



CARICOM Regional Mechanisms

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

15-17 December 2025



Presentation Overview

- **Introduction and Role of Regional Statistics in the Community**
- **CARICOM RSDS and Strategic Priorities**
- **Key Regional Mechanisms**
 - Committees
 - Technical Working Groups
 - Centres of Excellence
 - Regional public goods and joint data systems
- **Benefits and challenges**
- **Way Forward (CATALYST)**

Introduction

CARICOM, or the Caribbean Community, is an organisation of **15 Member States and 6 Associate Members**, established to promote economic integration and cooperation among its members and is a respected voice in international affairs because of a coordinated foreign policy.

CARICOM spans from The Bahamas in the north to Suriname and Guyana in South America. It includes **small island developing states (SIDS)**, with Belize in Central America and Guyana and Suriname in South America being the exceptions to the **predominantly island-based membership**.

Despite the small size and population, CARICOM countries are diverse in geography, population and levels of economic and social development.

CARICOM is the oldest surviving integration movement in the developing world. **Its collaborative efforts have led to improvements in various sectors, including statistics and information.**

Role of Regional Statistics and Data Ecosystem

Tracking Progress: Regional statistics are essential in monitoring CARICOM's strategic goals, including economic growth, social development, health, well-being, resilience to disasters and climate change, as well as environmental sustainability.



Data for Decision-Making: Regional statistics provide critical data such as GDP growth rate, unemployment, inflation, life expectancy, literacy, poverty, carbon emissions, movement of persons and energy usage, among other datasets, enabling informed policy decisions and setting benchmarks at both national and regional levels.

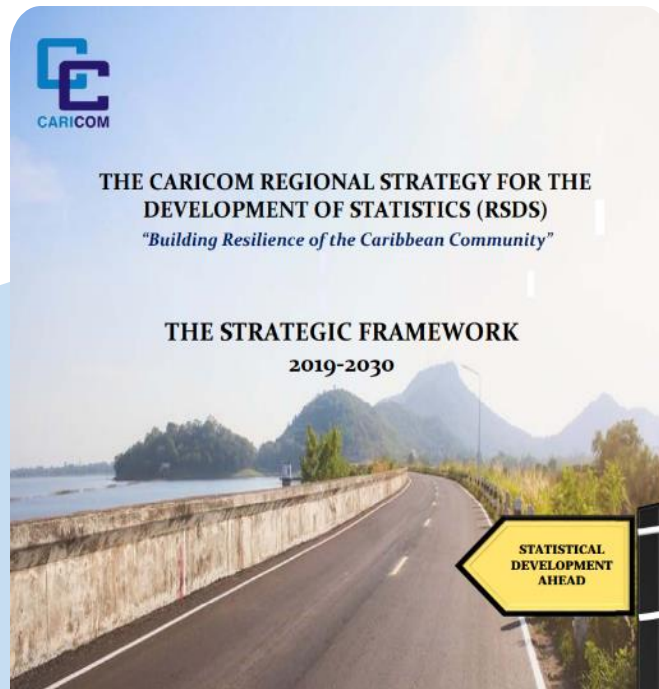
CARICOM Secretariat's Role:

- **Coordinates** the Regional Statistics Programme and support from IDPs.
- **Recommends** the annual work programme for endorsement by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS).
- **Compiles** intraregional statistics based on the Regional Statistics Work Programme (RSWP) approved by the Community Council in 2005.
- **Coordinates** the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)

CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)

The overarching theme of the CARICOM RSDS is “Building Resilience of the Caribbean Community”

- ✓ CARICOM is taking steps to implement the RSDS in collaboration with International Development Partners (IDPs), Universities and with the Private Sector.
- ✓ **Overarching focus:**
 - ✓ robust governance, high-quality and harmonised data, as well as improved data availability, IT infrastructure, capacity building, gender mainstreaming
- ✓ **The RSDS is a 12-year Roadmap (2019–2030) to strengthen the statistical systems of CARICOM.**



Endorsed by
Heads of Government of

CARICOM

39HGC, July 2018



RSDS Mechanism

- ✓ The implementation and monitoring of the RSDS are structured around five (5) strategic priorities and four (4) key drivers/enablers.
- ✓ Together, these priorities, drivers and enablers position the RSDS to address the challenges faced by CARICOM SIDS and to enable the Ultimate Outcome of an efficient CARICOM Statistical System (CSS) that is responsive to the national, regional and global development agendas, enabling a resilient Community
- ✓ Programme of work fully incorporate demographic factors into countries' development plans, policies and programmes

