases); and
 - (g) Current capacity of the NSS (physical, statistical, and ICT infrastructure; human and financial resources; and dissemination policies and strategies).
- (ii) Assess the legal status of the national statistics systems and how the Agencies manage themselves, to include, *inter alia*, a review of:
 - (a) The Statistical Legislation and authority under which the agencies operate;
 - (b) The status, stature and role of the head of the NSO;
 - (c) The positions and status of statistical agencies within government;
 - (d) The mechanisms for consultations between users and producers of statistics;
 - (e) The clarity of mission and strategies, institutional culture and structures and the extent to which agencies adhere to professional ethics and international standards;
 - (f) Human resource development policies and training facilities;

- (g) Financial resources and infrastructure; and
 - (h) Information and communication technology.
- (iii) Design and develop those strategies and projects that will facilitate the implementation of the Regional Work Programme through the filling of the gaps that have been identified in the assessment processes. The development of strategies to bring about the outcomes embodied in the Resolution will also be addressed.
 - (iv) Maintain linkages with United Nations Statistics Division and other International agencies in the area of statistics, with more involvement with the UN Statistical Commission and ensure the collaboration and integration of the statistical initiatives of Regional and International Organisations.
 - (v) Provide a taxonomy and identify critical areas of statistics where there may be a need for more technical working groups to work on specific issues for periods not exceeding 6 months.
 - (vi) Propose ad hoc sub-groups necessary for work to be done in these critical areas of statistics and formulate/recommend the work to be done by these sub-groups.
 - (vii) Provide guidance and assistance to the process of Harmonization of Regional Statistics and serve as a watch-dog regarding Quality assurance of Regional Statistics¹; and
 - (viii) All other functions deemed necessary to achieve the objectives.

Regional Coordination in Cooperation Activities in Statistics in CARICOM

The regionally coordinated approach to the execution of cooperation activities is a well-established and proven strategy in the Region and was first used to assist countries in census taking in the Region. This approach provides for the use of uniform concepts and definitions and a common core of questions supporting the collection of high-quality comparable data. In many areas of statistics a regional approach has been found useful in the execution of technical cooperation activities, particularly in the case of the relatively small countries of CARICOM. The Sections that follow address some of the cooperation activities being executed at the regional level and in some of the programme areas of the RSWP.

¹ Statistics should be: **Relevant, Accurate, Timely, Accessible, Coherent and Comprehensive.**

SECTION I: COOPERATION ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES: SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS AND POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

1.1 Cooperation Project Activity: 2000-2004 - United Nations Statistics Division - Support to the Development of Social, Gender and Environment Statistics:

Objective:

The UNSD/CARICOM Project “*Strengthening Capacity for the Compilation of Statistics and Indicators for Conference Follow-up in the CARICOM Region*” was aimed at strengthening capacity in the collecting, analysing data and applying knowledge in support of policy development in the areas of the environment in social and gender concerns.

Activities:

- (a) To collect and disseminate critical statistics and indicators to inform and measure the progress of the goals and recommendations from various international conferences in the social, gender and environmental areas;
- (b) To provide capacity building through activities which included: regional workshops in Social/Gender and Environment statistics; information technology; in-country support in information technology, provision of equipment and software; the services of two consultants to provide technical assistance and institutional support at the regional and national levels; and through the compilation of statistics and indicators and their production in two regional publications.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) **Core Indicators identified:** Themes/ Concerns and corresponding lists of Core, Social, Gender and Environment Statistics and Indicators were identified, developed and formed the basis of data compilation in participating countries;
- (ii) **Computer Equipment and IT Technical Assistance provided/applied:** Statistical offices at the regional and national level received Computer Equipment and Software and IT training through technical assistance visits as required to support the statistics compilation and dissemination process;
- (iii) **Regional Training Workshops conducted:** Four training workshops were held in the areas of Social/Gender, Environmental and Advanced IT;

