



MEETING THE DATA DEMANDS FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING IN SIDS

SIDS RETREAT

**MEETING THE DATA DEMANDS FOR MONITORING
AND REPORTING IN SIDS**

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KEY CONTEXTUAL ISSUES

NATURAL DISASTERS

AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE MARIA

Dominica devastated



KEY CONTEXTUAL ISSUES



AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE MARIA

Coming together of
Member Countries to
support Dominica - Spirit
of the Community

KEY CONTEXTUAL ISSUES

1

Natural
disasters

2

External
economic and
financial shocks

3

Narrow
resource base

4

Climate
Change

KEY VULNERABILITIES



KEY CONTEXTUAL ISSUES

ROLE OF STATISTICS: POLICY INTERVENTIONS AND DECISION-MAKING

EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY
RESPONSE

NATIONAL LEVEL-
Medium to long term
strategies, national plans
and priorities;

REGIONAL LEVEL
– Community Strategic
Plan, CARICOM Single
Market and Economy,
Other supporting
Institutions/initiatives

**INTERNATIONAL
LEVEL** – Samoa Pathway,
2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development,
other global initiatives

KEY CHALLENGES IN PRODUCING STATISTICS

Is statistics really treated as a priority?

- ▶ Small size- lack of capacity difficulty in getting staff with the relevant skill set;
- ▶ Increased demand for statistics in an environment of declining financial resources, resulting in critical data gaps;
- ▶ Outdated legislative frameworks;
- ▶ Uncoordinated national statistical systems (NSS)/impact data exchange/quality;

KEY CHALLENGES IN PRODUCING STATISTICS

- ▶ Inadequate Investment and Reduced Budget Allocations:
 - Inadequate investment to boost growth and development imply that investment in statistics that can sustain capacity building is not realized.
 - Reduced budget allocations to undertake basic statistical operations/data gaps

KEY CHALLENGES IN PRODUCING STATISTICS



MAJOR STATISTICAL INITIATIVES

FRAMEWORKS AND INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN STATISTICS

- Development of core data sets, strategies and guidelines
- Sustained the functioning of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians and key subsidiary groups forum and subsidiary bodies- such as CARICOM Advisory Group and Technical Working Groups development, harmonisation, networking, sharing of best practices;
- Statistical Advocacy increased focus at the highest level of CARICOM

MAJOR STATISTICAL INITIATIVES

- **Strategic Planning in Statistics** – Training in NSDS and support at the national level as well as regional;
 - ▶ Common **Regional Statistical Work Programme** (RSWP-approved by the Community Council of Ministers of CARICOM);
 - ▶ **CARICOM Model Bill** – to establish an integrated national statistical system and enable the establishment of an autonomous/semi body corporate to modernise and transform the statistical infrastructure;
 - ▶ **IT frameworks** -Data Management Framework, Data Warehousing and a Data Policy have been developed with support from the AGS;
 - ▶ **Common Census Framework** – to further augment longstanding regionally coordinated census strategy to support countries – mapping templates and guidelines, to common questionnaire and common methodologies/ guidelines

MAJOR STATISTICAL INITIATIVES

- ▶ Online facilities for statistics and documents– Help Desk, Trade Information System, Census e-portal and CaricomInfo;
- ▶ Work in Progress on Creating of a “Permanent” Attachment Programme / Centres of Excellence.
- ▶ e-CARICOM Statistical Training Institute recommended

MAJOR STATISTICAL INITIATIVES

2030 Agenda/Samoa Pathway

- ▶ High Level Advocacy Forum - Data Revolution for Statistics key underlining theme:
- ▶ Action Plan for Statistics approved by Heads of Government in 2016
- ▶ Proactive SCCS engagement at the international level such as UNSD/UNSC

MAJOR STATISTICAL INITIATIVES

2030 Agenda/Samoa Pathway

- ▶ Recommendation for CARICOM SIDS to commence the production of core SDG indicators.
- ▶ Establishment of a CARICOM Technical Working Group/initial collaborative support that identified 109 unique core SDG Indicators.