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Standards and Harmonisation

Governance

Integrated Statistical System

Innovation

Advocacy and Communication

DRIVERS/ENABLERS

IT Infrastructure

2030 Agenda

Sustainable Capacity Building

Gender Mainstreaming

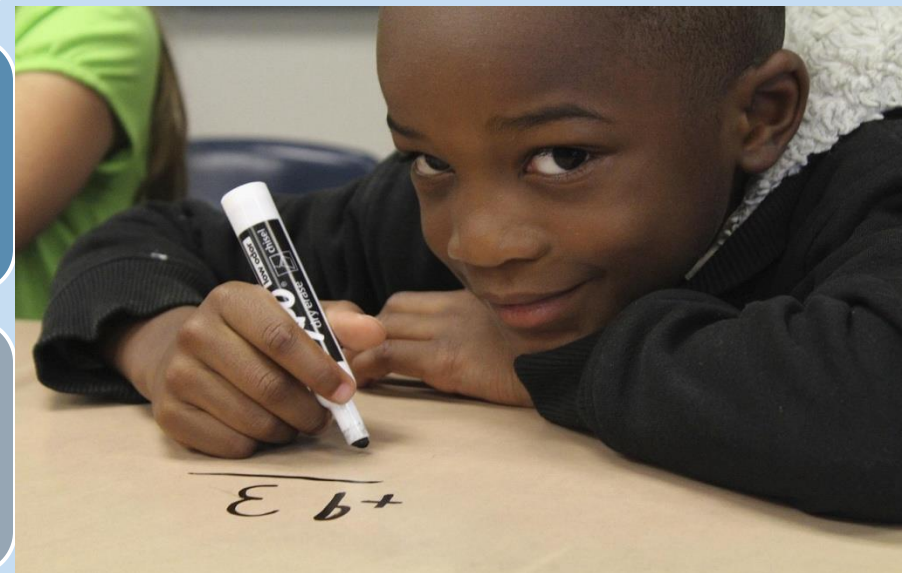
Significance of the RSDS for CARICOM

Resilience Building: The RSDS is central to building the region's resilience to climate change, economic volatility, and other shocks by ensuring that policymakers have access to reliable, timely data to inform decision-making.

Long-Term Framework: The RSDS provides a strategic approach to statistics for the **2030 Agenda**, meaning it aligns with both regional and global priorities for sustainable development.

Collaboration and Harmonisation: It promotes **regional harmonisation of data collection and reporting standards**, which is vital for ensuring comparability and consistency across the Caribbean.

Strengthens governance structures: It promotes modern, coordinated institutional arrangements within national and regional statistical systems.



Regional Committees

provides overall guidance and political direction (highest decision-making)

Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM (HGC)

provides policy direction to sectoral and functional bodies

Community Council of Ministers

provides guidance, harmonises statistical standards and ensures the implementation of regional statistical priorities

SCCS

supports the SCCS by advancing its decisions, facilitating implementation of the RSWP

focuses exclusively on **Population and Housing Census matters**, coordinating census planning and implementation

RCCC (only Population and Housing Census Matters)

Advisory Group on Statistics

provide specialised technical expertise, develop methodologies, and address domain-specific statistical issues

Technical Working Groups

Technical Working Groups (TWGs)

Common objectives

- To make **recommendations** to the Advisory Group on Statistics.
- To provide opportunities for TWG participants to reflect on and discuss the **experiences** from their national statistical systems.
- To address ongoing activities and facilitate continued **discussions** on related topics of interest to the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) and similar bodies.
- To support the implementation of the regional strategies, **initiatives and interventions** aimed at harmonising and improving statistics in the region.
- To support the strengthening of capacity through sharing of experiences/**best practices**, south-south co-operation and the delivery of focused **training**.
- To promote the **harmonisation** of statistical data and standardisation of dissemination practices across NSOs, with an aim to improve regional comparability and coherence.
- To serve as a key **technical resource** for addressing country-specific issues.
- To promote and facilitate **inter-institutional partnerships** and agreements.

