

# Stats News & Views

Facts, Figures and Updates from the Statistics Section of the Caribbean Community Secretariat

December 2019

Volume 17, Issue 2

## Main Events

### Caribbean Statisticians Annual Meeting - Emphasis on New Reporting Format to Streamline CARICOM RSDS Implementation



*Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Jamaica delivering the keynote address at the opening of the 44th Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Jamaica*

*Image via <https://jis.gov.jm/>*

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat convened the annual Statistical Meetings at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica during the period 28 October to 1 November 2019. These Meetings included:

- **Forty-Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) - 28-30 October;**
- **Thirty-First Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC) - 31 October; and**
- **Twelfth Regional Statistical Research Seminar on 1 November 2019, which formed part of the SCCS/RCCC Forum.**

These meetings were preceded by the **Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS)** which presented its recommendations to the Forty-Fourth SCCS for consideration.

The theme for the series of meetings was **“Building Resilience of the Caribbean Community”** which is the overarching theme for the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS).

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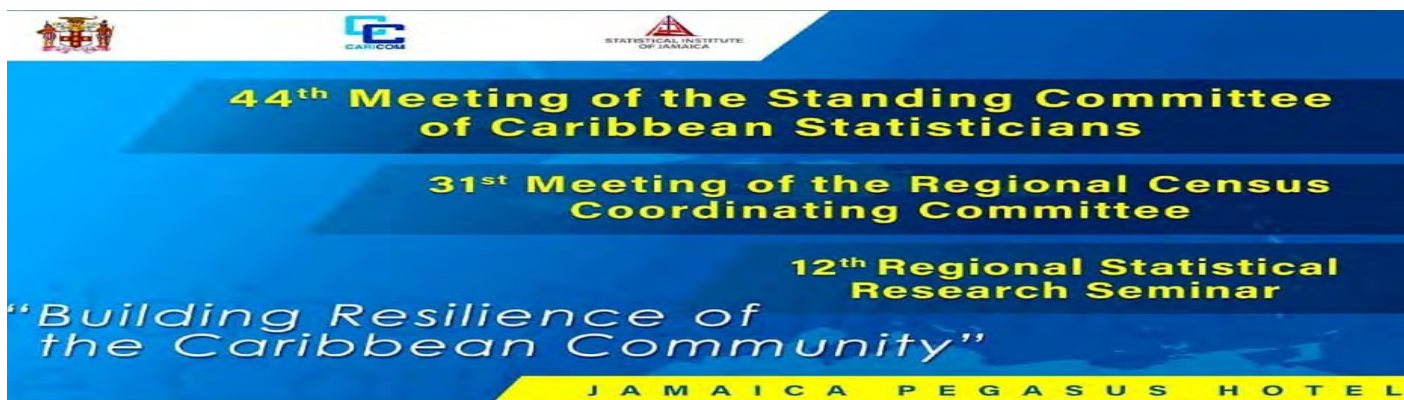


**Regional Statistics**  
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)  
Developing a Sustainable Statistics Infrastructure...



## Main Events

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Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), converses with Director General of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), Carol Coy, during the opening ceremony for the 44th Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston. Listening is STATIN Chairman, Professor Emeritus Alvin Wint.

Image via <https://jis.gov.jm/>

### New Reporting Format for the Monitoring of Statistics Production and Dissemination

At the Forty-Fourth Meeting for the SCCS, a review of the five (5) Strategic Priorities and Drivers of the CARICOM RSDS was undertaken. It was noted that many CARICOM countries including Observer countries were implementing various aspects of the RSDS at the national level. Countries were therefore encouraged to share their experiences relative to the work being done on the RSDS. As the Region commences formal implementation of the RSDS, it was recommended that a new format for reporting on work done nationally and regionally during the year, be prepared by the Secretariat in line with the Strategic Priorities and Drivers of the RSDS.

CARICOM has always strived to ensure that common and harmonised statistics are produced by each country

in order for it to be aggregated at the regional level for analysing and reporting.

Harmonised statistical information is an essential ingredient for planning, monitoring and evaluating the development of the region. In addition to the current reporting format under the Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP), whereby countries report annually on the work undertaken in the five (5) domains, namely: **Demographic and Social Statistics; Economic Statistics; Environment and Multi-Domain Statistics; Methodology of Data Collection, Processing, Dissemination and Analysis; and Strategic and Managerial Issues of Official Statistics**, the new reporting format will also allow countries to report on the work under each domain based on the Strategic Priorities/Drivers of the CARICOM RSDS:

1. Standards and Harmonisation;
2. Governance;
3. Integrated Statistical Systems;
4. Innovation; and
5. Advocacy and Communication.

