



Moving on with the RSDS

Statisticians Forge Ahead with the development of A Resource Mobilisation Strategy to Support the CARICOM RSDS Implementation

As Statisticians across the region continue the thrust in implementing the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS), focus is now on the development of a Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) that will fund various aspects of the 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 had been obtained from International Development Partners (IDPs) to implement elements of the RSDS.

The RMS is one of the frameworks that the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (HGC) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), (July 2018) agreed should be developed, as part of the next steps, having endorsed the CARICOM RSDS. The RMS is expected to enable a regional mechanism to sustainably support/fund the development of statistics from national, regional and international sources inclusive of in-kind resources.

At the Twenty-Fourth AGS, where the work on the RMS was initiated, it was agreed that concept notes would be drafted to inform proposals, relative to the RMS. The following **recommendations** were made on the RMS:

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- ◆ The RMS is to be developed based on the RSDS Implementation Plan that was previously produced;
- ◆ There was need to identify exactly where existing support would take countries and what additional support would be needed from IDPs to achieve the outcomes;

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... development of A Resource Mobilisation Strategy to Support the CARICOM RSDS Implementation

- ♦ There is also need to identify and prepare concept notes to inform proposals for funding based on the costing produced for the Implementation Plan;
- ♦ These concept notes should be prepared based on the resource gaps identified in the Implementation Plan; and
- ♦ The proposals would be taken to the Forty-Fourth Meeting of the SCCS in Jamaica for consideration.

The Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the CARICOM AGS which took place in Kingston, Jamaica in October 2019 advanced the work on the development of a Concept Note to inform the RMS.

A preliminary Draft Concept Note was prepared for activities requiring funding under the Strategic Priorities and Drivers of the RSDS, excluding the Strategic Priority on Innovation and the Strategy on the development of a CARICOM Statistics Brand, which falls under Advocacy and Communication.

The preliminary draft Concept Note was taken to the Forty-Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) which was held on 28-30 October 2019 in Kingston, Jamaica, for consideration.

The 44th SCCS:

Endorsed the following relative to the outline of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) of the RSDS:

- *That the Preliminary Draft Concept Note would continue to be developed by circular arrangements; and*
- *That the Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance (RMTA) Programme of the CARICOM Secretariat will aid in drafting the RMS.*



Participants at the Forty-Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) in Jamaica, October 2019

BUILDING RESILIENCE OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

Key Elements of the Preliminary Draft Concept Note to inform the Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) for the CARICOM RSDS



Excerpt from the RMS Concept Note

In the RMS Concept Note, each component of the CARICOM RSDS Strategic Priorities entails a proposed title, a brief background of the problem being addressed, the presentation of Specific Objectives and Scope of Work. For some areas, deliverables/key results to be achieved have also been articulated.

The preliminary draft Concept Note commences with a Preface as well as an Introduction outlining the CARICOM RSDS and supporting frameworks as well as a write-up on the need for making statistics available for decision-making. The current situation faced by National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in CARICOM and the need for funding the RSDS and National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and the policy relevance of Statistics in CARICOM is also contained in the Introduction.

The Introduction is followed by proposals for the various components. The following is an excerpt of the proposal for the Strategic Priority on Standards and Harmonisation (SH).

Objective:

The overall objective of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) that is being prepared for funding is:

To Advance the Production of High Quality, Comparable national and intra-regional Statistics

STANDARDS AND HARMONISATION (SH)



This priority area, Standards and Harmonisation seeks to ensure that the statistics produced across the CSS are harmonised and conform to global and regional statistical standards. This strategic area should facilitate the production of statistics that can be compared regionally and globally. It is fundamental to enabling the production and dissemination of high quality statistics. Therefore, to advance the efforts to improve the production of High Quality Comparable National and Intra-Regional Statistics, the following strategies were recommended to be pursued:

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 Programmes (NSWP) with the common and updated Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP);

SH2: Facilitate conformity of the approaches to the production and dissemination of statistics at the national level with international and regional standards; and

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Key Elements of the Preliminary Draft Concept Note ...