Existing:

- (1) National Accounts and International Trade in Services
- (2) Merchandise Trade
- (3) SDGs
- (4) Environment Statistics
- (5) Classifications

Newly Established:

- (1) Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information
- (2) Communications, Dissemination and Website Management
- (3) Innovation

Centres of Excellence

Purpose	Areas of Focus (e.g.,)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen regional sustainable statistical capacity through the South-South Cooperation Support the development of a robust CARICOM Statistical System (CSS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT, data capture and exchange (CAPI, SDMX) Household surveys & sampling Price statistics Merchandise Trade National Accounts Environment & climate change statistics Agriculture statistics Social & gender statistics

Role of Centres of Excellence

Led by **designated or regionally recognised NSOs**

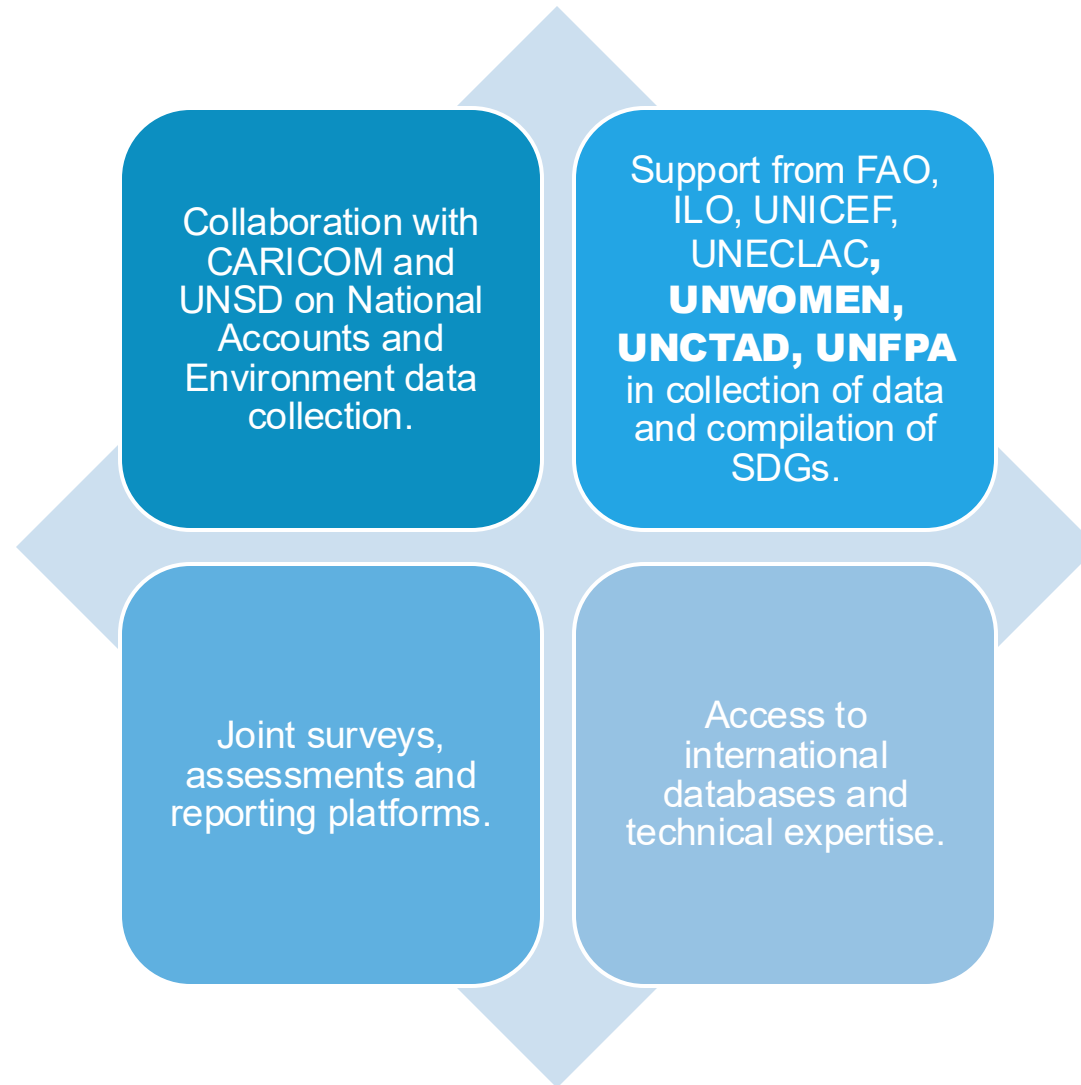
Serve as regional centres for:

- Technical support, including training to Member States
- Knowledge generation
- Standards development
- Promotion of good practices



Joint Data Collection with the UN System

Joint data collection efforts with the UN System have become a critical enabler of improved monitoring



Regional Public Goods (RPGs)

These are shared systems that benefit all Member States and can be leveraged to support ABAS framework. RPGs are especially critical, as they help address challenges that no single country can tackle alone.