The new format will also allow for countries to report on the Strategic Drivers/Enablers - **IT Infrastructure; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Sustainable Capacity Building, and Gender Mainstreaming.**

The 44<sup>th</sup> SCCS Meeting also received updates on the status of the supporting frameworks for the CARICOM RSDS that were also approved by CARICOM Heads of Government in 2018. These frameworks include the Communication and Advocacy Strategy; A Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS); A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework and A mid-term review of the RSDS. Further information on the status of these frameworks are contained in the December 2019 Issue of What's New, the RSDS Quarterly Newsletter.





## Main Events

### CARICOM Countries commit to Ensuring Quality Statistics for Decision-Making



During the 44<sup>th</sup> SCCS Meeting, an update was provided by the CARICOM Secretariat on the development of the CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF).

The CQAF is the supporting framework of the CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practices (CGSP). The ultimate aim of this initiative is to enable the development of a CQAF that is grounded in the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and fundamentally, in the CGSP, which will represent an important step in, not only promoting greater assurance in the use of statistics compiled by and for the Region, but will also promote the sustainability of practices to ensure continuity in fulfilling the mission of providing harmonised, high quality statistics to users.

The CGSP is based on fifteen (15) principles and is administered through a self-assessment questionnaire. It is a vital mechanism to assess quality and good practices in Statistics. The fifteen (15) principles of the CARICOM CGSP are -

#### Institutional Environment

- Principle 1: Professional Independence
- Principle 2: Mandate for Data Collection
- Principle 3: Adequacy of Resources
- Principle 4: Quality Commitment
- Principle 5: Statistical Confidentiality
- Principle 6: Impartiality and Objectivity

#### Statistical Processes

- Principle 7: Sound Methodology
- Principle 8: Appropriate Statistical Procedures
- Principle 9: Non-Excessive Burden on Respondents
- Principle 10: Cost Effectiveness

#### Statistical Output

- Principle 11: Relevance
- Principle 12: Accuracy and Reliability
- Principle 13: Timeliness and Punctuality
- Principle 14: Coherence and Comparability
- Principle 15: Accessibility and Clarity

The development of the CQAF is being undertaken in two (2) phases. Phase 1 of the CQAF is completed and work is in progress on the completion of Phase 2 of the Framework. Phase 1 of the CQAF includes a small subset of the principles of the CGSP, namely:

1. Quality Commitment (4),
2. Statistical Confidentiality (5),
3. Sound Methodology (7),
4. Relevance (11) and
5. Timeliness and Punctuality (13).

#### Phase 2 will focus on the following principles:

1. Impartiality and Objectivity (6);
2. Appropriate Statistical Procedures (8);
3. Non-Excessive Burden on Respondents (9);
4. Cost Effectiveness (10);
5. Accuracy and Reliability (12);
6. Coherence and Comparability (14) and
7. Accessibility and Clarity (15).

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## Main Events

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### ... Quality Statistics for Decision-Making

The remaining three Principles, Professional Independence (1), Mandate for Data Collection (3) and Adequacy of Resources while directly impacting data quality are not of the form that can be readily incorporated in a quality assurance framework.

The format for the Phase I of the CQAF document consists of each of the selected principles of the CGSP including:

- ♦ A brief introduction of the group containing the principles;
- ♦ A brief statement of the principle;
- ♦ The context of the principle comprising the following:
  - ⇒ The indicators for each principle are listed;
  - ⇒ The High Level or Strategic Level actions that are required to be put in place in developing the system are listed for each indicator;
  - ⇒ Actions required at the Operational Level are listed for each indicator. These actions are the practical activities, procedures and instructions to make operational the framework and to routinise the application of each principle. Essentially the operational level provides information on “how to do it”.
  - ⇒ A Checklist of Performance Measurements is presented for each indicator to enable a quick assessment of key requirements for appropriate application of the principles.

The Meeting noted that some Member States have volunteered to implement Phase 1 and a remote meeting was held during 2019 to commence this process.

### CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practices (CGSP)

With respect to the CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practices (CGSP), it was noted that the Fourth Round of Self-Assessment questionnaires for the CGSP were disseminated to countries during August 2019. It was also noted that eight (8) countries have completed the Self-Assessment questionnaires up to the time of the 44<sup>th</sup> SCCS Meeting and the other countries were urged to complete before the end of 2019. Further, this round of the CGSP will contain a Peer Review component. The recommendations coming out of the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) included:-

- ♦ That additional training, (remote or face-to-face, where feasible) should be conducted for the Peer Reviewers;
- ♦ A package of training and related materials should be prepared for Peer Reviewers/ Reviewees including the checklist of requirements for Peer reviewers/reviewees .

