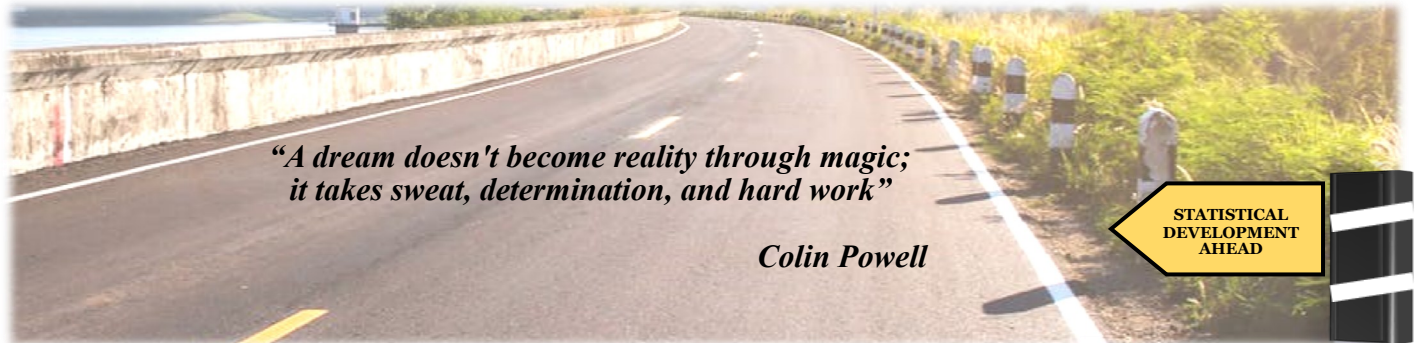


# WHAT'S NEW

## Statisticians Pursue their *Dream* of Making the CARICOM RSDS a Reality



In pursuit of the process to enable the availability of high quality – sound, reliable and timely statistics for decision-making in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Statisticians of CARICOM intensified their efforts to implement the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) at the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) that took place at the Central Statistical Office, Trinidad and Tobago in late July 2019. The CARICOM RSDS was endorsed at the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM (HGC) in July 2018 and among the next steps that were recommended for approval was a Resource Mobilisation Strategy that is to enable the implementation of the RSDS. The AGS is a subsidiary group of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS).

At the Twenty-Fourth AGS, Heads of Statistical agencies or their designated representatives continued to advance the CARICOM RSDS from another “*agreed in principle decision*” of Heads of Government to realising the implementation of the RSDS typifying in the words of Colin Powell that,

*“A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work”*

Evidently, CARICOM Statisticians with the support of the Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance (RMTA) programme and the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) of the CARICOM Secretariat, are working assiduously to show that the CARICOM RSDS is not a dream by taking steps to realise its outcomes through building a Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) for the RSDS.

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- ♦ **Promotion of the CARICOM RSDS- Communication and Advocacy Plan; Pg.5**
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While the CARICOM RSDS was endorsed in 2018 by the HGC, Statistics has always received high recognition in the regional integration agenda. In 1974, the Inaugural Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Expanded Community, endorsed the decision of the Fourth Meeting of the Common Market Council to establish the SCCS.

With the advent of strategic planning frameworks, the SCCS and its subsidiary group have responded to the call of the Resumed Session of the Eighth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers (Council) which was held in Nassau, The Bahamas in July 2001, that,

*noted the elements of strategic direction for the development of statistics including the identification of priority areas/demands for statistics (e.g. Trade in Services, Social Statistics);*

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## Statisticians Pursue their Dream...

At that Resumed Session, Council also called on the Secretariat and the SCCS,

*“...to prepare a three year Work Programme... for the improvement of the range and quality of statistics in the Region.”*

Further, with the preparation of the Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) as mandated by Council and its approval at the Fifteenth Meeting of Council in 2005, Council **recommended** that,

*“national and regional statistical development strategies with financial proposals be prepared to enable implementation of the RSWP...”*

Council also **called**,

*“...on regional and international organisations to collaborate and integrate their resources to enable greater efficiency in the provision of technical assistance and funding of the programmes to be instituted in statistics in the Region.”*

Therefore, while the CARICOM RSDS was only recently prepared and endorsed, there was recognition of the *strategic direction already being put in place in statistics* and calls for *integrated approaches and strategies that are consistent with the RSDS*.

