

**CARIBBEAN**

**COMMUNITY**

**SECRETARIAT**

**THIRTY FIRST MEETING  
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS**

**SCCS/2006/31/15**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**

**6-8 November 2006**

**6 November 2006**

---

**STATUS REPORT ON THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY GROUP  
CARICOM PROGRAMME ON STRENGTHENING CAPACITY IN THE  
COMPILATION OF SOCIAL/GENDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS IN THE  
CARICOM REGION**

Please find attached Paper entitled “**Status Report on the Eighth Meeting of the Advisory Group CARICOM Programme on Strengthening Capacity in the Compilation of Social/Gender and Environmental Statistics in the CARICOM Region.**”

**\*\*\*\*\***



**Status Report on the Eighth Meeting of  
the Advisory Group  
CARICOM Programme on Strengthening  
Capacity in the Compilation of  
Social/Gender and Environmental  
Statistics in the CARICOM Region**

**VIII AGM- Social/Gender Component  
Port-of-Spain , Trinidad  
3 – 4 November, 2006**



## **SOCIAL/ GENDER STATISTICS COMPONENT**



## OVERVIEW

- The Eighth Meeting of the Advisory Group was convened at the Crowne Plaza Hotel , Port-of-Spain, Trinidad on 3-4 November 2006;
- Among the items discussed were the following:
  - The Regional Publication in Social/Gender Statistics;
  - Coordination of Social Statistics in the NSS;
  - The Preparation of User Manuals;
  - Situational Assessments/User Producer Seminars;
  - Status Report on Training Activity in Social Statistics;
  - Follow-up to the CR and VS Workshop of 2005
  - Collaboration with donors;
  - Report on Census data analysis 2000 Round and planning for the 2010 Round



## Main Issues and Decisions

### Main Issues and Decisions of Meeting

- The items on the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics follow-up, the Census activities and collaborative initiatives will be reported under the relevant agenda items on the SCCS Agenda;

#### (1) Regional Social/Gender Statistics Publication:

- Progress with the preparation of the regional publication was noted with 14 Member States and 3 Associate Members providing statistics and indicators up to 2005 in some cases;
- Final checks are almost completed under the first theme “**Population Households and Families**” and this chapter should be up on the website in November 2006;
- The format for the publication- For each indicator, *Indicator No, Concept and Definition, Method of Computation, Indicator Relevance, Data assessment (quality/harmonisation), Data Sources, Evaluation and Gender Dimension*



## Main Issues and Decisions

### Regional Social/Gender Statistics Publication (continued)

- Limits to the comparability of the data due to a lack of harmonisation in measurement or data quality issues were also noted;

The Meeting:

- **Endorsed** the recommendation that each chapter of the publication will be submitted to the Advisory Group on completion prior to further dissemination;
- **Recognised** the user-friendly format of the publication;
- **Recommended** with respect to Literacy measurement that these questions should be omitted from the Census questionnaires since they are best collected through reliable Literacy surveys;



## Main Issues and Decisions

### (2) Coordination of Social Statistics in the NSS:

#### The Meeting noted:

- Noted the continued difficulties with respect to the coordination of Social Statistics in the National Statistical Systems (NSS);

However the meeting:

**Recognised** the initiative of Saint Lucia with regard to utilisation of the recent training on Devinfo v5 (a software to disseminate data) to develop a strategy for statistical capacity building of line ministries and agencies;

**Recommended** the model being used by Jamaica, namely the setting up of a Statistics Commission as an enabling mechanism in statistical coordination and improvement;



## Main Issues and Decisions

### (3) Preparation of User Manuals:

**Noted** the preparation of draft versions of the User Manuals – Beginner's and Advanced versions;

**Also noted** the availability of funds from UNIFEM to enable the finalisation of these manuals;

Recognised the need to print limited copies of these reports and to prepare a Dutch version of the Beginner's Manual.

With the presence of Haiti consideration would have to be given to the preparation of a French version of the Beginner's Manual since a main rationale is to enable an understanding of basic statistics, its use and interpretation by laypersons.



## Main Issues and Decisions

### (4) Situational Assessment and User Producer Seminars

These activities were conducted in selected Member States

- Main objectives
  - to identify impediments to the institutionalising of the production of Social/Gender Statistics in the NSS;
  - To facilitate the dissemination and use of Social/Gender Statistics by policy makers and other stakeholders;
- Scope of Work:
  - The preparation of an assessment questionnaire, to review the data collection mechanisms, methodologies, periodicity and the coordination and dissemination practices'



## Main Issues and Decisions

- An assessment of the existing levels of staffing for the production of Social Statistics;
- Recommendation of a three-year programme to improve the production of Social Statistics in the NSS.