- **Promotes harmonisation of statistical methodologies across CARICOM.**
- **Generates public goods:** instruments, training, and knowledge materials available to all Member States.
- **Enhances ability to advocate for SIDS globally using data-driven evidence.**
- **Supports frameworks like the RSDS, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS** and other regional frameworks for climate resilience.

Some notable Public Goods

- ▣ CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (**RSDS**)
- ▣ Learning Platform **eCISTAR** (Redeveloped under the 11th EDF Programme)
- ▣ Regional Statistics Work Programme (**RSWP**)
- ▣ Central **Repository**
- ▣ CARICOM **Core SDG Indicators**
- ▣ CARICOM Model Statistics **Bill**
- ▣ CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (**CQAF**)
- ▣ Code of Good Statistical Practices (**CGSP**)
- ▣ Common **Census Framework**
- ▣ Generic Statistical Business Process Model (**GSBPM**)
- ▣ **Statistical Framework for the Measurement of Vulnerability** in CARICOM (under-development)

Key Benefits and Challenges

Existing regional and national mechanisms continue to provide strong foundations for coordination, monitoring and implementation



BENEFITS

Enhanced **coordination** and reduced duplication; Shared **expertise** and pooled resources; Improved data **quality** and comparability; and Stronger regional **negotiating** position.



Limited **capacity**; inconsistent adoption of **standards**; **funding gaps**; weak **administrative data**; outdated **infrastructure**; and overlapping **reporting demands**.

CHALLENGES



Way Forward: C A T A L Y S T

C - Coordination:

Strengthen coordination across all regional mechanisms

A - Acceleration (Digital):

Accelerate digital transformation of our statistical systems

T - Transformation
(CARICOM RSDS):

Prioritise full implementation of the CARICOM **RSDS resulting in transformation**

**A - Alignment
(Interoperability):**

Improve data sharing protocols and interoperability

L - Leveraging Resources:

Enhance capacity-building and resource mobilisation for NSOs in the Region

Y - Yielding Regional Public
Goods:

Expand Regional Public Goods and Centres of Excellence

S - Systems Integration
(SDGs & ABAS):

Develop integrated regional platforms for SDG and ABAS reporting

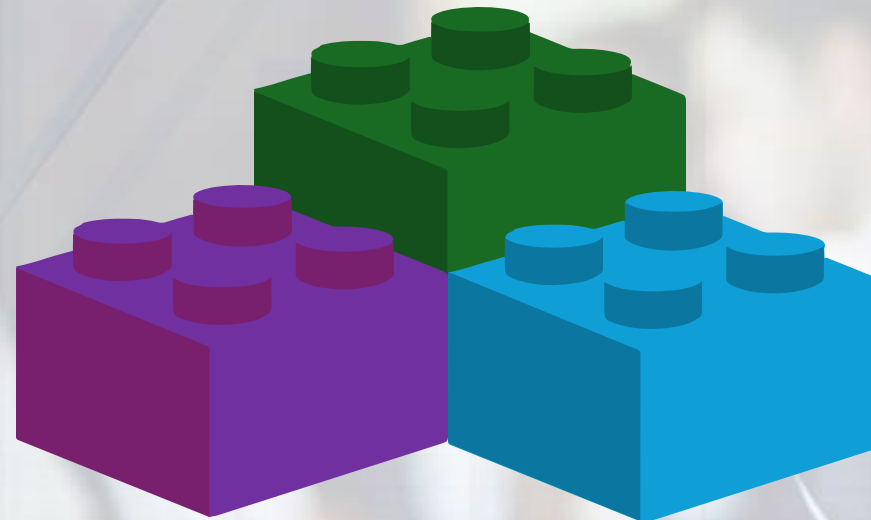
T - Teaming with UN System:

Institutionalise joint data collection with the UN system

Conclusion

✓ **Strong regional mechanisms** already exist; ABAS provides a renewed mandate to leverage them

✓ **Effective coordination,** consistent standards and strengthened capacity are essential



✓ **A harmonised regional system** will support accurate and timely reporting for ABAS and other development priorities



END OF PRESENTATION

THANK YOU

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