

## Main Events

### Regional Statistical Work Programme - Endorsement of action plan

The process of implementing the Regional Statistical Work Programme was advanced with the first meeting of the Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS). In this meeting, the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group on Social / Gender and Environmental Statistics and the Regional Statistical Work Programme were reviewed and combined into one set of Terms of Reference. The objectives of the meeting included the setting up of a way forward for the implementation of the Regional Statistical Work programme at the National level; identification of main areas for data compilation as well as major issues in order to overcome statistical development and management issues. The goal of this meeting was to endorse an action plan outlining the approach to implementation of the Regional Statistical Work Programme. The action plan was prepared to undertake the following:

- Facilitate an assessment at the national level of the current state of the national statistical system in each member country.
- Assess the legal status of the national statistics systems and how the agencies manage themselves.
- 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.
- Maintain linkages with United Nations Statistics Division and other International agencies in the area of statistics, with more involvement with the United Nations

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## Main Events

### Strategy for 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses In the CARICOM Region.

In 2006, the CARICOM Secretariat executed a project aimed at project identification and feasibility of a CARICOM Regional strategy for the 2010 Round of Censuses. Specifically, the strategy identified by the project aims at providing effective support for improvement in the approach to the execution of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in the CARICOM Region. Recommendations for this strategy covered the following areas: Census planning and management; Census mapping; Harmonisation of census topics; Printing of census documents; Field operations; Data capture; Census editing and tabulation; Data analysis; Coordination mechanism; Project personnel; and Regional training programme.

Expected outcomes of this project include:

- ✦ The creation, adoption and dissemination of standardized methodology to produce high-quality social statistics from population census.
- ✦ Comparable data across CARICOM countries will be an input for design of the region wide policies and programs needed to consolidate the integration process in the framework of the CSME.

At the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Census Coordinating Committee, Member States reported on the status of the initial planning for the execution of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (PHC). Some of these activities include:

- Initial meetings on Census planning

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## Main Events

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- Statistical Commission and ensure the collaboration and integration of the statistical initiatives of Regional and International Organisations
- 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.
- 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 subgroups
- Provide guidance and assistance to the process of Harmonization of Regional Statistics and serve as a “watch-dog” regarding Quality assurance of Regional Statistics.
- All other functions deemed necessary to achieve the objectives.

### **Proposal for Strengthened Coordination and Support Among International Agencies to Census-related Activities in the 2010 Round of Censuses**

The CARICOM Secretariat and the UNFPA Office for the English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean (EDSC) have jointly prepared a concept note regarding the strengthening of donor coordination through the establishment of a platform which would provide technical, financial and other related assistance and support to the CARICOM and EDSC countries for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. The intent of this submission is to receive initial feedback from member states and international donor agencies on the relevance of this proposal and thereafter adjust the proposal so as to make it operational as early as possible in 2008. Among the objectives envisioned in this proposal are to:-

- Provide a coordinated response to requests for assistance through a dynamic, highly operational approach to the delivery of that assistance.
- Enable countries and donor agencies to identify synergies and avoid duplication of efforts
- Contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of national and regional processes.

## Main Events

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- Review of Enumeration Districts for possible splitting and updating boundaries
- Negotiations with Public Relations firms on publicity
- Budget preparation
- Review of Mapping Technology

Initial challenges identified included mainly mapping and data capture issues. Assistance was mainly requested in the area of Census Management, Data Processing and Data Analysis.

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- Support the preparatory phase of the censuses, census implementation and the post-enumeration activities of analyses, dissemination and use of the information.
- Complement the resources available at the country and regional levels for each of the CARICOM and EDSC countries

The relative advantages that would be gained as a result of this collaboration include:-

- Accessing assistance (technical and financial) which they may otherwise not be able to access.
- Individual countries and National Statistical Offices having a mechanism through which requests would be channeled for support and donors being able to have one instance for coordination and prioritization of support, hence optimizing resources (human, financial and time) and lowering of administrative and transactional costs.
- Building on the CARICOM/International Development Bank/United Nations Population Fund partnership to support the Regional Common Census whereby standardization could result in higher quality data and more timely results than if each National Statistical Office was working alone.
- The release of regular progress reports to Regional Census Coordinating Committee and other regional and global instances could stimulate countries to put in more effort and resources towards accomplishing census related activities without necessarily creating new instances or layers.

## Current Events

### Status Report on the 2000 Data Analysis Project

The Census 2000 Data Analysis Project comprises five (5) components: the preparation of analytical National Census Reports (NCRs); the preparation of Regional Special Topic Monographs (RSTMs); the production of a Volume of Basic Tables (BTV); the conduct of a Demographic Analysis workshop and the convening of seminars to disseminate the main findings of the Census Data Analysis Project.

Currently, there are final drafts of fourteen (14) country reports which have been submitted to the Secretariat. Two (2) reports are in the process of being reviewed while one is being prepared. Plans are being made for the production for the remaining report. The Secretariat has also initiated an in-house technical review as well as an external editorial review on these reports.

Five regional special topic monographs are currently being prepared in the areas of : Economic Activity; Education and Training; Gender and Development Studies; International Migration; Children, Youth and the Elderly Population. Progress in this area includes the preparation of outlines for these reports by the writers and reviewing of these outlines by the Consultants and the Secretariat. The tables required for analysis have also been selected and are currently being prepared. Great interest has been generated thus far in this early research period signaling the unearthing of very rich findings in these reports.