SH3: *Advance the implementation of the CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practices (CGSP) and finalise the development and commence implementation of the CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF).*



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 Programmes (NSWP) with the common and updated Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP)*



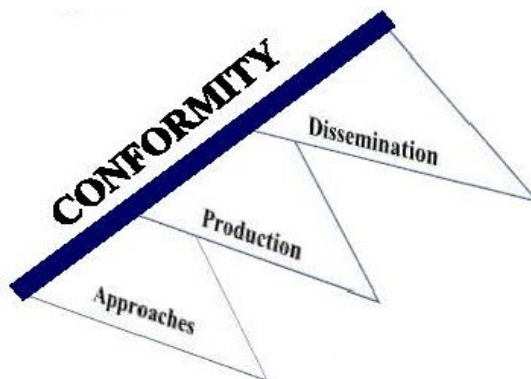
The focus of the actions under this strategy should be to undertake a review of the RSWP relative to new priorities of CARICOM Member States inclusive of economic, social, environmental and technological concerns, challenges and opportunities. The National Development Plans and Medium - Term Development Strategies of Member States, the Strategic Plan of the Community, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway are some of the key contextual issues to inform the RSWP.

The Key Results to be achieved under this component are:

- ♦ A Consolidated Gap Analysis on the differences between the NSWP and the RSWP;
- ♦ Recommendations on reducing the Data Gaps; and
- ♦ Action Plan to increase the availability of statistics across countries.

The key results to be achieved under this component will be technical assistance to Member States to facilitate conformity of the approaches to the production and dissemination of statistics with international and regional statistical standards.

SH2: *Facilitate conformity of the approaches to the production and dissemination of statistics at the national level with international and regional standards*



The CARICOM regional integration agenda requires harmonised statistics to enable the aggregation of consistent, methodologically sound and comparable data.

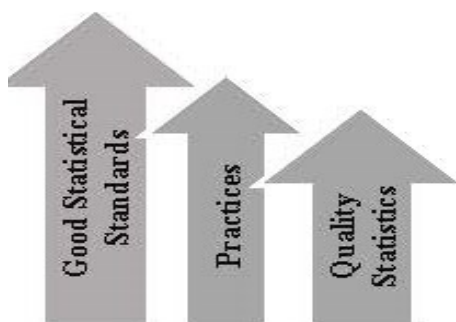
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Key Elements of the Preliminary Draft Concept Note ...

The statistics must also be produced in accordance with regional and international standards. The actions required in this strategy should be to monitor and enable capacity-building to enable conformity to the regional and international frameworks including the latest revisions undertaken.

SH3: Advance the implementation of the CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practices (CGSP) and finalise the development and commence implementation of the CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF)



The actions under this strategic area includes the development and implementation of the peer review system of the CGSP. It is expected that the piloting of the Peer Review will inform the adjustments required in this process to enable greater adherence of countries to good statistical practices. The actions should also focus on the full development of the CQAF of which work is already in progress. It is also expected that implementation of the CQAF would be undertaken across the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS).

The CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework is necessary given that the process of statistical production in CARICOM is conducted in an environment of inadequate resources, juxtaposed with an ever increasing call for new and wider ranging statistics such as for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Statistical Offices are therefore now challenged to satisfy the needs of users while continuing to offer the highest assurance on the quality of the data.

The key results to be achieved are:

- ◆ Full compliance to the CARICOM CGSP;
- ◆ Improvement in the quality of data produced by the NSS;
- ◆ Data produced satisfies the national and regional demands;
- ◆ Increased public confidence in the data being produced; and
- ◆ Increased willingness of data providers to share information and increased survey response rates.

Finalisation of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the CARICOM RSDS



A remote meeting will be held during the first quarter of 2020 to finalise the Concept Note for the RMS, after which it will be presented to the SCCS for consideration through circular arrangements.



Status of Implementation of the CARICOM RSDS in Member States and Associate Members

At the 25th Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS), October 2019, a report was presented by the CARICOM Secretariat on the work already completed or in progress relative to the implementation of the Strategic Priorities and Drivers of the CARICOM RSDS. The report included the following as it pertains to the Strategic Priorities and Drivers of the CARICOM RSDS:

1. *Standards and Harmonisation (SH):*

- ♦ Analysis of the National Statistical Work Programme - Regional Statistical Work Programme (NSWP-RSWP) alignment has been undertaken for eleven (11) countries;
- ♦ Consolidating of work done in the past on assessing compliance to international and regional standards (in progress);
- ♦ Fourth Round of the Code of Good Statistical Practices (CGSP) is in progress and the framework for the application of the Peer Review System of the CGSP process has been developed. One round of training has been conducted for the Peer Review System;
- ♦ The CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF) Phase I has been completed and work is in progress on the completion of the Phase 2. The Pilot Implementation of the CQAF Phase I has also commenced.

