

# CARICOM Core SDG Indicators:

## Progress, Challenges and Strengthening Statistical Capacity for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Subregional Capacity Building Workshop on the  
Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island  
Developing States (ABAS) and its Monitoring and  
Evaluation (M&E) Framework

Georgetown, Guyana



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*[CARICOM Secretariat](#)*

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# Presentation Outline

- **CARICOM Core SDG Indicators Compilation in Context**
  - Compilation framework, governance and data ecosystem
- **Current Status**
  - Regional snapshot: coverage and reporting
  - Assessments of indicator availability (2018 vs. 2023 vs. 2025) and Key insights on data gaps by SDG
- **Challenges**
- **Opportunities for Strengthening Statistical Capacity**
  - Capacity-building approaches
  - Tools and techniques (SDMX, geospatial integration, quality assurance)
- **Next Steps**
  - Short-, medium-, and long-term actions

# CARICOM Core SDG indicator compilation: Framework, Governance, and Data Ecosystem

## Indicator and Metadata

Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the COHSOD, in 2018, approved 125 unique CARICOM Core SDG Indicators (a subset of the global list of 241 indicators) as being relevant to the national and regional development in CARICOM countries; The global indicator framework includes 234 unique indicators; There are annual refinements of indicators; UN SDG metadata repository available and updated from time to time; national metadata should align



## Governance and Coordination

CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) provides the essential framework for implementing and monitoring progress on the SDGs and includes The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a strategic driver; SCCS and Regional Statistics Programme lead harmonization; CARICOM values the collaboration with regional and international organisations to improve the compilation of data on the SDGs; RSP has collaborated with The UNECLAC, UN WOMEN on SDG 5.4.1, FAO, UNICEF (on the possibility of a regional MICS) and the Global Partnership Initiative.

## National and Regional Roles

National Statistical System produce data; CARICOM Secretariat collects data from NSOs, builds capacity, and compiles regional outputs such as the SDG bulletins, in-house SDMX repository and in-house excel database.

## Data Sources and Gaps

VNRs, Household surveys, administrative registers, Health, censuses, geospatial data used; resource constraints, lack of specialised surveys (CPA, HBS, MICS) for some indicators and poor data quality are gaps highlighted at regional events.

# Regional Snapshot: Coverage of CARICOM Core SDG Indicators

Data coverage, gaps, and reporting

5

Number of countries producing at least 52 of 125 indicators

Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Suriname

2

VNRs Per Annum

Average number of Voluntary National Reviews received by the CARICOM Secretariat

4

SDG with multi-country gaps

Goals lacking data for 9 or more countries; Goals 10, 11, 12, 14

2

SDG with the least gaps

Goals 1 and 3 have only 1 country with missing data; remaining goals have moderate data gaps

# Availability Assessments for CARICOM Core SDG indicators

**Two assessments of CARICOM Core SDG indicators availability** conducted in **2018** and **2023**

- Data Availability template was submitted to Member States and Associate Members on 31 August 2023 and ALL Member States and 1 Associate Member responded.
- Significant disparity between what is being reported as produced and available by Member States and what is submitted/compiled and available at the CARICOM Secretariat
- The **CARICOM Secretariat RSP collects and compiles data on the SDGs indicators** from various sources including:
  - Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs);
  - Data submitted by Member States in an excel template;
  - Online sources including national repositories and publications; and
  - In-house databases
- **Summary of current availability**
  - The number of data gaps varies significantly among the SDGs, ranging from 1 to 15 missing country data.
  - **SDG 12** (Responsible Consumption and Production) exhibits the highest number of data gaps, totaling 15 (no data), indicating major challenges in data availability that could hinder effective tracking of progress.
  - **SDG 1** (No Poverty) and **SDG 3** (Good Health and Well-being) have only 1 data gap each, demonstrating relatively complete data coverage in these areas.

# Availability Assessments for CARICOM Core SDG indicators

Member State	Indicators <u>reportedly produced</u> by the NSO/NSS in 2018	Indicators <u>reportedly produced</u> by the NSO/NSS in 2023	Indicators <u>compiled and available</u> at CCS in 2025
Antigua and Barbuda	45	53	14
The Bahamas	58	64	6
Barbados	63	9*	31
Belize	55	53	66
Dominica	44	42	12
Grenada	60	73	44
Guyana	67	103	58
Haiti	0	34	1
Jamaica	51	94	69
Montserrat	0	18	27
Saint Lucia	41	42	59
St. Kitts and Nevis	72	26	9
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	32	60	31
Suriname	72	94	56
Trinidad and Tobago	64	44	42
Anguilla	-	-	2
Bermuda	56	-	6
The British Virgin Islands	30	-	-
Cayman Islands	-	-	44
The Turks and Caicos Islands	-	26	2