- (iv) ***Institutional Support provided:*** Provision of the services of two consultants- a Statistician to support the development of Social/Gender and Environment Statistics and an IT expert to support the designing of databases for statistical compilation;
- (v) ***One Expert Group Meeting to review the Regional Publications conducted:*** Back-to-back sessions were held in the areas of Social/Gender and in Environment Statistics to review the data collected and the reports/analysis that were prepared;
- (vi) ***Networking of Experts supported:*** Within and across countries including personnel from the NSOs and relevant line ministries and other agencies in the areas of Social development, Gender and the Environment were able to interact and network resulting in greater awareness of statisticians and the counterparts from the CSO obtained greater awareness of statistics methods and concepts
- (vii) ***Production and Dissemination of Publications:*** Two Regional Statistical Publications in Social/Gender and in Environment statistics were produced and disseminated. Several countries also produced Social/Gender compendia on women and men and on the environment for the first time in most cases. Regional Publications on Population and Decision-Making were also produced by the CARICOM. Secretariat based on data collected from countries;
- (viii) ***Formation of Advisory Group:*** Heads of Statistics/CARICOM supported by the UNSD established a CARICOM Advisory Group which successfully designed a programme to sustain the data compilation process in these areas post the project. This Advisory Group was restructured to form the Advisory Group on Statistics.

Status: Completed

1.2 Other Cooperation Project Activities to strengthen Social/Gender and Environment Statistics Compilation and Dissemination: Post the UNSD/CARICOM project, the areas of Social/Gender and Environment Statistics benefited from funding received from three organisations under a ***multi-donor initiative*** **(i) 2004-2006:** *World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building* (200,000 USD) and **(ii) 2007-2009:** TFSCB Grant (120,000 USD); **(iii) 2004-2005:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which in turn along with donors established a multi-donor initiative to fund the further outputs and **(iv) 2004-2006:** United Nations Population Fund.

Objective:

The project activities sought to continue to compile Social and Environment Statistics including the indicators of the MDGs. It also supported programme monitoring and evaluation.

Activities:

- (a) Regional Workshops in Social/Gender and Environment Statistics data and metadata focusing on improving and harmonising these statistics;
- (b) Regional Training Workshop for Statisticians from NSOs and personnel from Registrar General Departments and Health to enable greater inter-agency collaboration and to strengthen capacity in Civil Registration and Vital Statistics focusing on statistics on fertility and mortality;
- (c) Refining and review of core Social/Gender and Environment indicators including the MDGs;
- (d) Support to the conduct of a Census Symposium to review the experience of the 2000 Census Round;
- (e) Undertaking of exchange visits/attachments among countries of the Region to build capacity in Social/Gender and Environment Statistics;
- (f) Conduct of assessments of the national statistical systems relative to the production of social statistics;
- (g) Conduct of training in basic statistics of line ministries and other agencies as a basis of programme development;
- (h) Programme Monitoring and Development/Advisory Group Support.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) **Sustained Compilation of Statistics:** Continued strengthening of data collection at the national level (all organisations);
- (ii) **Technical Assistance applied** to strengthen the coordination of the National Statistical Systems in Social and Environment Statistics – establishing of national statistical coordinating committees (UNDP);
- (iii) **Increased focus on the Indicators for the MDGs** (all donors) – MDG Indicators incorporated as part of the core indicators. Caribbean Specific Indicators also developed;
- (iv) **Personnel trained** through the convening of Regional Training Workshops as follows:
 - (a) Social/Gender and Environment Statistics training Workshop in The Bahamas in 2005 (UNDP/TFSCB funded);
 - (b) Civil Registration and Vital Statistics - training of personnel from registrar general departments, Health and Statistics 2005 (UNDP/TFSCB and UNFPA also supported by PAHO and with the main facilitator from the UNSD).