2. *Governance (GOV)*

- ♦ Review of Statistics Legislation and the modernising of National Statistical Offices or National Statistical Systems are in progress in specific countries;
- ♦ National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) are in various stages of being developed in specific countries;
- ♦ Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) has been developed and approved;

- ♦ Regional Census Strategy developed and implemented during various Census Rounds - 2020 Regional Census Strategy is currently being implemented;
- ♦ Regional Public Goods (RPGs) have been developed and are in varying stages of implementation. These RPGs include: RSWP, CARICOM Model Statistics Bill, CGSP and CQAF;
- ♦ Concept of Caribbean Institute for Statistical Training and Research (CISTAR) reactivated through the proposed development of an e-CISTAR;
- ♦ The SCCS continues to be strong and now comprises a subsidiary group - the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) in addition to the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC).

3. *Integrated Statistical Systems (ISS)*

- ♦ Terms of Reference have been prepared for the development of a structured Central Data Repository at the CARICOM Secretariat;
- ♦ Work on developing data hubs such as for the SDGs and geo-enabling data holdings are in progress (supported by the Environmental Systems Research Institute – ESRI).

4. *Innovation (INV)*

- ♦ Innovations such as Cloud Computing and Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) are in progress;
- ♦ Exploratory work on Big Data (e.g. Bermuda presented a paper at a past seminar) and work is in progress in many countries relative to the use of satellite imagery, Light, Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) Technology and drones in GIS Mapping;
- ♦ Methodological innovations – Urban/Rural Classification prepared by Dominica and Population Register – Jamaica and Curacao. Regional Statistical Research Seminar in place to encourage innovations in statistical methodologies.

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Status of Implementation of the CARICOM RSDS...

5. Advocacy and Communication (AC)

- ♦ Regional Communication and Advocacy Strategies developed for RSDS and for the 2020 Census Round (implementation in progress);
- ♦ Caribbean Statistics Day Commemoration instituted- eleventh year of observance across the region. In some countries a statistics week is observed;
- ♦ Communication Training operationalised with the support of Canada under the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC);
- ♦ Past activities on Statistical Literacy (e.g. Quiz Competitions, Students Hand Books by Jamaica and targeted brochures) have been conducted/produced. Consultations on statistical literacy already in progress and is to be supported through PARIS21 in at least one country.

As it pertains to the Strategic Drivers/Enablers, the following was reported:

1. Information and Communication Technology



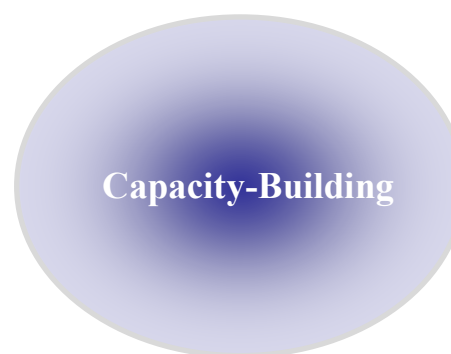
IT frameworks that were developed in the past are to be updated. These include, Data Policy, Data Warehouse Framework, Statistics Organisation and Use Framework etc.

2. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development/ Small Island Developing States SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (Samoa) Pathway



- CARICOM Core SDG Indicators identified and endorsed at the 34th Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) in 2018;
- Evaluation of Data Availability of SDG Indicators undertaken/ disseminated;
- Collaborative work with various organisations is in-progress.

3. Sustainable Capacity-Building



- Centres of Excellence (CoE) and e-CISTAR conceptualised and work is in progress;
- CoE Questionnaires for the assessment of capabilities of the capacity of countries have been developed in the following areas: National Accounts (completed and submitted to countries), Labour Force (prepared in draft), Sampling (prepared in draft), Merchandise Trade (prepared in draft) and Information Technology (IT) (prepared in draft).

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Status of Implementation of the CARICOM RSDS...

4. Gender Mainstreaming



- Collaborative work on Gender Mainstreaming including:
- Execution of the UNSD-CARICOM Project incorporating Social/Gender Indicators;
- Caribbean Specific Millennium Development Goals Indicators;
- Piloting of Gender Equality Indicators;
- Piloting of Prevalence Surveys on Gender-Based Violence; and
- Measurement of Unpaid work reactivated.