The Twenty-Fourth AGS Meeting in its deliberations on the preparation of a Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) for the RSDS considered, the work completed or in progress in its efforts to identify the gaps in the work required to be undertaken for each of the five (5) Strategic Priorities of the RSDS for which funding will be required.

The AGS/SCCS with the support of the CARICOM Secretariat is therefore taking decisive steps that would lead to the preparation of a menu of proposals for funding.

As an example under the Strategic Priority, SH-Standards and Harmonisation, the AGS reviewed each of the Strategic Objectives such as,



*Chair of the 24<sup>th</sup> AGS - Ms. Shervone Alexander,  
Senior Statistician, Statistical Office of St. Vincent  
and the Grenadines*

**SH1-** *Strengthen and Implement a common programmatic approach to systematising the production of high quality harmonised statistics based on alignment of the National Statistics work Programme (NSWP) with the common and updated Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP).*

The AGS members then agreed to prepare a Concept Note or Brief that can inform a more substantive proposal for funding the resource gap, which takes into consideration the following:

### Activities required to advance this objective:

1. Review the analysis of the RSWP already undertaken relative to the compliance by countries to the work of the common RSWP including the gaps in the National Statistical Work Programmes (NSWP) that are required to be filled to reduce/eliminate the misalignment with the common RSWP;
2. Recommend any revisions required in the RSWP including the minimum core of the RSWP that countries should be required to produce and other optional areas that can be produced subject to the availability of resources in countries;
3. Provide technical and financial assistance to enable implementation of the RSWP in countries as recommended.

## BUILDING RESILIENCE OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

...Continued from page 2

### Statisticians Pursue their *Dream...*

The work underway is taking into consideration the Strategic Drivers/Enablers identified in the CARICOM RSDS including *Gender* that will underscore the development of all areas of statistics; the *Sustainable Development Goals and the Samoa Pathway* relative to the development thrust agreed to by Member States internationally to drive development and the framework that reflects the unique vulnerabilities of CARICOM Small Island Developing States.

Fundamentally, consideration is being given to *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*, given that countries are now moving from paper to mobile data collection systems. The driver, *Sustainable Capacity Building* as the name implies will ensure sustainability of the statistical capacity building that will be put in place under the CARICOM RSDS.



## Implementation Plan to Drive CARICOM RSDS Completed

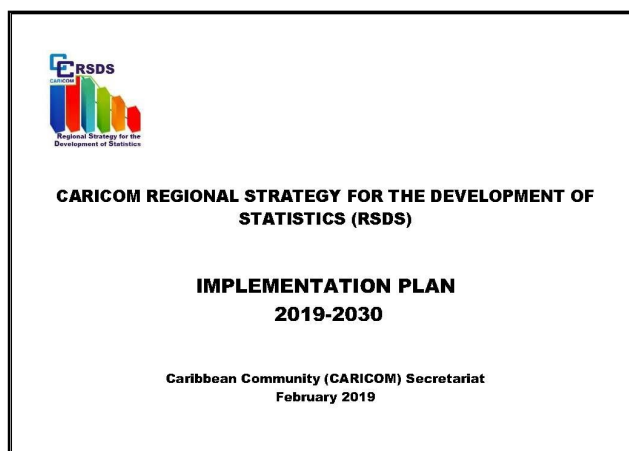
At the Forty-Third Meeting of the SCCS (October, 2018), it was recalled that at the 22<sup>nd</sup> AGS Meeting there was a brainstorming session facilitated by staff of the CCS, which served to commence work on the preparation of a preliminary Implementation Plan of the CARICOM RSDS. Further, at the 23<sup>rd</sup> AGS which followed the endorsement of the RSDS by the HGC, (July 2018), the thrust to prepare the Implementation Plan continued resulting in a preliminary draft for the consideration of the 43<sup>rd</sup> SCCS.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> SCCS recommended that initiatives already in place in the Region should be incorporated in the Implementation Plan, such as, Caribbean Statistics Day and related advocacy initiatives under **Communication and Advocacy**; the common Regional Statistical Work Programme under **Standards and Harmonisation**; the CARICOM Model Statistics Bill and the CARICOM Census Governance framework under **Governance**.