- (v) **Identification of Challenges and Best Practices** from the convening of a Census Symposium in 2005 on the 2000 Census Round (UNFPA/TFSCB);
- (vi) **Exchange Visits in Social and Environment Statistics** - Belize to Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago etc; and an attachment from Grenada to Trinidad and Tobago in Social Statistics (TFSCB);
- (vii) **Publications at Regional and National Levels Social Statistics:** A Second Regional Environment Statistics report was produced. Chapters in a Regional publication on Statistics on the Labour Force, Health and Population have been produced as well as a forthcoming Chapter on Education (completed, to be disseminated) (all organisations);
- (viii) **Publications in Environment Statistics:** At least four (4) countries have produced three (3) Environment Statistics publications post the UNSD/CARICOM countries (Belize, Suriname and Jamaica with Dominica forthcoming) one country (Trinidad and Tobago) commenced production of its first Environment Statistics publication and its second publication is almost completed (TFSCB/UNDP/UNSD); some of the other countries have produced at least one compendium of Environment statistics;
- (ix) **Review/Training Undertaken on the Status of Social Statistics** in the NSOs and Line Ministries/Departments in three Member States in 2006 with accompanied training and recommendations identified for a 3 year programme of development; (TFSCB);
- (x) **Supported the MDG Reporting Process** in Dominica (TFSCB);
- (xi) **Strengthening of Capacity in the Production of Fertility and Mortality Statistics 2008** - Workshop for representatives from the Civil Registrar Departments and the Statistical Offices to improve vital statistics. This item was placed on the Agenda of the SCCS and was also followed up by the Secretariat and by PAHO. Follow-up training in Fertility and Mortality statistics was conducted for 15 persons from 5 member countries in 2008 under the second TFSCB Grant;
- (xii) **Conducted of Review of Social Statistics and Training in Basic Statistics of line ministries and other agencies as a basis for a Programme Development** - representatives from the NSO line ministries and other agencies in St Vincent and the Grenadines in 2009 as a follow-up to the TFSCB recommendations first Grant (funded under the TFSCB second grant).
- (xiii) **Continued support to institutional strengthening** through the services of a Statistician – 2004-2006 (UNDP);

- (xiv) **Improved Harmonisation of Social Statistics** - convening of a Harmonisation meeting in 2002 at which metadata were discussed and recommendations made (UNDP); and 2009 Regional Workshop in Social/Gender and Environment Statistics focusing on metadata and core indicators compilation (TFSCB);
- (xv) **Support provided to programme monitoring and development** to the functioning of the CARICOM Advisory Group (TFSCB/UNDP).

Status: Completed

1.3 CARICOM Capacity Development Programme (CCDP) - Analysis of Census Data 2000 Round funded by the Canadian International Development Agency:-

Objective: Strengthening Capacity in the Conduct of Census Data Analysis

Activities:

- (a) Conduct of National and Regional census analysis –prepare Volume of Basic Tables, National Census reports and Regional Special topic Monographs;
- (b) Design of an Online Census database;
- (c) Conduct of Data Dissemination Seminars;
- (d) Conduct of one six-week training workshop in Demographic Analysis.

Major Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) **Analysis of Census Data:** Production of **18** analytical National Census Reports and 5 Regional Census Topic Monographs on Children and Youth, The Elderly, Gender and Development, International Migration; and Education and Economic Activity.
- (ii) **Dissemination of Results:** Conducted two National Seminars and presentation of two of the monographs (Elderly and Gender and Development) and Regional Seminars;
- (iii) **Training in demography:** Trained approximately **22** persons in Demographic Analysis in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago;
- (iv) **Online Access to Census Data (Tabulations):** Produced an Online Census Database (currently being updated).

Status: Completed

**1.4 Strengthening Capacity in Demographic Analysis in CARICOM –
Conduct of Multi-Year Training Programme in Demographic Analysis
- Grant Agreement funded by the Caribbean Development Bank
(CDB)**

Objective:

To strengthen capacity in data collection and analysis in the area of Demography, making available baseline social statistics data, for integration into national planning frameworks, and for the preparation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) reports and other analytical reports such as from the Population and Housing Censuses

Activities:

- (a) Conduct three 7-week training workshops in Demographic Analysis;
- (b) Conduct of a Short Course on the Principles of Demography for senior personnel;
- (c) Conduct of Monitoring and Evaluation Component through tracer studies and Action plans to monitor the use of the training by graduates/ Directors of Statistics etc.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) Trained personnel: Approximately **75** persons from the Statistical Offices and Ministries were trained in Demographic Analysis;
- (ii) Re-training of Directors of Statistics/training of Senior Personnel in Principles of Demography;
- (iii) Development of Human Resource Capabilities for the conduct of the 2010 Census Round and for the compilation of Social Statistics and the MDG Indicators.

Status: Completed (2009)

1.5 Common Literacy Framework in CARICOM funded by the Inter-American Bank, Regional Public Goods

Objective:

To develop a common framework for the production, collection and analysis of literacy data to support informed policy making to meet the Education for ALL (EFA) and the MDG goals, as well as supporting the integration process that is part of the CSME.