Additionally, the 25th AGS received updates from countries that were present on the work completed, in progress or to be implemented to support the RSDS implementation, including work put in place to align the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) in countries where these exist or are being developed, with the RSDS. The following reports were received from countries:

Implementation of the RSDS at the country level:

Antigua and Barbuda



Antigua and Barbuda launched the modernised statistics Website, is currently developing a Communication and Advocacy team within

the statistics department and is also undertaking the development of the statistical Business Register.

Grenada



The Government of Grenada is undertaking the development of a National Strategy for the Development of

Statistics (NSDS), the institutional strengthening of the National Statistical System (NSS) and revision of its Statistics Legislation by adopting the provisions of the CARICOM Model Statistics Bill. Further information on the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS in Grenada is contained in the feature article on **page 10**.

Guyana



The Government of Guyana through the Bureau of Statistics is currently developing its National Strategy for the Development of

Statistics (NSDS). Work is in progress on the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Infrastructure and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Voluntary National Review (VNR) which was conducted in 2019. Capacity-Building activities are also in progress.

Jamaica



Jamaica is currently undertaking the amendment of the statistical legislation as well as the development

of its NSDS.

Restructuring of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) is also in progress as well as development of the Quality Assurance Framework.

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Status of Implementation of the CARICOM RSDS...

Trinidad and Tobago



The NSDS development has been embedded in the National Statistics Institute of Trinidad and Tobago Bill which is intended to modernise the National Statistical Office.



Status of Key supporting Frameworks of the CARICOM RSDS and Next Steps

The Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM (HGC), apart from endorsing the Strategic Framework of the CARICOM RSDS also approved the preparation of the following supporting frameworks – the status of these frameworks are presented below:

- ♦ **Implementation Plan** for the CARICOM RSDS with indicative costing – this framework is **complete** (it was approved by the 43rd Meeting of the SCCS in February 2019 through circular arrangements);
- ♦ **Communication and Advocacy Strategy** is **complete/approved as a living document** (by the 44th SCCS, Jamaica, 2019);
- ♦ **Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) – Work is in-progress.** Work commenced at the 24th AGS in July 2019. A Concept Note to inform the RMS was developed for most of the strategies of the strategic priorities at the 25th AGS and presented for consideration by the 44th SCCS in October 2019;
- ♦ **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with Compliance Scorecard – Work is in-progress** – A Draft template was developed for consideration by 25th AGS and presented for consideration by the 44th SCCS in October 2019; and
- ♦ **Mid-Term Review** of the CARICOM RSDS- this is to be undertaken during 2023/2024 to see the progress made at that point.



Country Feature: Implementation of the CARICOM RSDS in Grenada

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 the previous Issue (Issue 3), the Quarterly RSDS Newsletter “What’s New” features articles by CARICOM Countries on the implementation of the Strategy. In this issue, the work being undertaken by the Government of Grenada through the Central Statistical Office (CSO) is presented below.



Mr. Halim Brizan
Director of Statistics, Central
Statistical Office of Grenada

The Government of Grenada led by Prime Minister Dr. the Right Honourable Keith C. Mitchell, the Regional Champion for Statistics is highly committed to Statistics Development in Grenada. This is reflected in the fact that Prime Minister Mitchell presented and championed the Action Plan for Statistics at the 37th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM (HGC) in 2016 and received full endorsement by all Heads. Following on the recommendations of the Action Plan at the 38th HGC held in Grenada, 2017, Heads of Government endorsed the preparation of the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) relative to its strategic role in strengthening statistics and improving its availability for evidence-based decision-making. The Strategic Framework for the CARICOM RSDS was presented by Prime Minister Mitchell at the 39th HGC in 2018 and received unanimous endorsement. The Central Statistical Office (CSO) of Grenada has made steady progress in bringing to life the recommendations of the RSDS.

Strategic Priorities

Standards and Harmonisation

Under the strategic priority of **Standards and Harmonisation** with the aim of **advancing the production of High Quality, Comparable, national and intra-regional statistics**, Grenada has agreed to pilot the CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF) and also agreed to be one of the countries to be peer reviewed under the CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practices (CGSP).