The Meeting also recognised that the Implementation Plan was a great opportunity to advance statistics through a collaborative approach inclusive of all International Development Partners (IDPs) operating in the area of Statistics in CARICOM.

It was also agreed that comments on the Draft Implementation Plan were to be submitted to the Secretariat in time for its finalisation by circular arrangements and in this regard, the RSP was to convene e-meetings in the first quarter of 2019.

During the first quarter, 2019, the RSP convened remotely, two (2) review meetings of Member States/Associate Members to review the preliminary Implementation Plan. The implementation Plan was later finalised and approved by the 43<sup>rd</sup> SCCS in February 2019 through circular arrangements.



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## RSDS Implementation Plan Completed

The major outcome from the review meeting as they relate to Strategic Priority (SH) - Standards and Harmonisation are:

### SH2: FACILITATE CONFORMITY OF THE APPROACHES TO THE PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL STANDARDS

#### Intermediate Outcomes:

Increased availability of internationally and regionally comparable high quality statistics for decision-making.

#### Immediate Outcomes:

Enhanced conformity of the statistical methods and production of outputs at the national level to the regional and international statistical standards across the region.

#### Outputs:

- (i) Report on the status of the adoption of regional and international statistical standards by Member States;
- (ii) Programme to bridge the gaps between regional/international and national standards;
- (iii) Report on the implementation programme to reduce gaps between international/regional and national standards.

#### Major Activities:

- (i) Undertake comprehensive review of the degree of compliance of countries to regional and international statistical standards;
- (ii) Develop a programme to bridge the gaps between regional/international and national standards;
- (iii) Implement the programme to bridge the gaps between regional/international and national standards.

The responsibility of the work to be carried out under this Strategic Objective was assigned to, Member States, Associate Members, the CARICOM Secretariat and International Development Partners (IDPs).

The timeframe allotted for the outputs (i) & (ii) is 2019-2023 and 2020-2030 for output (iii).

There are key regional public goods that have been created with the support of IDPs, the AGS and the SCCS. Currently there are also initiatives in progress that are informing the RSDS implementation such as from the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) and the Government of Italy. Funding support is also anticipated to enable RSDS implementation under the Eleventh European Development Fund (11<sup>th</sup> EDF). Some key initiatives are highlighted below:

#### Key Regional Public Goods:

- ♦ Common Regional Statistical Work Programme;
- ♦ Code of Good Statistical Practices;
- ♦ CARICOM Model Statistics Bill;
- ♦ Common Census Framework—2020 Census Strategy;
- ♦ Common Framework for a Literacy Survey;
- ♦ CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework;
- ♦ Data Warehousing Framework;
- ♦ Data Policy;
- ♦ Regional Trade Information System;
- ♦ Census e-Portal;
- ♦ Action Plan for Statistics;
- ♦ Core indicators including SDGs.

#### Regional Workshops/Training:

- ♦ Merchandise Trade including Eurotrace Trade Data Processing and related Modules;
- ♦ National Accounts;
- ♦ Trade in Services Statistics;
- ♦ Social/Gender Statistics;
- ♦ Environment Statistics;
- ♦ Sampling;
- ♦ CSICT Indicators;
- ♦ Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping;
- ♦ Census Data Analysis and Dissemination.

A budget has also been estimated for each of the strategic priorities identified in the Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan is now informing the development of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy of the CARICOM RSDS.