Activities:

- (a) Establishment of a regional framework for conducting and adapting Literacy assessment models for the facilitation of a regional assessment for the execution of the literacy survey treating each country as a sub-population;
- (b) Development and adaptation of LAMP instruments, such as survey instruments (questionnaires), training manuals, and related materials, to inform about the survey, documentation on the concepts and definitions, scoring of the assessment and on the sampling approach, data dissemination/tabulation format, as part of the common framework; and
- (c) Development of a template for the national implementation plans using a common questionnaire, field test procedures for establishing the psychometric and measurement property of the survey instrument, and confirmation of key aspects of survey cost and quality.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

Project recently commenced (see Status).

Status: Project commenced in 2010- Agreement executed February this year.

1.6 Project Identification and Feasibility of a CARICOM Regional Strategy for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses: Evaluation of the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in the CARICOM Region- Challenges and Best Practices to Improve the 2010 Round of Censuses (UNFPA)**Objective:**

The objective of this activity is to conduct a Project Identification and Feasibility Study to inform a regional Census Strategy. This Strategy will provide effective support for improvement in the approach to the execution of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in the CARICOM Region, in order to facilitate sustained improvement and development in the regional and national statistical systems.

Activities:

The activity covered by this specification was aimed at Project Identification and Feasibility to:

- (a) obtain feedback from Heads of Statistics Departments/ Census officers and regional and international organizations on the experience with the 2000 Round; and
- (b) identify challenges and best practices that can ultimately enable the development of a more effective regional strategy that takes into consideration the technological changes, new and emerging issues and other similar concerns.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) A Report identifying a regional strategy which included the following:
 - (a) Experience with aspects of Census taking at the national level in the 2000 Round from preparatory work through to questionnaire preparation/content, data processing etc to the publication of reports/dissemination. Identification of Major challenges and best practices;
 - (b) An assessment of the Regional strategy as implemented in 2000 – national and regional perspectives of the strategy, main drawbacks and positive aspects/lessons learnt;
 - (c) An assessment of the capacity available for the Conduct of Censuses in the Round 2010;
 - (d) An assessment of the country needs and how these should be addressed;
 - (e) Recommendations on elements that can inform a regional strategy and project including costs estimates, annual and multi-year programming;
 - (f) Approaches to funding the regional strategy and a rough estimate of the quantum of funds required;
 - (g) Preferred solutions for eliminating identified problems/challenges;
 - (h) Project feasibility and measures ensuring sustainability.

Status: Completed

1.7 Common Census Framework in CARICOM (IDB/UNFPA, UNSD)

Objective:

The purpose of the project (the regional public good - RPG) is the development and adoption by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians, of a CARICOM-wide framework for population censuses. The framework was to consist of a common questionnaire, common methodologies for data collection and validation, and a common tool for data access and dissemination.

The Common Census Framework is incorporated in the Regional Statistical Work programme and the specific objectives are to:

- (i) enable the production of harmonised census data that are comparable across Member States;
- (ii) facilitate a cost-effective approach to census taking;
- (iii) promote synergies and avoid duplication of effort through an effective common regional strategy of support to Member States;
- (iv) support the development of a common questionnaire, common methodologies and a common approach to the analysis and dissemination of the census data across the Region;
- (v) facilitate networking and South-South Co-operation through regional meetings; exchange visits/study tours and attachments among countries and through the use of an electronic forum.

Activities:

Component 1: Common Questionnaire

Activities in this component were to be centred on organizing a technical workshop in which authorities and specialists from the statistics offices would have addressed issues related to questionnaire design, including thematic coverage, data entry and validation processes, and output tabulations.

Two consultants were to be hired to provide technical assistance in two areas. At the regional level, the consultants were to: (i) prepare and facilitate a workshop; (ii) based on the results of the workshop they were to make recommendations; and (iii) incorporate the recommendations into technical manuals to help countries adjust their national questionnaires.

Component 2: Common Methodologies

Activities in this component focused on issues related to data collection techniques, logistics of field operations, training, etc. The NSOs were to discuss and agree on basic guidelines for the standardization of methodologies and processes.

Consultants were to be hired to support the organization of a consensus-building workshop; incorporate the guidelines into technical documents; and provide specific instances of technical assistance on an as-need basis at the national level. To facilitate the dissemination of the materials and to ensure a common interpretation of all recommendations, two training courses were to be organized. These events were aimed at training trainers, focusing on the technical professionals from the statistical offices.