# Availability of CARICOM Core SDG indicators by Country for Selected Goals

Country	Number of indicators under selected SDG with at least 1 data point		
	Goal 1 (8 indicators)	Goal 3 (25 indicators)	Goal 10 (4 indicators)
Antigua and Barbuda	2	3	
The Bahamas	2	4	
Barbados	2	10	
Belize	5	13	1
Dominica	3	5	
Grenada	6	14	
Guyana	2	16	
Haiti	1		
Jamaica	5	18	1
Montserrat	0	12	
Saint Lucia	6	14	
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	4	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	3	6	
Suriname	3	16	
Trinidad and Tobago	2	12	
Anguilla			
Bermuda			
The British Virgin Islands			
Cayman Islands	1	15	1
The Turks and Caicos Islands	1	1	

# Availability of CARICOM Core SDG indicators/VNRs

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>TOTAL VNR SUBMISSIONS</b>	1	2	3	2	1	4	2	1	2

## Insights on data availability

- The data indicates stronger availability and consistency for SDGs related to poverty and health, areas that are traditionally prioritized for data collection. Additionally, **poverty data for most countries were outdated since most were conducted in the early 2000s**, four Member States (Belize, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Lucia) with recently conducted poverty surveys reported higher data points under Goal 1.
- In contrast, complex environmental and economic goals like Responsible Consumption and Production and Reduced Inequalities face more significant data gaps, reflecting difficulties in measurement, data collection infrastructure, or reporting mechanisms.
- For the period 2017- 2025, SDG indicators were available for fourteen (14) Member States from Voluntary National Reports (VNRs) compiled and data submitted.
- Among five (5) Associate Members (Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands), the Cayman Islands show the highest data representation, although British Overseas Territories (Associate Members) are integrated into the UK's VNRs.

# Main challenges

01

## Data Availability

Data collection processes may be insufficient, leading to gaps in necessary administrative and datasets across CARICOM countries.

02

## Resource Constraints

Limited resources to conduct specialized surveys required to fill data gaps impede effective monitoring of SDG progress.

03

## Definitions

Varied national interpretations of SDG indicators such as poverty lines and vulnerability definitions

04

## Quality

Inconsistencies in data quality impact the reliability of assessments and interpretations of the SDG indicators.

05

## Disaggregation

Lack of detailed disaggregation limits insights into specific populations, affecting targeted interventions and policy-making.

06

## Metadata

Incomplete or non-standard metadata impedes harmonization across Member States

07

## Institutional Capacity

Weak institutional frameworks and lack of interagency collaboration impede the collection, analysis, and dissemination of accurate statistical information.

08

## Technical Constraints

Limited technical expertise, training and resources hinder the effective implementation of robust statistical systems in the region.

09

## Regional aggregation

Lack of common protocols prevents reliable CARICOM-level SDG time series

# Strengthening Statistical Capacity: Governance, Skills, Infrastructure

## Governance and Coordination

Reorganize and convene meeting of TWG-SDGs, provide support to Member States and Associate Members in fostering better inter-agency cooperation. Promote good SDG data quality across National Statistical Systems through adoption and implementation of the CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practices in Member States and Associate Members.

Promote the use of innovative methods in the production and dissemination of SDGs indicators such as the use of GIS through the Technical Working Groups on Innovation in Statistics and Integration of Geo-Spatial and Statistical Data.

Promote the integration of data using systems such as the CARICOM Central Repository.