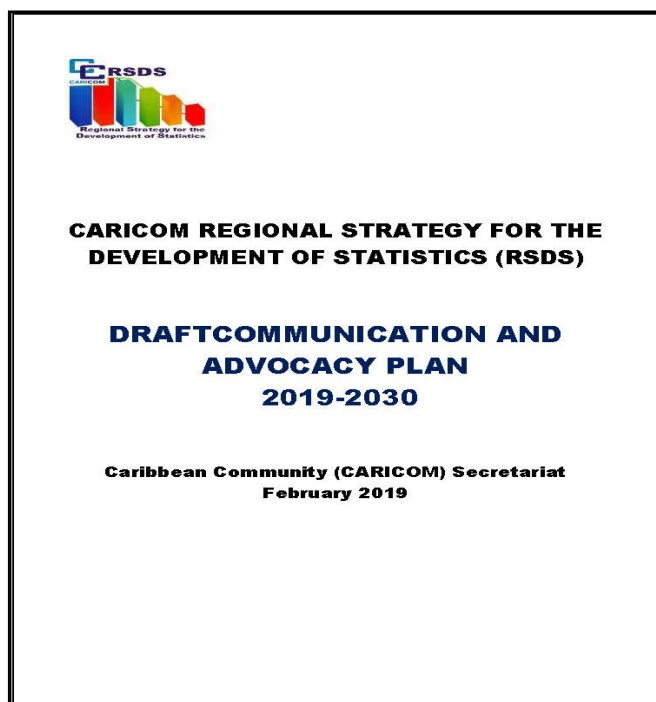
## BUILDING RESILIENCE OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

### Promotion of the CARICOM RSDS- Communication and Advocacy Plan

The Communication and Advocacy Plan is another framework that the 39<sup>th</sup> HGC agreed should inform the next steps of the CARICOM RSDS.

With the support of Statistics Canada through the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC), a draft Communication and Advocacy Plan was developed by the CARICOM Secretariat. The purpose of the Communication and Advocacy Plan is to raise awareness of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) among key stakeholders and influential persons in government, industry, the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other key users of Statistics.

The plan includes a list of communication products, key messages and approaches that could be adopted by individual member countries and key stakeholders to support advocacy of the CARICOM RSDS vision. In fact this newsletter “What’s New” is a key product of the Plan geared to promote and inform on the progress being made with the RSDS implementation and advancement.



#### The Objectives of the Plan are to:

- \* Promote the use of Statistics in effective and efficient decision making;
- \* Leverage all the Organs and Bodies and the expertise within the National Statistical Offices/ Systems to help promote the role of statistics in the Community and to share the CARICOM RSDS success stories;
- \* Build a Statistical Advocacy Framework to engage key influencers and raise awareness of the importance and use of Statistics;
- \* Showcase CARICOM’s corporate identity;
- \* Highlight the CARICOM Secretariat’s role in the region and in supporting advocacy by individual Member States; and
- \* Advocate for statistical literacy.

#### Communication and Advocacy products include:

- \* Videos by Prime Ministers/Champions on the CARICOM RSDS and on the value of statistics;
- \* Talking points for key stakeholders;
- \* Media lines for specific events;
- \* High-level description or tagline describing the RSDS to be added to surveys and online content;
- \* Calendar of events across the region that key stakeholders may attend at their discretion; and
- \* Generic backgrounder on RSDS.

#### Some of the Key Messages are:

- \* The CARICOM RSDS aims to increase the availability of timely, reliable data in decision making and policy development among CARICOM Member States/Associate Members;
- \* CARICOM has a strategic Framework—Building Resilience of the Caribbean Community— for the development of high-quality, harmonised statistics among Member States;
- \* CARICOM Secretariat supports Member States by developing statistical capacity;
- \* Good data benefits your community, your country and your region; and
- \* Good data builds resilience in the Caribbean community.

## **The Role of the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP)— Coordinating and Sustaining the Impact of the CARICOM RSDS**



*Mr. Joshua Khan, staff member of the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP)*

The Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) of the CARICOM Secretariat has a critical role to play in coordinating and sustaining the impact of the CARICOM RSDS.

Principally, the role of the RSP as reflected under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) “Article 25 (d)”:

*To collect, store and disseminate to the Member States of the Community, information relevant for the achievement of the objectives.*

Clearly, regional level statistics, built up primarily from national statistics, are required for the achievement of all of the objectives of Article 6 of the Revised Treaty for use not only by Member States/Associate Members but also by the global community and by regional organisations including the Secretariat.