Component 3: Compatibility of Dissemination Tools

This component would promote the use of tools to facilitate access to statistical data. The issue of micro data access has been a very topical one and recommendations on a Data Dissemination Policy to incorporate micro data access are to be addressed. The component would also take into consideration existing or recommended tools such as CensusInfo which has been recommended for dissemination worldwide at by the CARICOM Regional Census Coordinating Committee as well as REDATAM.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) The project's main benefits are the creation, adoption, and dissemination of a standardized methodology to produce high-quality social statistics from population census data, based on the standard methodologies and shared concepts across the region and internationally, the statistical data generated by the countries will be comparable, allowing for the calculation of valid regional aggregates and the preparation of cross-country comparative studies;
- (ii) Moreover, the project would also enhance coordination among the statistics agencies on topics such as technical innovations for producing statistics, so that research would not have to be duplicated and progress made by some countries can be shared with others;
- (iii) The Caribbean region would benefit as a whole in the development of its economic integration process and the availability of comparable information across countries. Comparable data across CARICOM countries will be an input for the design of the region wide policies and programs needed to consolidate the integration process in the framework of the CSME;

- (iv) Tangible outputs include the following: a common questionnaire or a core of questions recommended for use in the 2010 Census Round, A Workshop convened relative to the Common Core of Questions; Technical Assistance applied to assist countries with their 2010 Census Questionnaire; Documented guidelines/manuals in accordance with the common questionnaire; Common Methodologies with relevant documentation; A workshop convened relative to the Common Methodologies; A Training of Trainer's Workshop; Enumerator's, Supervisor's and Training Manual; Common Dissemination tools.

Status: In Progress (Component 1 completed - Component II almost completed). Priority was given to countries undertaking their census exercise in the year 2010.

1.8 Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for Regional Support to the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in the CARICOM Region (through the Department for International Development (DFID))

Objective:

The general objective of the Project is to support the development of a CARICOM-wide framework to produce comparable data that would improve the information base for region-wide analysis of the CSME, labour market analysis and other regional issues of concern to the Region.

Activities:

To support the Common Census framework the following activities are being executed:

- (a) Support to training in Census Demographic Analysis;
- (b) Regional Training Workshop on Census Organization and Administration;
- (c) Mapping/GIS Support to Member States;
- (d) Data Processing – technical assistance, regional workshops, equipment, data dissemination census portal support etc.;
- (e) Attachments, exchange visits, general coordination support;
- (f) Consultant to support execution of technical support at the regional level.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

The expected outcomes of the Project are as follows:

- (i) A report detailing challenges of the 2000 Census Round and recommendations to guide the 2010 Census operations prepared (Report prepared from Meeting of Census Experts – supported by UNFPA);
- (ii) Trained personnel on Census Organisation and Administration (Report Prepared from Workshop on Census Organisation and Administration);
- (iii) Maps and GIS systems developed in Member States to support the collection and dissemination of the Census data (Consultant recruited work in progress);
- (iv) Acquisition of infrastructure and development of Census Data Warehousing of 2000 and 2010 Rounds (Complemented work started under CIDA Project/ Server purchased and Census e-Portal Launched), Satellite Imagery etc.;
- (v) Census Data processed in a timely manner for dissemination and analysis (Workshop held, report being prepared - advertisement to recruit consultant about to be published);
- (vi) Exchange visits/attachment and other areas of technical assistance facilitated in the conduct of the census (Ongoing).

Status: In Progress

1.9 Other Activities- UNFPA Support to CARICOM Meeting to Fund Various Areas on Census Preparation:

- Funding of a Workshops on Challenges and Experiences on the 2000 Census Round to identify best practices and solutions that can inform 2010 Round;
- Training in CSPro;
- Support to attendance at the Regional Census Coordinating Committee Meetings.

1.10 Training in CensusInfo (UNSD, UNICEF)

Training of personnel in the Data Dissemination Software to disseminate Census data in the 2010 Census Round.