### Other areas discussed during the series of statistical meetings included:

#### Status of Current Projects From International Development Partners (IDPs)

The meeting received progress reports on several ongoing projects being funded by various IDPs in the Region, namely:-

#### Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC)

It was reported that Global Affairs Canada would be conducting a mid-term review of the seven-year Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC) which had passed its mid-point. Countries were urged to provide the required inputs for this review of the PRASC. It was also reported that Statistics Canada was using the CARICOM RSDS as the guiding principle for the work that it was doing in the Region.



## Main Events

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### Status of Current Projects From International Development Partners (IDPs), (Cont'd)

#### Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Reports were received on the progress of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) funded projects being implemented in the Region, namely, the *Common Census Framework 2.0- Support to the Regional Census Strategy* and *Support to Capacity-Building in CARICOM* focusing on Gender, Environment and Agriculture and Rural Development Statistics.

It was agreed that the outputs from the Common Census Framework 2.0 would assist countries in the preparation and execution of the upcoming Census; and can be used to promote the benefits of the work being done under these technical cooperation agreements.

The Project, *Support to Capacity-Building in CARICOM*, was also being supported by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the Italian Statistical Institute (ISTAT) with technical experts in the area of Gender, Environment and Agriculture being provided. This project therefore complements the Italian Government funded project.

#### Support from the Italian Government - AICS and ISTAT

The CARICOM Secretariat had been collaborating with ISTAT in building capacity in the areas of Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development and Environment Statistics. This capacity building includes assessments in each area, followed by recommendations for the improvement and development of protocols for receipt of data by the National Statistical Offices (NSOs), from administrative data sources. There is also a component on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) training, which is being undertaken in three (3) locations. Appreciation was expressed to the IDB in terms of their support in ensuring the Member States and the CARICOM Secretariat was able to participate in these

Assessments. This project is intended to continue during 2020.



Section of the crowd at Opening Ceremony of Caribbean Statistician Meetings

### Additional Agenda Items

#### The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Given the thrust of 2030 Agenda, challenges faced by countries in compiling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were discussed including the lack of resources in the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and lack of involvement of the NSOs in the production and compilation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators in some Member States.

The 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SCCS therefore endorsed the recommendation of the AGS that a statement should be prepared by the SCCS for submission to the Lead Head of Government for Science and Technology in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet with responsibility for Statistics, the Prime Minister of Grenada, on the challenges being faced by Member States and Associate Members in compiling the SDG indicators.





## Main Events

### Thirty-First Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC)

The Thirty-First Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC) focused on country readiness for the conduct of the Population and Housing Census in the 2020 Round including status of the preparations being put in place by countries of the CARICOM Region.

#### The Regional Census Strategy for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census

The presentation on the 2020 Regional Census Strategy provided a brief history of the regionally-coordinated census taking from as far back as the post World War period, in the 1940s to the formal establishment of the RCCC in 1976. It was reported that the RCCC has been coordinating censuses in the region from 1980.

The planning and preparatory activities in support of the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses are all included in the Census Strategy as well as a separate Communication and Advocacy Strategy for the Census.

Potential Donor support and collaboration to assist the region in the conduct of the 2020 Round was also explored during this Meeting.

CARICOM countries are scheduled to undertake the census exercise between 2020 and 2022. The outcomes of this 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the RCCC will inform the next Meeting scheduled for July 2020.

### Twelfth Regional Statistical Research Seminar



The Twelfth Regional Statistical Research Seminar, which is a CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics and Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (AGS/SCCS) driven activity, was held on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 in Kingston, Jamaica under the theme “*Vulnerabilities and Resilience in Caribbean Societies*”. The theme was explored based on three (3) broad categories, namely, *Economic; Social and Environment Issues*. It was noted that the vulnerabilities stemming from these categories are an inevitable part of the reality in the Region and therefore resilience to these vulnerabilities would determine the level of development attained.

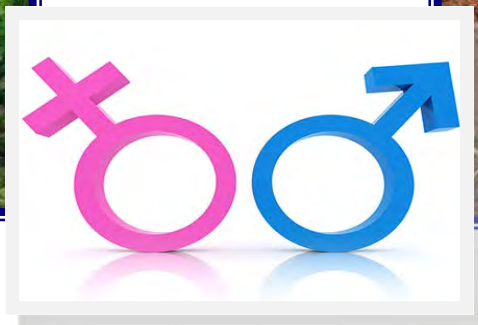
A total of nine (9) research papers were presented on a range of topics within each category.