### **What is the Mission of the RSP?**

Essentially, the mission of the RSP is to develop a sustainable statistical infrastructure regionally and to assist countries to develop their infrastructure nationally to enable the production and dissemination of high quality Community statistics to all users.

In effect, the RSP is responsible for providing a high quality statistical service in CARICOM, producing CARICOM level statistics that are harmonised for use by stakeholders that include decision-makers in the public and private sector of Member States/Associate Members and users globally, external to the Community.

The RSP also provides the Community and the world with statistics to evaluate the progress of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) through compilation of statistics on its members.

### **How does the RSP fulfil its mission?**

While Member States/Associate Members are responsible for the production of statistics from the national statistical offices/systems, the RSP must ensure that those statistics produced can be aggregated to the CARICOM level. Similar to the European Union where Eurostat fulfils this role, Community level statistics has always been the responsibility of the CARICOM Secretariat and include the following:

- ♦ Building systems of statistics that are comparable, relevant and that conform to regional and international statistical standards;
- ♦ Coordinate and contribute to the development of a common Regional Statistical Work Programme, based on a mandate by Council in 2002. The RSWP now contains regional core data sets, inclusive of the core indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- ♦ Develop protocols and standards for the exchange of data which must be identified and followed by Member States and Associate Member States;
- ♦ Develop and assist in the implementation of Quality assurance principles, processes to ensure statistics are of high quality;
- ♦ Related to quality assurance, the RSP should support countries in ensuring that the statistics produced are in accordance with *scientific statistical principles* such as in the application of sampling theory;
- ♦ Provide technical statistical support to stakeholders in the Community—internal and external to the CARICOM Secretariat and particularly in Member States/Associate Members and programme areas of the Secretariat;

## BUILDING RESILIENCE OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

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### How does the RSP fulfil its mission (Cont'd)

- ♦ Support the development of statistical principles, standards and procedures globally, regionally and nationally;
- ♦ Coordinate regional statistical development through the mandate of the SCCS and its subsidiary bodies;
- ♦ Keep abreast and support the diffusion in countries of innovations in statistical methodological and technological developments in statistics.

### How does the RSP enable the availability of Community Statistics - Statistical Capacity Building

It is necessary to organise the submission of statistics by country by identifying:

- ♦ what statistics should be produced;
- ♦ what metadata should be used;
- ♦ in what format the data should be submitted; and
- ♦ at what timeline.

However, the above processes are not sufficient to make available Community level statistics that are comparable, are of the requisite quality and that can be presented and aggregated as required to give a CARICOM picture.

Countries are at varying levels relative to statistics production and dissemination, resulting in data gaps for some countries in specific areas of statistics and a lack of application of relevant and up-to-date international and regional principles in their data production.

In addition, there are demands for new areas of statistics. Gender and Environment Statistics are relatively very new areas of Statistics in CARICOM. Additional profiles of existing areas and the production of indicators to monitor the development goals, the regional integration agenda of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the SDGs are also required to be produced.

In order to build high quality Community level Statistics to satisfy the demands of all users, internal and external to the Community and in a timely manner, the RSP actively works with countries and with IDPs to strengthen statistical capacity.

### What form does Statistical Capacity Building take?

Based on the competencies of the staff of the RSP, capacity building is undertaken directly to NSOs on a request basis or routinely during the collection of statistics. This form of statistical capacity building is primarily undertaken remotely but can also occur during country missions.

The Staff of the RSP also undertakes capacity-building as part of project support, through the delivery of direct technical assistance to countries or in regional training activities of projects executed by the RSP or by other IDPs.

Some International Development Partners (IDPs) whose interest lies in statistical capacity building provide funding support to the Secretariat to undertake the execution of projects on the strengthening of statistics.

This type of support may be for projects in the area of statistics only or wider projects that contain a statistical component. The support may target the development of Regional Public Goods in which statisticians of the region contribute to their development or may incorporate the provision of technical assistance, regional training courses of duration of approximately six (6) weeks, regional training workshops, of 1 to 2 weeks or support to South-South cooperation through attachments/exchange visits among countries.