SECTION II: COOPERATION ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES: ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Cooperation activities in the area of Economic Statistics include/included the following:

2.1 Conduct of Regional Training Workshops in National Accounts focusing on the sharing of experiences with the Implementation of the 1993 SNA supported by UNSD (first Workshop) and Caribbean Technical Assistance Centre, Eurostat (second Workshop), the UNSD, Member States (2001 and 2002)

Objective:

To facilitate the Implementation of the 1993 Systems of National Accounts in CARICOM

Activities:

- (a) Conduct of Regional Workshop in 2001 mainly facilitated by the UNSD Macro-Economic Adviser;
- (b) Conduct of Regional Workshop in 2002 mainly facilitated by the UNSD Macro-Economic Adviser.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) Trained personnel in 1993 SNA;
- (ii) Sharing of experiences and best practices/networking;
- (iii) Establishment of an SNA Advisory Group;
- (iv) Identification of a Framework for the implementation of the 1993 SNA; and
- (v) Design and execution of an Assessment Questionnaire.

2.2 Strengthening Capacity of national authorities in the Compilation of Trade in Services Statistics funded by Canadian International Development Agency under a CSME-CARICOM Protocol II Project

Objectives:

As the title implies the project aimed to strengthen capacity with respect to the compilation of statistics on International Trade in Services.

Activities:

- (a) Conduct of a Situational Assessment;
- (b) Development of a 3-year Programme with Recommendations;
- (c) Conduct of one Regional training Workshop and two National Workshops to test the recommendations on the compilation of these statistics.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) Situational Assessment conducted, report prepared with recommendations, 3-year Work Programme prepared, Resource Requirements identified;
- (ii) Statisticians of NSOs, representatives from Central Banks and relevant ministries and other agencies (of the host countries) trained on the framework of Statistics on Trade in Services/Investment;
- (iii) Pilot National workshops conducted in two countries, reviewing and discussing the data availability in specific service sectors, with inputs from personnel from the private sector, governments and other agencies, e.g. Tourism, Financial Sector, Communication etc.;
- (iv) Development of Databases at the CARICOM Secretariat based on Balance of Payments Services Component as close as possible to the Extended Balance of Payments in Services (EBOPS);
- (v) Production and dissemination of two Regional Publications on Statistics on International Trade in Services and Production and Employment with available details. At that time the Member State of Belize was producing statistics as close as possible to the EBOPS.

2.3 USAID-funded Project- CTRADECOM on Strengthening Capacity in the Compilation of Statistics on International Trade in Services**Objectives:**

To implement the recommendations from the CIDA funded project to enable the development of a common framework for the production of these statistics and the compilation of statistics

Activities:

- (i) Review and Compilation of Statistics on International Trade in Services from the worksheets of six (6) countries including the provision of technical assistance;

- (ii) Preparation of Common Guidelines;
- (iii) Conduct of National Seminars with NSOs, Central Banks, ministries, agencies, private sector, universities;
- (iv) Provision of Technical Assistance in Sampling, including Frame/Register Building;
- (v) Development of Caribbean Specific Classification Systems;
- (vi) Review of existing databases system to identify the detailed data required available from the balance of payments;
- (vii) Development of a Common Questionnaire for the collection of Statistics on International Trade in Services.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) Common Guidelines Produced and disseminated;
- (ii) Report on Review of Worksheets produced and disseminated;
- (iii) Classification Systems defined and presented at various meetings;
- (iv) Technical Assistance supplied in the compilation of statistics at the EBOPS level; on sampling and classifications;
- (v) At least two additional countries produced statistics at the EBOPS.

2.4 Program to Enhance Dissemination of Trade Data in CARICOM- Strengthening of the Regional Trade Information System (TradSys) Funded by the IDB

Objectives:

The general objective of the Program was to improve the timeliness and accessibility of trade data in CARICOM. The specific objectives of the Program were to: (a) improve the system of trade data submission from Member States to the CARICOM Secretariat; (b) allow Member States and other external users to access regional trade data through an online searchable facility; and (c) enhance the capacity of CARICOM Secretariat staff to operate and maintain the TradSys database.

Activities:

- (a) Harmonization and strengthening of trade data submissions by Member States;

- (b) Updating of TradSys and launch of an online interface with user manual; and
- (c) Facilitating the operation and maintenance of the Tradsys database by means of providing training and equipment.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) Enhancement of the Trade Information Systems;
- (ii) Assessment of National and regional trade information systems - Report Submitted;
- (iii) Development of Trade Submission Protocol;
- (iv) Development of an Action Plan arising out of the diagnostic assessment;
- (v) Pilot Implementation of Trade data submission protocols in one country;
- (vi) Country level agreements of the Protocols and Action Plan;
- (vii) Approval by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians of the Assessment Reports and Data Submission Protocols, Action Plan and Assessment;
- (viii) Approval by the Council of Trade and Economic Integration of the Assessment Reports and Data Submission Protocols and Action Plans; and
- (ix) Launch of Online Trade Database with two levels of access to general and privileged users.