The topics included *inter alia*, *Measuring Resilience in Natural Disasters; Household Food Insecurity in Jamaica; Mapping Poverty Indicators - Consumption Based Poverty in Jamaica; Measuring the Blue Economy and Status of Women and Men; Productive Employment and Decent Work for All*.

In recognition of the advantages of integrating statistical and geospatial data using Geographic Information System (GIS) to better support Governments, the seminar also featured a paper from Spatial Innovation Limited titled “*Modernisation of National Statistical Organisation through Geospatial Technology*”.



## Update: Italy/IDB Project to Support Statistical Capacity in CARICOM



The *CARICOM Capacity-Building in Statistics Project* between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the Government of Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) through the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) which was scheduled to end in December 2019 has been extended to December 2020.

The project is also being supported by a complementary project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on *Support to Statistical Capacity in CARICOM*, which is being executed by the CARICOM Secretariat.

The first phase of the Italian Project focused on the conduct of assessments in the three sectors of Gender; Environment and Agriculture and Rural Development. The Assessments were conducted by experts from ISTAT and supported by staff from the Regional Statistics Programme of the CARICOM Secretariat.

The plan of operation for the joint project was approved in February 2019. The approved plan included under component I, technical assistance on agriculture, environment and gender statistics in two (2) Member States for each of the thematic areas. For the **Gender** sector, assessments were undertaken in the Member States of Dominica and Suriname.

Assessments were undertaken in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago on the **Agriculture and Rural Development** sectors while for the **Environment** sector, assessments were undertaken in Jamaica and Suriname.

In addition to the technical assistance that were provided in the 3 sectors, the plan made provision for training in Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX), since the adoption of SDMX compliant approaches is one of the Strategic Objectives of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS). Three (3) Training Workshops on SDMX were

conducted in Barbados; Guyana and Jamaica during 2019. Further information is contained in the article on the SDMX Training Workshop on Page 8 of this Newsletter.

The assessment reports are expected to provide suggestions and recommendations for each country; identify needs and gaps to be filled; derive general recommendations to be extended to the other Member States and draft a proposal for the detailed plan of capacity-building in the 3 sectors.

The Agreement between the CARICOM Secretariat and the Government of Italy has been extended to facilitate additional activities that would complement the Project and the support being provided by the IDB.

In 2020 therefore, the Project would allow for Capacity-Building to integrate statistics based on administrative registers which would involve data sharing agreements and pilot projects to integrated administrative registers per sector as well as a Regional Workshop to share knowledge learned from the project, good practices and the facilitation of horizontal cooperation. It will be supported by the IDB Capacity-building project as indicated.





## Past Events

# Training in Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX)



*Participants during the SDMX training in Barbados, October 2019*

The three (3) Training Workshops on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) under the Project, *CARICOM Capacity-Building in Statistics* funded by the AICS through ISTAT and by the IDB were held during the period July to December 2019 in the Member States of Jamaica (July 2019); Barbados (October 2019) and Guyana (November 2019).

SDMX is the set of technical standards and content-oriented guidelines, together with an IT architecture and tools, to be used for the efficient exchange and sharing of statistical data and metadata.

Specifically, these Workshops were aimed at enabling the Region to advance the process under the Strategic Priority 1 of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) on Standards and Harmonisation.

Before the commencement of the training activities, the levels of statistical/IT knowledge and the working experiences in the use of SDMX standard were assessed in each Member State by means of a questionnaire. The course duration in each Member State was a total of five (5) days. The training course was divided into theoretical and practical parts, the latter of which involved desktop exercises (each participant had a laptop). The agenda for the training included:

- ◆ An introduction to SDMX (Information Model, Statistical Guidelines and IT architecture);
- ◆ SDMX Case Studies detailing the experiences of ISTAT and other countries;
- ◆ SDMX Implementation Strategy;
- ◆ Hands on sessions in developing structural metadata;
- ◆ SDMX Data Modelling;
- ◆ Hands on sessions using the Eurostat Mapping Assistant tool; and
- ◆ Streaming the reporting/dissemination process using SDMX.

The implementation of the technical and statistical standards of the SDMX framework, along with the use of IT infrastructure and tools by the regional and national statistical offices, would contribute to quality assurance and improved business processes within these offices. Specifically, it will enable the implementation of the RSDS as it relates to the Strategic Priorities - Standards and Harmonisation (SH); Integrated Information Systems (IIS) and Innovation (INV).

In addition, the use of these international standards would also enable the efficient transmission, dissemination and sharing of data and metadata, in effect, reducing the reporting burden to regional and international organisations/agencies.



## Past Events

# Thematic Conference for the UN Handbook on Statistical Organization



The Caribbean Thematic Conference was held on 25-27 November 2019 in Bridgetown, Barbados. The Conference was organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and other regional and international organisations.