### **The Meeting noted the following Main Findings:**

#### **(i).The National Statistical Systems**

- The three country assessments showed the weaknesses of the statistical offices in contributing to the development of a National Statistical Systems;
- The assistance of the parent ministry and the support at the highest level in the respective member states were essential to make inroads into statistical development;
- It was infeasible that the small nos. at the statistical offices can enable the improvement required of the NSS.



## Main Issues and Decisions

### Main Findings:

#### (ii).Current Levels of Staffing- Social/Gender Statistics

- There was a serious problem of staffing in the Social/Gender statistics units with very few of the national agencies/ministries having formal statistical units;
- The implication of this situation is that there were persons employed in statistical tasks that in most cases are not adequately trained to collect and process the data;
- The process of data collection from these agencies is therefore not appropriately executed;
- There was need therefore to upgrade these persons either through statistical training or through replacement by more qualified personnel.



## Main Issues and Decisions

### Current Levels of Staffing- continued

- The quality of staff also affects the quality and accessibility of the tables that are produced by these units;
- The established forms are inflexible and therefore the use of surveys with inputs from the statistical offices is the preferred approach for collecting better quality and more relevant data;
- All statistical units seem to be weak in project preparation and should be exposed to training in this area;
- It is the understanding of the units in the line ministries that the data should be disaggregated by sex.



## Main Issues and Decisions

### Current Levels of Staffing- continued

- There is an absence of a national work plan that affects the production of statistics;
- There is need for the statistical units to recognize and adopt the core statistics and indicators prescribed by the CARICOM Advisory Group.

### (iii) Work Plan for Statistical Capacity Building

- The recommended three-year plan suggested in the situational assessment has the objective of building statistical capacity as a means of monitoring the performance of a number of areas of social concerns .



## Main Issues and Decisions

### (iii) Work Plan for Statistical Capacity Building- continued

- Support from the highest level of government is required to enable the building of national capacity and the development of a more coordinated system;

The major aspects of the capacity building programme should consist of:

- Conducting of seminars ( similar to user/producer seminars) for Permanent Secretaries/Heads of Organizations;
- Securing through the CARICOM Secretariat at its highest levels, audiences with the Cabinets of the Member States to emphasize the point of the urgency of research to inform decision-making.
- The upgrading of staff and introducing of training in basic and advanced statistics of relevance to the work that is to be undertaken by the line ministries;.



## Main Issues and Decisions

### Work Plan (continued)

- Effecting of the upgrade through the appointment to each ministry of a trained statistician, as well as the preparation of statisticians for the job that is required beyond the narrow statistical/clerical function that is being now performed;
  - Creation of a forum at which research conducted in the ministries can be brought forward for wider discussion to a higher level of recognition by the governments. Experts should also be utilised to strengthen the ministerial research efforts.
- (iv) User producer seminars**
- Each Statistical Office should attempt to convene a User Producer Seminar every quarter; at which some aspect of the work being undertaken in statistics could be presented and this is applicable across all areas of statistics.



## Main Issues and Decisions

### (5) Social Statistics Training

The Meeting:

**Noted** the undertaking of in-house training in Suriname as well as attachments to Saint Lucia and The Bahamas;

**Also noted** the participation of Member States/Associate Members in the CARICOM Census Demographic Analysis Workshop;

**Further noted** the attachment by Barbados to Jamaica with respect to planning for a survey of living conditions.

**Expressed appreciation** to the Census Coordinator for the successful coordination of the Workshop;

**Recommended** the need for follow-up workshops in this area.



## Main Issues and Decisions

The Meeting was also informed of a schedule over the next eight months for the completion of activity under the Social Gender Statistics Component subject to the availability of resources.

These activities included the preparation and dissemination of the regional report, the reports on the situational assessments and user producer seminars and the user manuals.

In addition the Ninth Meeting of the Advisory Group is scheduled for May/June 2007 at a venue to be determined



## ACTION REQUIRED:

..

The SCCS Meeting is invited to:

**consider** the report of the Eighth Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group- Social/Gender Statistics component focusing on the following:

- i. The forthcoming regional publications and User manuals;
- ii. The reports, recommendations and work plan for the improvement of Social Statistics in Member States;
- iii. The issue of coordination of the National Statistical Systems, specifically with respect to Social Statistics.