2.5 Developmental Work on Tourism Satellite Accounts and a System of Tourism Statistics 2005/6 funded by the Government of Spain

Objective:

To enable the strengthening of capacity in Member States on the development of the Tourism Satellite Account and the System of Tourism Statistics.

Activities:

The activities followed the recommended approach of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and were conducted in four countries - Saint Lucia, Dominica, Grenada and Barbados.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) Technical Assistance (TA) provided on the review of National Accounts, Supply and Use Framework, Systems of Tourism Statistics;
- (ii) TA on the Immigration Statistics - to track visitor arrivals;
- (iii) Training on the TSA framework;
- (iv) Building of inter-institutional platform of the main stakeholders - statistics, central banks, tourism authorities;
- (v) Strengthening of basic data sources required to build the TSA;
- (vi) Documentation of an approach and a programme content based on the UNWTO to conduct future TA in this area.

2.6 European Community – Caribbean Integration Support Programme (CISP) funded under the Ninth European Development Fund (9th EDF). The CISP includes a statistical component with the Result 4, *Improved and Harmonised Economic Statistics Developed and Disseminated (European Community, UNSD, and Eurostat)*

Objective:

The overall objective of this project is to provide decision-makers of CARICOM with the information required to monitor and guide progress in the establishment and strengthening of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). It is aimed at delivering three results which are:

- (i) Harmonising the inter-regional statistical infrastructure;
- (ii) Improving statistical programming, production and dissemination of key economic statistics; and
- (iii) Training Staff and Using Economic Statistics for Monitoring of the regional Integration Process.

Activities:

There have been several activities under this cooperation initiative which are reflected in the outputs and achievements below with the forthcoming activities also indicated.

Main Outputs and Achievements:

- (i) June 2008 - the CARICOM Secretariat convened the CARICOM Statistics Meeting: *Strategising for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in the Region* to assess the impact of developmental work in Economic Statistics and to develop and formulate Preliminary Economic Statistics Action Plan - Barbados Action Plan;
- (ii) 2009 - Undertaking of a Consultancy to facilitate the development and implementation of a framework of activities for the Improvement of the key Economic Statistics in the Region;
- (iii) Convening of a Classifications training workshop also supported by UNSD, ILO and UNESCO;
- (iv) Establishment of Technical Working Group in National Accounts, Short-term Indicators and Trade in Services;
- (v) Development of National Accounts Integrated Questionnaires;
- (vi) Refinement/development of the Action Plan in Economic Statistics;
- (vii) Provision of Merchandise Trade Technical Assistance Consultancy, New Eurotrace, Implementing of the Data Submission Protocol;
- (viii) Conduct of New Eurotrace training W/shop 2009 Eurostat/9th EDF funds;
- (ix) Conduct of Follow-up Workshop on Trade Data Processing- IT and Trade Statisticians to discuss implementation challenges;
- (x) Initial Work to address the issue of a Data Quality Framework Implementation building on approaches already in existence;
- (xi) Commencement of Work in the area of Trade in Services and Investment Statistics building on past interventions mentioned earlier;

Forthcoming Activities:

- (i) Developmental work aimed at improving the organisation of databases and to enable the establishment of a web-based communication infrastructure for the interchange of data (forthcoming contract negotiation preparation phase);
- (ii) Assessment of the Statistical Systems of the Dominican Republic and Haiti;
- (iii) National Accounts Basic Data Production;
- (iv) Tourism Satellite Account Developmental Work;
- (v) Merchandise Trade Data Enhancement Phase II - focusing on Data Quality, Production of Trade Indices; Data Reconciliation Study etc.;
- (vi) Study on areas related to Trade in Services Statistics - difficult sectors; direction of trade mode of delivery etc.;
- (vii) Technical Assistance on Classifications in Trade in Services Statistics; and
- (viii) Continued work on the Help Desk Facility.

SECTION III: COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN OTHER GENERAL AREAS RELATED TO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Common Statistics Production – Regional Public Good Facility (IDB)

Objective:

To produce a Common Framework for Statistics Production to facilitate harmonized statistics production in the Region through three components that address (i) An Implementation Plan for the Regional Statistical Work Programme (ii) Addressing Common Issues in Statistics Legislation (iii) A Common Approach to Data Warehousing and Archiving.