The objective of the conference was to further understand and prioritise the emerging needs of statistical organisations within the Region to adapt and develop a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics, which considers the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the need for national statistical systems to grasp the potential of innovative technologies in a rapidly changing data ecosystem.

Modernisation, transformation and adaptation of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are crucial, if Official Statistics are to meet the widening and increasing requirements of policymakers, researchers, the media and civil society for high-quality, timely and disaggregated statistics.

The output of this conference is expected to be incorporated into the updated **United Nations Handbook of Statistical Organisation** which aims at guiding Chief Statisticians and other Senior Managers of statistical organisations in developing and maintaining statistical capacity that is fit for purpose.

This output would reflect the regional perspective and approach to these issues, while also detailing information on national best practices taking into consideration, recent global and regional initiatives and programmes supporting the necessary transformation and modernisation of official statistics to address emerging user needs for high-quality and internationally comparable statistics and indicators.

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**Regional Statistics**  
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## Past Events

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### Thematic Conference ...

The Conference provided an opportunity for the organisers to collect additional information on practices and challenges that contribute to an extended knowledge base related to the new Handbook.

Over a two and a half-day period, participants grouped together to discuss, then present practical experiences in relation to several issues including:

- *Supporting the transformation of statistical production processes from the data collection to dissemination in the context of the digital and technological revolution;*

- *Strengthening the institutional and organisational frameworks of national statistical systems;*
- *Securing quality of statistical information and improving data coherence through statistical analysis and analytical frameworks; and*
- *Mobilising and securing adequate resources and infrastructure, and promoting regional and global cooperation for the development of national statistical capacity.*

Central to all of the presentations that were made at the Conference, was the impact of the lack of resources available to statistical offices, and the innovative steps that are being used to ensure that data needs are met within each Member State and at the regional level.



To help our readers to better understand key Statistical Terms and Concepts as well as the Statistical work being undertaken in the Region, we include a *Questions and Answers* segment in our bi-annual Newsletter.

In this Issue, we will focus on Trade in Services Statistics.

If there are any questions regarding Regional Statistics that you would like answered in the next Issue, write us at [www.stats1@caricom.org](mailto:www.stats1@caricom.org) with caption *STATSNEWS Q&A* and we will be sure to answer all questions in order of receipt.

### Question: What is International Trade In Services?

**Answer:** The term “Services” is difficult to define in a simple definition. In the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010), in referencing the 2008 System of National Accounts, services is defined as the result of a production activity that changes the conditions of the consuming units, or facilitates the exchange of products or financial assets.

The changes may be temporary or permanent. For example, medical or education services may result in permanent changes in the condition of the consumers from which benefits may be derived over many years.

### How does Services differ from Goods?

Services differ from goods in a number of ways, most commonly in respect of the immediacy of the relationship between supplier and consumer. Many services are non-transportable, that is, they often require the physical proximity of supplier and customer: for example, the supply of a hotel service requires the hotel to be where the customer wishes to stay.

For international trade in such non-transportable services to take place, either the consumer must go to the supplier or the supplier must go to the consumer. (*Box I.2 International trade in services in MSITS 2010*).





## Future Events

### European Union Continues to Support Regional Statistics

The Eleventh European Development Fund (11<sup>th</sup> EDF) support to Regional Statistics commenced in late 2019 under the broad title area, **Statistical Capacity in Support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is Strengthened.**

In the past, support for statistical capacity building and harmonisation was provided under the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Programmes. Notwithstanding these interventions, there continues to be a need for intra-regional harmonisation in the context of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and to fill data gaps brought about by increasing demands for statistics for monitoring the achievement of development targets based on national, regional, and international requirements.

The 11th EDF intervention in statistics is to build on the gains of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> EDF with a special focus on the need for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Strategic Plan of the Community, gender analysis and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway among others.



## Forthcoming Publications

- **National Accounts Digest; 2010—2018 Vol. I**
- **CARICOM Intra-Regional Trade:2013-2018**
- **CARICOM Report on Climate Change**

## Future Meetings– January—June 2020

- **Regional Workshop on SDG Indicator 2.1.2 – Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale.**
- **Regional Workshop on the use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) in the 2020 Round of Censuses**
- **Regional Workshop to share Best Practices (Admin. Data Sharing)**
- **Census Management and Organisation Workshop – Mapping, Satellite Imagery**
- **Thirty-Second Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC)**



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**Regional Statistics**  
**Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

Developing a Sustainable Statistics Infrastructure...





**MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL,  
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)  
AMBASSADOR IRWIN LAROCQUE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
ELEVENTH OBSERVANCE OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICS DAY  
15 OCTOBER 2019**

On this Eleventh Observance of Caribbean Statistics Day (CSD), I encourage us all to reflect on the power of statistics and how it impacts our daily lives, including in life and death situations such as natural disasters that affect us ever so often in CARICOM.

A very critical use of Statistics is in weather forecasting which uses statistical modelling techniques to make predictions or forecasts. More importantly, if it is the case that a hurricane is likely, modelling its path makes use of data that also inform on the number of persons that are likely to be affected.

It is therefore possible to warn or move persons out of these areas, and to provide basic data for national disaster management and other agencies that provide support and interventions after the event and to assess and to better inform the recovery efforts.

One important and interesting indicator that we try to measure in the Region is the Number of Households/Persons that live near to coastal areas. For some of our Member States this figure is approximately 100 percent.

The importance of such data was underlined in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian which struck The Bahamas last month with loss of lives, destruction of property, damage to the infrastructure and overall devastation to parts of the country.

The Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) is therefore timely and necessary to strengthen and sustain statistics and modernise and transform the work being done in the regional and national statistics systems in order to assist us in **“Building the Resilience of the Caribbean Community”**. This is the theme for the Eleventh CSD commemoration, as it was for the previous year, because of its continued relevance to the Community. Strong regional statistical co-operation is vital in the achievement of a resilient Community.

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***Continued from page 1***

## **MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, CARICOM...**

Heads of Government endorsed the Strategic Framework for the RSDS at their Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting (Jamaica, July 2018) recognising that it is central to the advancement of the regional integration process. It is designed to make available harmonised, intra-regional statistics to guide and monitor its progress and to provide information for decision-making that is evidence-based.

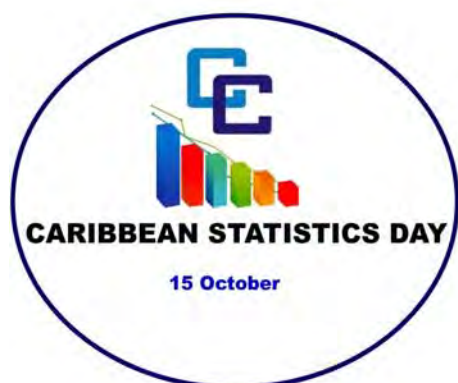
The co-operation of Member States and support of our International Development Partners is vital for the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS.

In this the Eleventh Year of the CSD, I applaud CARICOM Statisticians for pursuing their dream and their vision of having a viable and effective CARICOM Statistical System. As Secretary-General of CARICOM, I have supported and will continue to support the strides that are being undertaken in this regard, led by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS).

This is all being pursued in an effort to improve the lives of the people of our Community.



## **Eleventh Observance of Caribbean Statistics Day (CSD)**



*Above: CSD Generic Logo*

Caribbean Statistics Day was observed on 15 October 2019 under the theme ***“Building Resilience of the Caribbean Community”*** which is the overarching theme of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS).

CSD has been observed under the theme for the RSDS for the last two (2) years (2018 and 2019) given the significance of the CARICOM RSDS which was endorsed by CARICOM Heads of Government in July, 2018.

The RSDS implementation period is 2019-2030.

2019 marked the Eleventh Observance of the CSD and the National Statistical Office (NSOs) across the Region commemorated the observance on 15 October 2019 with a number of activities to highlight statistics.

The objectives of the CSD include facilitating the placement of statistics high on the development agenda in countries; encouraging and developing a culture of statistics among the population and fostering increased collaboration with data producing/statistical units in line ministries and other agencies and departments of governments.

Some of the activities that were conducted by countries for the CSD Observance are highlighted on **pages 7 to 8**. The activities at the CARICOM Secretariat included the preparation and dissemination of the Message from the Secretary-General, CARICOM, the Inter-School Quiz Competition; an in-house Panel Discussion and Exhibitions at the CARICOM Secretariat Headquarters and Annex during the period 7-15 October 2019.



## Caribbean Statistics Day Observance at the CARICOM Secretariat

### Ninth Annual Inter-School Quiz Competition



Above: Centre - Winners of the Quiz Competition (Secondary School Category) - Annandale Secondary School, left: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Zeeburg Secondary School and right: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - St. Stanislaus College

The Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) of the CARICOM Secretariat continued to raise the profile of statistics in schools through the hosting of the Ninth Annual Inter-School Quiz Competition for Primary and Secondary Schools in Guyana at the CARICOM Secretariat Headquarters.

The Quiz competition which consisted of three rounds of competition in both the primary and secondary categories (Preliminary, Semi-Finals and Finals) saw six (6) Primary and 6 Secondary Schools from various regions of Guyana competing for the top spot in the two (2) categories.