## Human Capital and Training

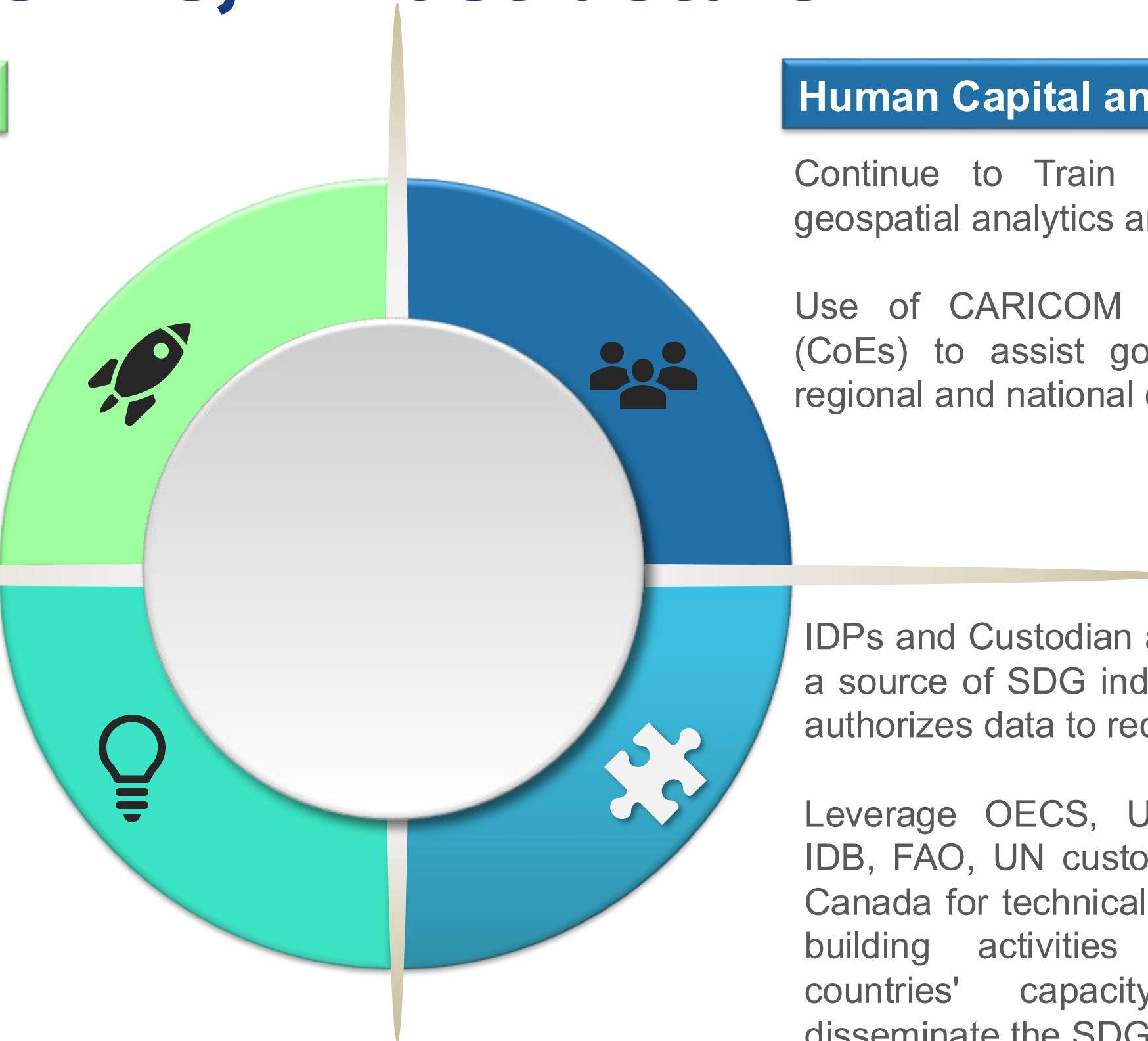
Continue to Train NSO staff on SDMX, geospatial analytics and survey design.

Use of CARICOM Centers of Excellence (CoEs) to assist governments to build up regional and national capacity.

IDPs and Custodian agencies can be used as a source of SDG indicators if Member States authorizes data to reduce reporting burden

Leverage OECS, UNECLAC, World Bank, IDB, FAO, UN custodian agencies, Statistics Canada for technical assistance and capacity building activities to improve Member countries' capacity to produce and disseminate the SDG indicators.

## Infrastructure



## Partnerships

# Tools and Techniques for Better Measurement and Reporting: Standards and Platforms

<p>1</p> <p><b>SDMX: standardized data and metadata exchange</b></p> <p>Enables harmonized regional reporting, exchange of data in machine readable formats and interoperability</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>Geospatial tools: satellite and GIS integration</b></p> <p>Support climate vulnerability analysis and subnational SDG mapping</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>Online learning platforms</b></p> <p>Improve the availability of statistical resources and facilitate the sharing of knowledge across the Regional Statistical System of CARICOM Member States. CARICOM eCISTAR, SDG Academy</p>
<p>4</p> <p><b>Quality Assurance protocols and metadata</b></p> <p>CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF) to Improve data quality, documentation, and comparability across systems</p> <p>GSBPM assists CARICOM NSOs in modernizing their processes, integrating standards, and enhancing the quality of their statistical outputs</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>Global, regional and national SDG database platforms</b></p> <p>Enables management and publication of data and indicators for monitoring of SDGs such as CARICOM central repository, OECS platform, Open SDG (free open-source platform), Belize NSS repository.</p>	<p>6</p> <p><b>Techniques for analysis of Population and Housing Census using SPSS</b></p> <p>Enables application of statistical techniques to generate indicators, and produce development metrics, including those linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>

# Next Steps

Phased actions for CARICOM SDG data strengthening (0–5 years)

## Short Term (0 -12 months)

Quality standards, TWG SDG, workshops, SDMX

- Promote good SDG data quality; convene meeting of TWG SDG; begin SDMX implementation; continue statistical capacity building workshops in collaboration with IDPs



## Long Term (3-5 years)

National platforms

- National SDMX platforms; sustainable financing mechanism

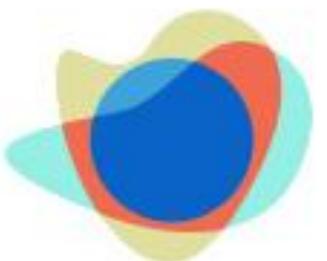


## Medium Term (1-3 years)

Integrate data and formalize agreements

- Develop regional products for geospatial analysis. Regional platform deployed online.
- Integrate geospatial layers in the analysis, visualisation and dissemination of data, formalize data-sharing agreements; expand administrative data quality assurance





END OF PRESENTATION

# THANK YOU

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