Activities:

Component I Regional Statistical Work Programme Implementation Plan

- (a) Execution by the Advisory Group on Statistics of a diagnostic study of the status of the statistical offices and analysis of this study supported by a consultancy;
- (b) Design of a five-year Implementation Plan;
- (c) Preparation of Recommendations to fill the gaps in statistics.

Component II Common Issues in Statistics legislation

- (a) Identification of gaps and differences among the statistical offices across the region in the Statistics legislation and regulations;
- (b) Develop a Model Statistics Bill to address the gaps identified;
- (c) Prepare recommendations based on (b).

Component III Data Warehousing and Archiving

- (a) Preparation of a Regional Framework for the storage, data warehousing, archiving and dissemination of statistics – leading to a data warehousing and dissemination policy.

Main Output and Achievement:

Diagnostic questionnaire prepared by AGS and disseminated to Member States.

Status: In Progress

3.2 Development of a Strategic Framework for Statistics and related areas Caribbean Integration Support Programme (CISP)-European Community and in collaboration with other organisations/countries such as PARIS21 as well as the UNSD, ECLAC etc.

- (i) Training on the preparation of National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) for the National Statistical Systems;
- (ii) Conduct of a Consultancy in Statistical programming to enable the development of strategic plans in the National Statistical Systems in Member States using the NSDS approach;
- (iii) Developmental work on the Regional Statistical Work programme implementation at the national level to complement the IDB project in this area.

3.3 Support to the SCCS as a Forum and the Advisory Group on Statistics (European Community)

- (i) Review of the Terms of Reference of the SCCS;
- (ii) Support the functioning of the Advisory Group on Statistics;
- (iii) Other Coordination activities relative to improvement in the regional and national statistical framework.

3.4 Advocacy/High-Level Forum (European Community/PARIS21/OECD)

- (i) Conduct of a High-Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics with Government Ministers, top officials of the Caribbean Community and of regional and International Organisations;
- (ii) Support to National Advocacy events;
- (iii) Follow-up of recommendations of High-Level Forum.

3.5 Implementation of DevInfo Dissemination Software in CARICOM (UNICEF funded) in 2007, 2008 and 2009 for activities related to the enhancement of DevInfo focusing on Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Montserrat, Barbados, Guyana, Suriname, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat.

Objective:

To make available data to users to inform social and economic interventions, decision-making and policy formulation and leading to the production of a data dissemination policy.

Activities:

- (a) Conduct of regional training of trainers workshops basic and advanced;
- (b) Conduct of in-country training in the User and Administration Modules; backstopping and follow-up problem solving;
- (c) Support to training of trainers in India;
- (d) Support to attendance at DevInfo meetings in Panama;
- (e) Basic Statistics training in the case of one Member State;
- (f) Provision of equipment at the CARICOM Secretariat and in Member States.

Main Outputs and Achievements

- (i) Launch of CARICOMInfo online dissemination facility;
- (ii) Launch of DevInfo adaptation in Dominica, Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana;
- (iii) Training of Trainers workshops conducted, enabling the creation of trainers in DevInfo in the Region.

Status: In Progress

Forthcoming:

3.6 Training Workshop for Directors/Deputy Directors on Management of Statistical Offices (forthcoming) United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

3.7 Training Workshop in Sampling Theory and Practice- with Applications to Household and Business Surveys (European Community/to be supported by UNECLAC)

SECTION IV: CONCLUSIONS

The above initiatives represent some of the major areas of cooperation activities that the CARICOM Secretariat Statistics Unit along with the SCCS and the AGS are undertaking. There are a few projects that have not been included some of which are forthcoming.

The Regional Statistics programme at the CARICOM Secretariat also supports and collaborates with several regional and international agencies as well as collaboration on an individual basis with statistical offices as required in various areas of work aimed at developing statistics.

The over-riding approach that is being put in place is to enable the development of Strategic Planning Framework for the National Statistical Systems of Member States which can then form the basis of all current activities being executed to support statistics as well as future applications for funding for the development of new and updated statistical methodologies or areas of statistics in the region e.g. Systems of National Accounts 2008 Implementation. It is envisaged that this strategic approach would enable sustainability of the mechanisms that are being applied to improve statistics in CARICOM.