In other instances, the Secretariat may not receive funding directly but where IDPs have funding for capacity building, the Secretariat may work with that IDP in the strengthening of statistical capacity in countries or through regional level activities.

The RSP also receives a number of internal requests from programmes of the Secretariat for support, such as data requests for inputs into meetings as well as other technical support.



## **Views from Staff of the RSP on the CARICOM RSDS**

The Strategic Framework of the CARICOM RSDS has been the stellar regional public good that has been created by statisticians of the region. Its implementation is and will continue to impact the work of the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP).

The Work Programme of the RSP centres around the Strategic priorities and enablers of the RSDS. It includes focus on the ultimate outcome of the RSDS:

***An efficient CARICOM Statistical System (CSS), that is responsive to the national, regional and global development agenda, enabling a resilient Community with sustained economic growth and development***

At the national level, it is necessary that countries actively seek to *align their* - National Strategies for the Development Statistics, other national modernisation and transformation initiatives or national statistical action plans with the RSDS.

To enable the achievement of the ultimate outcome there must be core adequate and competent human resources at both the regional and international levels to implement the RSDS incorporating the execution of the regional and national work programmes.

### ***How do the Staff Members of the RSP View the CARICOM RSDS***



The staff of the RSP were asked to give their views on the impact of the implementation of the RSDS on transforming the work that they are currently doing and the future work that would be needed to support the Modernisation and Transformation of the CARICOM Statistical System.

Some of the views expressed were the following:-

***“The implementation of RSDS has led to an examination of the quality assurance procedures that are currently employed in the work and to give consideration and pay attention to additional quality standards that are required. New procedures will be needed now and in the future to ensure the production of high quality and comparable statistics”.***

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***“As a strategic plan, the RSDS brings into deeper focus the other stakeholders that are critical to the production of official statistics within each Member State/Associate Member. As a result, greater attention has been given to efficiency of these stakeholders relative to their roles in improving the production of official statistics. Further, where challenges exist, supporting a collaborative process with the National Statistics Office in terms of developing a strategy to address the challenges, is required”.***

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***“The implementation of the RSDS will drive improvements in the compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics, enforcing standards and ensuring higher quality in the data collected and disseminated”.***

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***“Through Innovation, one of the strategic priorities and the development of an Integrated Statistical System, it is envisaged that the adoption of international standards, such as the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX), will give rise to enhanced data collection from Member States, more efficient storage/data warehousing in a regionally located central repository and the eventual dissemination of high quality data to users for analytical, research and other purposes”.***

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***“The RSDS would require a total review and overhaul of the current business processes, not just in the area of national accounts but across all statistical domains in the RSP, transitioning to an integrated statistical system and developing an interoperable IT infrastructure”.***



## Country Feature: Implementation of the CARICOM RSDS in Jamaica

*The implementation of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) which is the Strategic Roadmap to developing Statistics in CARICOM, is country-driven and country owned. Commencing with this issue, the Quarterly RSDS Newsletter “What’s New” will therefore feature articles by CARICOM Countries on the implementation of the Strategy. In this issue, the work being undertaken by the Government of Jamaica through the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) is presented below.*

### The CARICOM RSDS and Transformation and Modernisation of the National Statistical System (NSS): Alignment of the CARICOM RSDS with Statistical Development in Jamaica



*Ms. Carol Coy  
Director-General  
STATIN*

The Government of Jamaica through the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) is taking steps to implement the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) that was endorsed by the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (HGC) in July 2018 in Jamaica. Among the steps that STATIN is taking towards the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS are the strengthening of the **Statistical Legislation, Institutional Strengthening** and the development of a **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)** for Jamaica. These efforts which will strengthen the National Statistical System (NSS) are being reinforced through a number of initiatives including:

Proposed amendments to the Statistics Act to provide a mechanism for the coordination of the National Statistics System through the establishment of the Statistics Commission which will provide governance of the NSS;

Preparation of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) for Jamaica; and Restructuring of STATIN to provide technical and administrative

support to the Commission and the wider NSS as well as to improve its capability to satisfy the increasing demand for data.