MAJOR STATISTICAL INITIATIVES

Impact of 2030 Agenda/Samoa Pathway- Criteria for Identifying the Core set of SDG indicators:

- ▶ 1. The indicators should be linked to the national and regional planning programmes and priorities for development and provide a robust measure of progress as it relates to development of CARICOM countries.
- ▶ 2. The ability of the indicator to measure the SDGs in the context of the diverse population groups in CARICOM [leaving no one behind] was a key issue.
- ▶ 3. The core indicators must reflect the unique vulnerabilities of CARICOM SIDS.
- ▶ 4. The indicators should allow for comparability at the national, regional and international levels.

MAJOR STATISTICAL INITIATIVES

ACTION PLAN FOR STATISTICS- APPROVED BY THE 37TH MEETING OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN JULY 2016

- Issue 1: Governments should undertake the strengthening of the National Statistical Systems (NSS) and specifically the National Statistical Offices (NSO);
- Issue 2: Governments should pursue the upgrading of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) base:
- Issue 3: Promoting of careers in Statistics should be undertaken by Governments – embedding statistics as a [data] science in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools and enabling scholarships at the tertiary level

MAJOR STATISTICAL INITIATIVES

ACTION PLAN FOR STATISTICS (cont'd)

- Issue 4: Governments should endorse and promote the Caribbean Association of Professional Statisticians (CAPS);
- Issue 5: Governments should support a regional approach to the development of statistics to optimise scarce resources in the strengthening of the NSS.

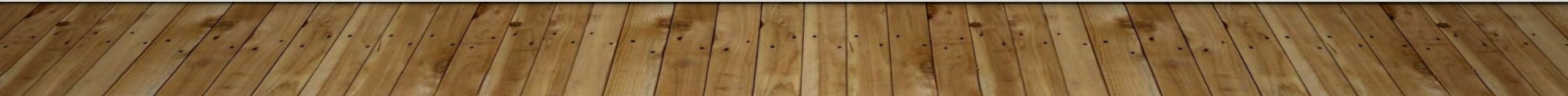
MAJOR STATISTICAL INITIATIVES

Preparation of Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics – Approved at the 38th Conference of Heads of Government in July 2017

- ***Masterplan for the development of the Regional Statistical System:***
 - Overarching framework for strengthening statistics- making use of initiatives already developed in a strategic approach;
 - The RSDS will also cater to the additional demands that will be made in statistical offices to fulfil obligations related to the CSME, the Community Strategic Plan 20152019, Agenda 2030 the SAMOA Pathway
- ***Phases of the CARICOM RSDS:***
 - Phase I - Comprehensive Assessment of the RSS;
 - Phase II - RSDS Formulation-Vision, Strategies, Actions. Costing;
 - Phase III Dissemination and Advocacy- Implementation Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

SOME CONCLUSIONS

- **Evidenced based Policy/Decision-Making for Sustainable Development:**
 - Statistics must inform the policy choices/interventions for Sustainable Growth and Development- **Statistics must be integrated in the development discourse/forum in countries and must not be treated as an ‘after’ issue-it must be as core as all other core issues in the development agenda;**
- **Domestic Financing of Statistics (breaking the vicious circle)**
 - While IDPs provide support to Statistics in some areas this should not be a **substitute to adequate and continuous investment in statistics by governments which is necessary for sustained improvement/rebuilding of statistics/statistical agencies (also in light of the natural disasters);**
- **Action Plan and Regional Strategy (in progress)**
 - Investments by government should focus on the elements of the Action Plan for Statistics that is already endorsed and should be guided strategically by the RSDS when it is completed (recall slides on Action Plan);



SOME CONCLUSIONS

- **Implementation of Frameworks:**
 - Implementation of the Regional Public Goods in Statistics–RSWP, Data Management and Warehousing/Dissemination Frameworks, Core Data Sets-can enable the filling of the data gaps;
- **Strengthening and financing the development of main data sources**
 - Financing the conduct of the main data sources-Census, Surveys, Administrative Data can be shared between IDPs and Governments and will also serve to reduce the data gaps
- **Low hanging fruits:**
 - Support by both Governments and IDPs to the **functioning of the Technical Working Groups (TWG) that have identified the Draft Core set of SDG indicators** as well as those TWGs working in other areas of statistics as well as the functioning of the SCCS, AGS the umbrella bodies of the TWGs can in the short-term commence the process of making available the data to monitor the SDGs/Samoa Pathway.
 - **Statistical Cooperation** among the NSOs/Attachments should be financed for rebuilding in light of the natural disasters