At the end of the competition, the first place in the Primary category went to Leonora Primary School that was a repeat winner from last year while at the Secondary level, Annandale Secondary School coped the top position. Awards for the most outstanding student in each category throughout the competition were presented to Shiv Piterahdane of Leonora Primary School and Ghansham Allijohn of St. Stanislaus College.

Left: Centre - Winners of the Primary Competition - Leonora Primary School left: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Mahaicony Primary School and right - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Winfer Gardens Primary School





## **Caribbean Statistics Day Observance at the CARICOM Secretariat**

### **Panel Discussion:**

***The CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics – Expectations on the need for statistics in specific areas and opportunities for collaboration in –***



**Agriculture and Rural Development**



**Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D)**



**Gender Mainstreaming**

The Regional Statistics Programme hosted an internal Panel Discussion in observance of Caribbean Statistics Day on Monday, 14 October 2019 at the CARICOM Secretariat Headquarters, Turkeyen, Guyana. The topic for the Panel Discussion was, “***The CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics – Expectations on the need for statistics in specific areas and Opportunities for collaboration in Agriculture and Rural Development, Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D) and Gender Mainstreaming.*** A brief presentation on the Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the CARICOM RSDS was also featured at the event.

The event commenced with a brief overview of the CARICOM RSDS as well as the status of implementation of the Strategy and its supporting frameworks.

The Panel included the following officials of the CARICOM Secretariat - the Director of Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance, Mr. Desmond John; the Programme Manager, Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Development, Mr. Shaun Baugh and Deputy Programme Manager, ICT4D, Ms. Jennifer Britton who presented in their respective areas of work.

***Following is a brief overview of some of the presentations that were made:***

### **Agriculture and Rural Development in CARICOM**

In delivering his presentation, the Programme Manager, Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Development, Mr. Shaun Baugh highlighted the CARICOM Agricultural Policy which is aimed at sustaining a broad-based and balanced development of the agricultural sector in order to ensure food security and economic growth; protect the natural resource systems; improve rural livelihoods and build an internationally competitive agricultural sector. This objective he explained is to be achieved through the promotion of economically viable enterprises, in order to achieve overall economic growth, reduce poverty and ensure fiscal stability and sustainability.

The Agriculture Policy centres around five (5) Pillars - Food and Nutrition Security; Sustainable Development of Natural Resources; A modern Agricultural and Information System; Rural Modernisation and Youth Programmes and Production Trade (Value) Chain.

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## **Caribbean Statistics Day Observance at the CARICOM Secretariat**

### **Panel Discussion (continued)**

#### **The importance of Statistics to Agriculture and Rural Development in CARICOM?**

Similar to other areas of development, Statistics has a vital role in Agricultural Development in CARICOM. This includes informing the policy formulation; for Agricultural Production Planning Development and Projection; linking information on other rural economic activities; Food Price tracking; Food availability tracking; determining the size of the sector; Accounting for risk and uncertainty among others.

The Regional Statistics Programme has been an integral facet of CARICOM's Agricultural Programme through the provision of Agricultural Data mainly data for trade related matters from a Regional Perspective, in policy formulation and the provision of regional Agri-business data and information.

#### **The CARICOM Single Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Space**

Ms. Jennifer Britton, Deputy Programme Manager, ICT4D of the CARICOM Secretariat presented on the CARICOM Single ICT Space at the event.

She highlighted the components of the Single ICT Space which are: a single CARICOM ICT space to enhance the environment for investment and production; bringing technology to the people and transforming them to digital natives and digital entrepreneurs; cyber security, mobilisation of resources and commitment of Member States to invest in ICT and developing the CARICOM Digital Agenda 2025.

The development of the single ICT Space is guided by a number of regional frameworks that are already developed such as the CARICOM Strategic Plan; the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS); the Human Resource Development Strategy; Climate Change Strategy among others.

#### **Current State: A Fast paced digital innovation system**



Ms. Britton went on to describe the current state of the fast-paced digital innovation system whereby innovation unfolds among many interdependent players, there is rapid experimentation with real-time feedback, market selection, replication of successful solutions and information at our fingertips. She stressed that technological and economic forces are becoming intertwined hence the need for policy responses that enable digital entrepreneurship and innovation as well as the establishment of a framework to support the response of the region to change.

These initiatives all highlight the need for the right policy conditions based on good statistical evidence and models. Statistics is therefore a key driver of the ICT development process as it enables the collection, analyzation and accessibility of data pertinent to this body of work.

The continued development and strengthening of the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS) through the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS is an important step in CARICOM's development thrust that would positively impact the advancement of other sectors in CARICOM under the ICT4D.