#### Strengthening of the Statistical Legislation

The strengthening of the legislative framework within which official statistics are produced and disseminated has been an ongoing objective for STATIN. Although the Statistics Act gives STATIN a general coordinating role, there is no supporting framework to carry out this function. In 2007, STATIN prepared the “White Paper” - **Ministry Paper # 24/07: “Assuring Integrity in National Statistics”** which identified the weaknesses in the national statistics system and recommended that the Statistics Act (the Act) be amended to address these weaknesses. Approval was granted by Cabinet in 2013 for the amendments to the Statistics Act.

However, STATIN is seeking additional amendments to its legislation which will be taken to Cabinet for its approval. These are based on recent developments such as new international recommendations for strengthening national statistical offices, the CARICOM Statistics Model Bill and the emergence of new technologies.

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## **The CARICOM RSDS and Transformation and Modernisation of the National Statistical System (NSS) - Jamaica**

### **Preparation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics**

The country is also in the process of preparing a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) with technical assistance from the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21). The CARICOM RSDS will be aligned with the NSDS where these are being developed in countries. An important step in the development of the NSDS was the assessment of the national statistics system of Jamaica in 2017.

A three-day workshop with NSS stakeholders was held in July 2017 and the objectives were:

- ♦ To promote participation in and awareness of the urgent need for the production and management of a sound statistical system in Jamaica;
- ♦ To establish a platform for the promotion of an advocacy programme for the development of quality official statistics.

In 2018, a second workshop was held with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) that are involved in the production of statistics, as well as major users of statistics. This was facilitated by PARIS21 and resulted in the development of a draft strategic plan for the production of official statistics in Jamaica.

### **Restructuring of STATIN**

Additionally, STATIN is being restructured to provide technical and administrative support to the NSS as well as improving its capability to satisfy the increasing demand for data. The proposal for restructuring will be submitted to the Government in the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

### **Highlights of the Implementation of the RSDS Strategic Priorities at STATIN**

The five (5) Strategic Priorities of the CARICOM RSDS, namely, **Standards and Harmonisation, Governance, Integrated Statistical System, Innovation and Advocacy and Communication** each enforces specific goals that seek to strengthen and position the national and regional infrastructure to provide the statistics for evidence-based decision-making. These goals will guide the achievement of the ultimate outcome of resilient economies and sustained economic growth and development of CARICOM countries.

In keeping with these strategic priorities, which are, to advance the production of high quality comparable statistics; enable an effective and modern governance structure and institutional arrangements, establish a cohesive and coherent architecture in the production, processing and dissemination of statistics; enable and facilitate the development and sharing of innovative methods, tools and technologies in the production and dissemination of statistics; and raise the profile and the value of statistics, STATIN has undertaken the following:

### **Standards and Harmonisation - Goal 1- Production of High Quality Comparable Statistics**

The common Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) has been incorporated into STATIN's five year Strategic Plans including the most recent 2019 -2024.

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## **The CARICOM RSDS and Transformation and Modernisation of the National Statistical System (NSS) - Jamaica**

There has been in collaboration with other Government agencies to standardise geographic regions - development of community maps for the dissemination of Census data (*STATIN and the Social Development Commission*) and the use of common classification systems is being promoted. These systems include:

- ♦ Jamaica Industrial Classification (JIC);
- ♦ Jamaica Occupational Classification System (JSOC);
- ♦ International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED); and
- ♦ International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).

STATIN has taken steps to ensure the production of high quality statistics with the development of a Quality Assurance Framework which was launched in 2017. The Institute also conducted a series of data analysis workshops with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) aimed at improving the quality of official statistics. These workshops were held with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and facilitated by Statistics Canada.

There was also a launch of the National Summary Data Page (NSDP) a collaborative effort between STATIN, the Bank of Jamaica and the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. The NSDP provides easy access to key macro-economic indicators on Jamaica in a one-stop web portal. The NSDP is part of Jamaica's participation in the IMF's Enhanced General Data Dissemination Standard (e-GDDS) and is an important step towards Jamaica subscribing to the more stringent dissemination standard, the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS).

