



# Statistical Capacity Needs in the Caribbean

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**Leveraging lessons learnt for effective statistical capacity development (SCD)**

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Have we been going about  
capacity development **the  
wrong way?**

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Where to start first? Identifying  
the **leverage points** of **effective**  
capacity development

# SCD in the Caribbean: *the wrong way?*

- **Definition:** capacity was interpreted as training;
- **Target recipients:** always the NSO;
- **Approach:** transactional rather than strategic; not linked to multi-year plan or NSDS; or a capacity development plan;
- **Identifying needs:** requested during regional meetings; tied to a partner-initiated statistics project (e.g UNICEF's MICS); timed with a statistical undertaking (e.g population census);

# SCD in the Caribbean: *the wrong way?* cont'd

- **Focus:** used to be narrowly focused on data collection and compilation for surveys and censuses (economic and social dimensions); and included workshops, supply of IT equipment and software;
- **Modality:** in-person regional events; one to three weeks duration; facilitated with consultancies and TA from IDPs; south-south sometimes used;
- **Effectiveness:** low ROI: trainees not appropriate; budget mostly travel costs; little or no application on the job; no assessments and peer reviews;

# Rethinking SCD in the Caribbean: *leverage points*

- **SDGs**: the structure of the 2030 Agenda (domains, goals, targets, indicators, tiers, partnerships) and SAMOA Pathway espoused the imperative for holistic approach for data production and dissemination;
- **COVID 19**: the pandemic highlighted the weak elements in the NSS; and demonstrated the importance of communication, advocacy and use of data;

# Rethinking SCD in the Caribbean: *leverage points cont'd*

- **Big Data:** the prominence of voluminous and high frequency, high velocity unstructured data in the ecosystem, portend for a threat to structured official data;
- **Rise of the “data scientist”:** posing as a threat to the official statistician and ushering the imperative to rethink skills, knowledge, tools, techniques and partnerships;

# Rethinking SCD in the Caribbean: *leverage points cont'd*

- **SCB frameworks:** definition, performance measures (e.g WB SCB index); assessment tools (e.g TASC; FDES:ESSAT); guidelines (e.g PARIS21);
- **National development plans:** now more than ever countries are responding to the imperative for national development plan or strategy (esp. SDG mainstreamed); inter-agency collaboration; and a companion NSDS becomes necessary;

# Summary of capacity needs

- **Institutionalise** foundational high-level elements – laws, policy;
- **Design** national development strategy (*SDG and SGD mainstreamed*), with a sub-strategy for environment sustainability;
- **Produce** an NSDS and companion capacity development programme (see *PARIS21 Capacity Development 4.0*);
- **Establish** a national arrangement for environment statistics (*public, private, NGOs, CSOs*);



## Summary of capacity needs *cont'd*

- **Create** a professional development and training programme for environment statisticians and related subject matter specialists;
- **Undertake** a programme of continuous capacity assessment of the NSS (ESSAT);
- **Publish** knowledge products that use environmental statistics and indicators;
- **Design** an advocacy and communication plan that promotes and educates the importance of measuring environment sustainability.



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