In advancing the CQAF, the CSO has prepared a phased work plan which will be rolled out in 2020. In the short term, Internal quality assurance committee will be established along with the sensitisation and training of staff. In addition, the fourth round of the CGSP will be done and will be followed by the peer-review mentioned earlier. In the medium term, a CQAF policy framework will be developed commencing with Declaration on Quality Commitment based on the five (5) principles of the CQAF Phase 1 (Quality Commitment, Sound Methodology, Relevance, Timeliness and Punctuality, Statistical Confidentiality) as well as the development of a Communication and Advocacy Plan to inform users and the general public about the focused attention being given to Quality Assurance linking it to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. It is also the intention to determine priority areas and to develop a preliminary prototype for Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) in the medium term.

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Country Feature: Implementation of the CARICOM RSDS in Grenada

The aim in the long term is to develop GSBPM and apply training received in Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) in terms of quality, metadata documentation and exchange of data and metadata. In this phase we hope to advance priority areas determined in phase two, develop an operational Implementation Guide with the help of CARICOM Secretariat and conduct more in depth Quality assurance training and advocacy and communication programme.

Governance

Significant work has already been done under the Strategic Priority of **Governance** with the goal of *enabling an effective and modern Governance Structure and Institutional Arrangements*. This work is being supported by PARIS21 and the CARICOM Secretariat. One of the Governance strategies of the CARICOM RSDS is to modernise the governance structures of the National Statistical Systems (NSS) and specifically of the national statistical offices (NSO).

One of the main activities recommended is to develop and implement a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and another is to undertake institutional strengthening of the other Producing Agencies in the NSS, recognising the current challenges within the NSS. Grenada through the technical assistance of PARIS21 and with support from the CARICOM Secretariat has revised its outdated Statistics legislation by adopting the provisions of CARICOM Model Statistics Bill to produce the Revised Grenada Statistical Bill. The bill seeks to establish the National Statistical Institute of Grenada as a body corporate charged with the functions of developing an integrated statistical system, establishing standards for statistical purposes, collecting, compiling, analysing and publishing official statistics. Enshrined in the Bill are the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS). The advancement of the revised Statistical Bill is important for the development of statistics in Grenada. Not only would it address the insurmountable challenges within the Central Statistical Office and the National Statistical System (NSS) but also it would result in the upgrading of the Central Statistical Office into a semi-autonomous Statistical Institute that would promote its professionalism and professional independence in the interest of engendering greater public trust in the data produced.

In order to operationalize the transition of the CSO into a statistics institute, the Government of Grenada requested PARIS21 to provide technical assistance and guidance in the preparation of a proposal for strengthening and restructuring of the CSO so that it would be able to effectively carry-out the functions of the Statistical Institute upon enactment of the Revised Statistics Law. The proposal was produced in collaboration with CARICOM Secretariat and was presented to the Government of Grenada for consideration.

The Grenada CSO has always been an advocate of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) as an instrument to transform the NSS. This was initially introduced by PARIS21 in 2013 to stakeholders within the NSS through a national stakeholder meeting. The NSDS was further advanced through its official launch in 2017 with a 3-day training seminar targeting technical officers within the NSS and a half-day seminar targeting Permanent Secretaries and senior government officials, private sector representatives and representatives from regional development partners. Emanating from these seminars is the assessment of the National Statistical System and a road map for the NSDS which would be instrumental in completing the design stage of the NSDS. The finalisation of the NSDS design is scheduled for 2020.

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Country Feature: Implementation of the CARICOM RSDS in Grenada

Integrated Statistical System

As it relates to the strategic priority of an **Integrated Statistical Systems** with a goal to **establish a cohesive and coherent architecture in the production, processing and dissemination of statistics** it is believed that the Revised Statistical legislation will play a critical role in giving a greater mandate of the National Statistical Office (NSO) over the NSS. The NSO can then ensure that the correct regional and international standards are adopted and that the National Statistical Work Programme is aligned with the CARICOM regional Statistical Work programme not only as it relates to the work programme of the NSO but the entire NSS.