### **Governance – Goal 2- Enable an effective and modern governance structure and institutional arrangements**

As indicated earlier in this article, STATIN is advancing work on the development of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) for Jamaica with support from PARIS21. With regards to legislation, the Legal and regulatory framework for statistics in Jamaica is being amended and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between STATIN and MDAs for exchange of data are being developed. The Government of Jamaica is also developing a data sharing and information policy among MDAs. Additionally, the National Statistical Office (NSO) maintains an internal governance structure through which corporate objectives are set, plans are generated for achieving those objectives, and mechanisms for monitoring performance are determined. A governance and organisational structure has also been implemented for the 2020 Census Round to ensure operations are efficient and timely.

### **Integrated Statistical System -Goal 3 - Establish a cohesive and coherent architecture in the production, processing and dissemination of statistics**

STATIN has adopted the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) which was used as a guide to review the core statistical business processes and the documentation required for each product and service.

The use of Survey Solutions for all data collection is another approach that will ensure a consistent approach in the Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) data collection system throughout STATIN. In addition, STATIN is also implementing the international framework for Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) in the release of macro-economic data as part of Jamaica's subscription to the e-GDDS. This is in collaboration with the Bank of Jamaica and the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.

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## **The CARICOM RSDS and Transformation and Modernisation of the National Statistical System (NSS) - Jamaica**

The aim of the SDMX initiative is to create and maintain technical and statistical standards and guidelines, together with an information technology architecture and information technology tools, to be used and implemented by the SDMX sponsors (the International Monetary Fund) and external organisations dealing with statistical data and exchange metadata. Combined with modern information technology, these SDMX standards and guidelines should lead to improved efficiency when managing statistical business processes (See Paper E/CN.3/2017/32, Forty-Eighth Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, March 2018).SDMX also allows for improved data sharing in machine readable formats.

### **Innovation - Goal 4 - Enable and facilitate the development and sharing of innovative methods, tools and technologies in the production and dissemination of statistics**

As an example of innovation, STATIN is working on the development of a common platform for data exchange for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators.

### **Advocacy and Communication - Goal 5 - Raise the profile and the value of statistics**

In the area of Advocacy and Communication, STATIN is working on the development of a Corporate Communication Plan with assistance from Statistics Canada under the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC). The Statistical Institute of Jamaica engages heavily in media engagements, through television and radio discussions in addition to the hosting of a number of events including:

- Quarterly press briefings;
- Media sensitisation workshops;
- Meetings with the Cabinet;
- Consultations with stakeholders including the Private sector; and
- Engagement with schools.

There is also an Advance Release calendar, publicly available, on the release of short term indicators based on the International Monetary Fund Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (IMF's e-GDDS) accompanied by a press release.

### **Gender Mainstreaming**

STATIN has placed priority on the production of gender statistics in its work programme. Goal 5 of the SDGs (Achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls) recorded the highest proportion of indicators being produced in Jamaica in an assessment undertaken in 2016. In 2016, the Institute partnered with UN Women and the Inter-American Development Bank to undertake the Jamaica Women's Health Survey. The 2016 Women's Health Survey is the first report to provide a comprehensive examination of the nature and prevalence of violence against women and girls in Jamaica. It was the pilot for the first nationally led prevalence study on gender- based violence in CARICOM.



## Next Steps in the CARICOM RSDS Process



The next steps in the CARICOM RSDS process include:

♦ **The development of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS)**

Work is in progress on the development of the RMS. This is being undertaken collaboratively between Member States/Associate Members and the CARICOM Secretariat through the Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance Programme (RMTA) and the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP).

It is expected that the Forty-Fourth Meeting of the SCCS, which is scheduled to take place at the end of October 2019 in Jamaica, will consider the work put in place relative to the development of the Briefs/Concept Notes that are to inform the RSDS Resource Mobilisation Strategy to systematically advance its Implementation.

♦ **The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with Scorecard**

Work on the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with a Scorecard to monitor the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS is to commence soon.

♦ **The Communication and Advocacy Plan**

Work is currently in progress in implementing the Communication and Advocacy Plan of the RSDS.

♦ **Mid-Term Review of the CARICOM RSDS**

This is to be undertaken within the next five (5) years to see the progress made at that point.



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