A Volume of Basic Tables (BTV) comparable to the 1990/91 Round of Census has also been compiled and is in the process of being finalized. The volume is structured in 25 tables each created for eighteen (18) Member States and Associate Members. All tables are largely comparable between Member States with the exception of two countries which differ slightly.

The Second Demographic Analysis workshop was conducted from 2 July to 17 August 2007. Further details can be found in another article featured in this newsletter.

Finally in terms of work in progress, online access of the 1990/91 and 2000 census data sets are scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2007. In the process of reviewing the data dissemination seminars it was essentially agreed to utilise these seminars to promote the 2010 census as well as the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

## Past Events and Outcomes

### Second Regional Demographic Analysis Training Workshop, 2 July to 11 August 2007

Officially launched on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007, the Second Regional Demographic Analysis Training Workshop is a component of the CARICOM/Caribbean Development Bank project to strengthen the Region's capacity in Demographic Analysis. Continuing the process initiated by the first workshop, the intent of this project is to provide the region with a pool of skilled statistical personnel by building the capacity of statisticians and social researchers to analyse demographic data in the conduct of research and policy formulation.

The workshop ran for a seven-week period at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago. It was attended by Twenty-two (22) participants from CARICOM Member States, Associate Member States and the CARICOM Secretariat. The content of the workshop was a general introduction to the "Principles of Demography" involving such areas as Sources of Demographic Data; Assessing the Quality of Demographic Data; Demographic Theories; Fertility Measures; Nuptiality Measures; Mortality Measures; Stable Populations and Model Life Tables; Migration Measures; Indirect Techniques of Estimation; Population Estimates and Projections.

As part of the project funded by the Caribbean Development Bank, a monitoring and evaluation system was also put in place at the completion of the workshop to monitor the post-training activities and performance of the participants trained in demography to see to what extent they are being placed in positions that allow them to use the capabilities acquired during training. As part of this exercise, participants were asked to identify the desired results at the onset of the training, develop a work plan at the conclusion of the workshop to achieve the desired outcome and report on their post training performance. The results of these reports are intended to assess the effectiveness of the training programme and contribute to the planning of future interventions.

This workshop will continue during the summer months for the next two years and will incorporate training not only for staff from the National Statistical Offices but also those from other agencies at the national level who would need to perform demographic analysis.

## Past Events and Outcomes

### Inauguration of the CARICOM Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Sub-Committee on Statistics

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Sub-Committee on Statistics was inaugurated on 4 October 2007 at a Meeting convened in Guyana. As one of six (6) Sub-Committee to the Regional ICT Steering Committee, this committee is intended to support the other Sub-Committees through the collection and compilation of ICT statistics that will inform and guide policy that will maximise the impact of ICT in the everyday lives of the peoples of the Region.

The objectives of the Meeting were:

- To formally establish the ICT Sub-Committee on Statistics;
- To be informed of current developmental work;
- To consider Themes, Issues and Indicators for data collection on ICT that are of relevance to the Region;
- To develop Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) and a Draft Work Plan for the Sub-Committee.

In keeping with the stated objectives, the first meeting of the ICT Sub-Committee on Statistics was informed of developmental work at the regional level and by the Observatory for the Information society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC). At the Regional level this work included the definition of the ICT sector using the Central product classification (CPC); discussion of this sector at the national and regional meetings with regard to international services; identification of various data sources from which statistics can be compiled to measure the contribution of the ICT sector; and the development of the Satellite Account framework for analysing the supply and use of ICT goods and services. OSILAC's approach to ICT data collection was to use questions administered through national statistical offices and other official institutions in surveys/administrative registries to assess access to and use of information and Communication Technologies by citizens, households, companies, governments and schools.

As it relates to indicators for data collection on ICT in the region, it was suggested that attention needed to be focused on the youth and their use of ICTs, ICT and education in terms of percentage of persons involved in ICT related jobs, and the link between migration and the use of ICTs. At the conclusion of the meeting the Sub-committee developed the Draft Work Plan and Terms of Reference necessary to guide its functioning.

## Future Events

### Future Launch of CARICOMINFO 1.0

The CARICOM Secretariat Statistics Sub-programme as part of its commitment towards building capacity in all areas of statistics but especially social statistics is preparing to launch the desk top and web-based version of CARICOMINFO 1.0. CARICOMINFO 1.0 is the regional adaptation of the DevInfo advanced database management system developed by the United Nations Children's Fund. This database in comparison with its international counterpart is designed to keep track of the Region's commitments toward human development through the collection, organisation and dissemination of social development indicators. The data on these indicators have been gathered through another project initiated by the CARICOM Secretariat which is the CARICOM Programme on Social and Gender Statistics. The latter programme resulted in the collection of social statistics arranged according to various sectors. Currently, only two sectors namely population and labour have been included in the CARICOMINFO 1.0 database for a period covering the years 1998 to 2005. Additional sectors will be added in the future. The methodology and sources of the datasets as collected under the Social and Gender Statistics programme have also been included in the CARICOMINFO 1.0 database.

Two CARICOM Member States have also created their own national adaptation of the DEVINFO database management system. Jamaica and Saint Lucia have already begun to fulfill requests for social statistics using the databases JAMSTATS and HELENINFO respectively. The CARICOM Secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) also intends to provide technical and financial assistance to other Member States interested in creating their own national adaptations of the software.

## Publications

Forthcoming publications:

- *Balance of Payments of CARICOM Member States: 1998-2004;*
- *CARICOM's National Accounts Report –2003-06;*
- *Selected Economic Indicators 2002-2006.*
- *Foreign Direct Investment: 2001—2005*

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