Innovation

The Central Statistical Office has embraced the strategic priority of *innovation* with the goal of *enabling and facilitating the development and sharing of innovative methods, tools and technologies in the production and dissemination processes in the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS)*. In light of the current data revolution the statistics office is prepared to leverage the available technology in statistics production. The CSO with the help of the World Bank has been conducting household surveys using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology with the Survey Solutions software since 2016. The office has seen improvements in quality and timeliness of the statistics produced. In light of this the frequency of labour survey was increased from once annually to once every quarter. The Central Statistical Office is also planning to undertake its first paperless census in 2021 using CAPI to be complimented by Computer Assisted Web-Interviewing (CAWI). The Government of Grenada procured LIDAR imagery. In preparation for census 2021 the CSO will be fully exploiting the benefits of this enhanced imagery for its census mapping activities and building its geographic information system. Given the importance of ICT in innovation the CSO is committed to developing Its IT/ data processing section within the office through training.

Advocacy and Communication

Advocacy and Communication is the last key strategy priority but by no means is it the least. Grenada is committed to the goal of *raising the profile and the value of statistics to effect change and to empower institutions and individuals to use statistics effectively in decision-making* and has been undertaking activities in this regard. The Prime Minister has already laid a foundation for both regional and national statistics development through his advocacy at the highest level of CARICOM by putting forward the action plan for statistics and the RSDS for endorsement by CARICOM heads as well as hosting two regional High Level Advocacy Forums on Statistics in Grenada in 2014 and 2019. He continues to be a strong advocate for statistics in Grenada.

PARIS21 is collaborating with the Government of Grenada Central Statistical Office and the Ministry of Education in the implementation of statistical literacy project in Grenada. The project was launched with the convening of a statistical literacy training targeted at Secondary School teachers to create greater awareness of statistics. In the last two years the CSO has also used the celebration of Caribbean Statistics Day on 15 October as an opportunity to promote statistics by going out to various secondary schools across the island delivering presentations on the importance of statistics and careers in statistics.

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Country Feature: Implementation of the CARICOM RSDS in Grenada

The CSO also took advantage of the occasion of Caribbean Statistics Day to launch the statistics website in 2018. This resulted in greater visibility for the office. After the recently held Statistical Advocacy training facilitated by the OECS Commission the office formed an internal statistical advocacy team that would be responsible for preparing media releases, promoting statistics on website and through social media.

Strategic Drivers/ Enablers

ICT Infrastructure

In addition to incorporating CAPI technology into our household survey process the CSO is committed to continuing developing our **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Infrastructure** to ensure data security and adequate back up facilities. This need has already been communicated to the Governments ICT Ministry. The CSO has also been committed to furnishing the IT/ Data processing team with the tools and equipment to effectively perform their duties.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development/SAMOA Pathway

Through the various surveys quarterly labour force, Survey of Living Conditions, Gender-Based Violence Survey Grenada has already compiled a number of the indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals. Grenada's recently finalised National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) which is aligned to the SDGs can be used to drive the data production process. This can lead to greater investment in statistics development. The planned NSDS would be driven by the NSDP and the SDGs.

Sustainable Capacity Building

In terms of the strategic driver of **Sustainable Capacity Building** the CSO has been taking active steps to build statistical capacity with the assistance of the various statistical development partners like the CARICOM Secretariat, Statistics Canada's Project for Regional Advancement of Statistics in CARICOM, CARTAC, UN, World Bank, OECS, ECCB, CDB, PARIS21 and the European Union. The areas of capacity building over the last two years include National Accounts, Prices, External Sector Statistics, Data analysis, CAPI, environment statistics, data anonymisation, trade statistics, statistical business register development, website development, Statistical Advocacy, NSDS, census planning and management, leadership and SDMX.

There is also commitment on the part of Government to have statistics related field as a priority area for scholarships to ensure that the NSS is equipped with the right skills to do more analytical work.

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Country Feature: Implementation of the CARICOM RSDS in Grenada

Gender Mainstreaming

The Central Statistical office recognises the importance of **Gender Mainstreaming** as a main driver in the RSDS and as such has taken steps to advance the production of Gender Statistics to be able inform gender sensitive policies. In this regard Grenada was one of the pilot countries for the CARICOM/UN WOMEN Gender Equality Indicators. The Gender Equality Indicators (GEI) framework will enhance government's capacity to monitor and assess their progress in meeting gender equality commitments specified in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the SDGs.

An area of serious concern throughout the region is the issue of gender based violence. Grenada conducted a Gender-based violence prevalence survey in 2018 with the assistance of the Caribbean Development Bank and UN Women. It is therefore the intention to release final report from survey in first quarter 2020.



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