## **Caribbean Statistics Day Observance at the CARICOM Secretariat**

### **Panel Discussion (continued)**

#### **Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)**

The Director of Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance (RMTA) of the CARICOM Secretariat presented on the preparation of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) that is being undertaken for the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS).

It was reported at the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) which took place in July 2019, that some resources are already in place and some funding

been obtained from International Development Partners (IDPs) to implement elements of the RSDS.

The Director, RMTA had made a similar presentation at the Third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics which was held in Grenada, February 2019.

The RMTA programme is now working with the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) and Member States to complete this process.

### **Internal Statistical Displays**

As is customary for the CSD Observance, the RSP also mounted a display at the Annex Building of the Secretariat which exhibited key statistical outputs.

Additionally, a recurring digital display was featured at the Secretariat Headquarters during the one-week period.

#### ***A Section of the CSD Display at the CARICOM Secretariat***



## Activities in Observance of Caribbean Statistics Day in Member States and Associate Members

### Antigua and Barbuda



The Antigua and Barbuda Statistics Division undertook one week of activities during the period 13-19 October in observance of Caribbean Statistics Day 2019.

These activities commenced with a church service at the St. John's Anglican Cathedral on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> October followed by a staff picnic and sports event following the church service.

The week's activities included school visits to eight (8) schools—5 Secondary and 3 Primary schools; a Media day with visits to Media houses; a Staff Banquet and Awards Ceremony and a Health Walk which started at 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Additionally, the department held a Staff Retreat on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 to close off the annual CSD observance.

### Barbados



In observance of Caribbean Statistics Day 2019, the Barbados Statistical Service (BSS) delivered presentations to schools and the University of the West Indies (UWI) Cave Hill Campus located in Barbados. The presentations were made during scheduled visits to the educational institutions on 15 and 16 October 2019. These visits were assisted by a consultant from Statistics Canada under the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC).

The BSS also utilised the services of the Government Information Service to highlight the event on the government website and to also disseminate the Message from the Secretary-General, CARICOM on the observance.

### Grenada



The Central Statistical Office (CSO) of Grenada conducted visits to Secondary Schools in collaboration with a team from the PRASC Project. During the visits a presentation on the importance of statistics and careers in statistics was made. The visit also served to advertise and promote the new website of the CSO.

A small exhibit was set up outside of the CSO which allowed the staff to interact with the public, a selfie frame was used to highlight the theme for CSD. The CSO, Grenada also circulated the Secretary-General's Message on CSD.

### Montserrat



The Statistics Department of Montserrat observed CSD 2019 under the sub theme ***Better Statistics Better Lives***. The department undertook a number of activities for the observance commencing with a church service on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> October; the laying of a wreath in remembrance of Ms. Katrina Ryan, late Director of Statistics, Montserrat. A debate by students at the University level on the Moot - *Lack of evidence based decision-making continues to stymieing the economic development of the Caribbean Region*, was also held.

The week's activities also included giveaways on radio; visits to Primary schools; a soft launch of the department's website; the release of the Secretary-General's Message; release of the general infographic - A Snapshot of Montserrat's Journey in time as well as the launch of the Census 2021 logo, slogan, jingle competition and school project.



## **Activities in Observance of Caribbean Statistics Day in Member States and Associate Members**

### **St. Kitts and Nevis**



The St. Kitts and Nevis, Department of Statistics undertook one (1) month of activities for CSD 2019. The activities were spearheaded by the launch of the department's Facebook page which served to advertise the complete schedule of activities.

Other activities conducted include, a Communication and Advocacy Workshop by the Organisation of Eastern and Caribbean States (OECS); visit to schools in collaboration with the OECS and the PRASC; launch of the department's website; an open-day and a staff retreat with motivational speakers on the topic of leadership.

A presentation of Award was also made to a best student in Statistics at the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE).

### **Trinidad and Tobago**



The Central Statistical Office of Trinidad and Tobago held a two-day Seminar on Statistical activities which examined how statistics will build resilience in the Caribbean Community. The Seminar was held in Tobago and saw presentations on the National Statistical System (NSS) showing how to leverage census data towards sustainable national development. The Seminar also featured research presentations on the increase of traffic over the last ten (10) years in Scarborough, Tobago and on the determinants of tourism in Tobago.

There was also 2 panel discussions whereby the audience were allowed to ask questions on the NSS.

The CSO also had an open house at the office to allow members of the public to learn more about the work of the office.

### **Suriname**



On Caribbean Statistics Day, the General Bureau of Statistics, Suriname launched their revamped bilingual website.

They also held a staff social and disseminated the Secretary-General's Message.

