





Overview of Population and Housing Censuses in the Caribbean Countries

**CARICOM Secretariat, Regional Statistics Programme
SCA 23-25 November 2021**

OVERVIEW

- Background- The Census and the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)
- Regionally Coordinated Approach
- Highlights of Support provided under the Regional Census Strategy
- Challenges and Strategies adopted during COVID-19 pandemic
- Census day 2020 Round Population and Housing Census in Caribbean
- Countries' Readiness

Background- the Census and the RSDS

LOCATION OF CENSUS WITHIN THE CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS):

- The CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics is a strategic roadmap for statistics development that was endorsed in 2018 by Heads of Government of CARICOM
- The CARICOM RSDS incorporates as a vital activity the Population and Housing Census as an integrated programme that is a key source of data for the entire national statistical system. The Population is also a core element of the common RSWP (Regional Statistics Work Programme);
- Therefore, the endorsement of the CARICOM RSDS incorporates the commitment by Member States and Associate Members to the conduct of Population and Housing Censuses across the region; with the Census data contributing to the theme of the CARICOM RSDS of "*Building Resilience of the Caribbean Community*" through identifying vulnerable population groups, their location, and areas in countries that are susceptible to natural and other disasters.

Regionally-Coordinated Approach

BENEFITS OF REGIONAL COORDINATION

- A Regional Census Strategy with a Regional Census Coordinating Committee is established to support countries in the conduct of their census exercises. The regionally coordinated approach has some important benefits including:
- Significant cost savings resulting from the sharing of lessons-learnt, equipment, expertise and other resources;
- The opportunity to identify and examine common census problems and to have collective inputs in devising strategies for their solution;
- The comparability of the census data for participating countries, achieved through the use of a **common questionnaire** and other instruments of data collection, with a *common core of questions, and uniform concepts and definitions*;

Highlights of Support Provided under the Regional Census Strategy

- **Common Census Questionnaire (CCQ)** and general training in a number of areas took place in 2017. The CCQ has been continuously updated including with questions on Time Use and CCQ Guidelines with metadata have been prepared.
- Training was undertaken in **Disability Statistics** on two occasions – one with the UNSD and the other with the Washington Group/University of London funding to inform these questions in the Census
- Training was undertaken in collaboration with partners (IDB, Canada, ESRI, UNFPA, US Census Bureau) and World Bank) in July 2018 on **Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing and Mapping**
- A training workshop in **Mapping/GIS** was held CARICOM-ESRI and funded by the IDB in December 2018.
- CARICOM on a demand basis has provided **technical support/advice to countries** including Belize (general technical support including during train the trainers) Anguilla (preparation of census proposal for funding) and Grenada (general technical support and advice on how to conduct the Census during the pandemic).
- **Regional Census Coordinating Meetings** are held twice per year from 2018 (once per year on a continuous basis) and serves to provide **a forum for networking, sharing of good practices and deriving solutions to challenges including during the pandemic.**

Highlights of Support Provided under the Regional Census Strategy

Common Census Framework 2.0 – an IDB-funded project executed by CARICOM comprised the following:

- Component I Development of a Project Management Framework for the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing including a CAPI Development Plan, Management Reports, Staff Roles and a Quality Model.
- Component II – support to Mapping/GIS including the conduct of an assessment, the production of a mapping Manual and a webinar providing training in this area;
- Component III- An assessment of the approaches to Census management and the production of a Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)-based framework to enable effective census management;
- CDB-funded project on the dissemination of Census Results- Upgrading of the regional Census e-portal to disseminate census data has been undertaken.
- A region-wide Census launch was conducted on August 3, 2021, to advocate for the Census in those countries that were undertaking in 2021

Some challenges and strategies adopted:

- Budget cut-reduction/Financial issues
- Delays in preparation of census activities
- Surge/spike COVID-19 cases- delay/postpone census taking
- Mandate/required vaccines for enumerators – loss of enumerators due to anti-vaxx
- Training of extra/additional census field staff/other recruitment
- Backup plan for enumeration/data collection method
- Face to face vs Use multi modal approach in census taking- CAPI, CAWI, CATI
- In person vs Virtual training of enumerators and supervisors

Some challenges and strategies adopted:

- Extended pilot testing
- Extended/lengthened data collection period
- Instituted COVID protocols – outdoor when face to face, face shields along with masks, etc.
- Administering oaths virtually
- Electronic signing of contracts
- Lots of publicity/advocacy in country/Region-Wide Census Launch in August 2021- Leave no one behind... Everyone Counts
- Countries requested Round 2 of this activity in 2022- also involve IDPs
- Other interruptions during pandemic: natural disasters such volcano eruption, hurricane led to further postponement of census

Initial Census Day

--	--	--

CENSUS DAY BY COUNTRIES 2020 ROUND

YEAR	NO. OF COUNTRIES	REMARKS
2020	1	Aruba (1 October)
2021	8	Barbados (1 August); Dominica (May); Grenada (12 May); The Bahamas (21 September); Jamaica (5 April) St Kitts and Nevis (15 Sept); Montserrat (12 May); Curaçao (November)
2022	9	Anguilla(12 May); Antigua and Barbuda (May); Belize; Suriname (15 August); Guyana (15 Sept); Turks and Caicos Islands (12 January); Trinidad and Tobago (15 May); St Vincent and the Grenadines (15 June); Saint Lucia

Current Census Day

--	--	--

CENSUS DAY BY COUNTRIES 2020 ROUND

YEAR	NO. OF COUNTRIES	REMARKS
2020	1	Aruba (1 October)
2021	2	Barbados (1 August); Dominica (27 November); [Grenada has commenced their field exercise in November]
2022	14	Anguilla(12 May); Antigua and Barbuda (tbd); The Bahamas (31 January);Belize (May); Suriname (15 August); Grenada (17 January); Guyana (15 Sept); Turks and Caicos Islands (12 January); Jamaica (12 April); Trinidad and Tobago (15 May); St Kitts and Nevis (16 January); Saint Lucia; Montserrat (12 May); Curaçao (April)
2023	1	St Vincent and the Grenadines (15 June)

Countries' Readiness

- CARICOM continues to support countries in executing their Census during the pandemic;
- The RCCC provides a forum for the exchange of ideas on the challenges highlighted earlier;
- The provision of a document (Canada) on the multi-modal approach to census taking has been possible;
- Grenada has also provided a document on the health-based protocols for the undertaking of the Census in a pandemic;
- Anguilla has similarly provided its protocols;
- CARICOM continues to provide advice on an as-needs basis.

THE END