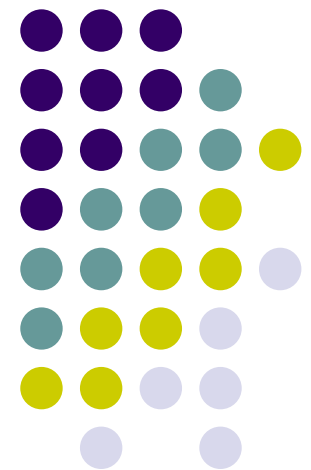


Support to Poverty Reduction and Assessment in the Caribbean (SPARC) – Monitoring Poverty and the MDGs

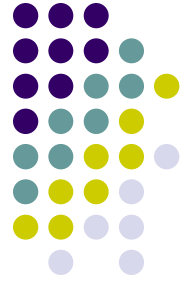
*Presented at
SCCS Meeting, November 6th, 2006
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Port-of-Spain, , Georgetown,
Guyana*

*by Leisa Perch (Programme Manager, Poverty
Reduction, of the United Nations Development
Programme, Sub-regional Office for Barbados and the
OECS*





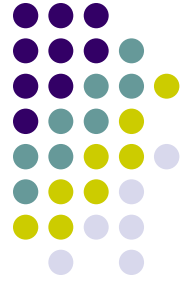
UNDP Corporate Strategy



- Places the MDGs at the centre of its programmatic focus
- Embraces the MDGs as a critical tool for targeting and monitoring progress towards sustained human development;
- Recognizes the links between environment, economic and social sectors (including gender and HIV/AIDS) in achieving development;
- Seeks to realize the potential opportunities presented by IT and ICT in enhancing the development agenda; and
- Seeks to play a catalytic role in helping countries make the transition to self-government and a development-oriented agenda



Synthesis of Caribbean PR survey experience - Hutcheon

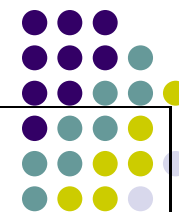


Poverty assessments and by extension poverty reduction strategies have been constrained by lack of access to reliable high-quality data, inadequate poverty analysis, limited spatial analysis and absence of linkages among data collectors, analysts and policy makers. The problem of data deficiency in coverage and quality for monitoring the achievement of the MDGs including poverty and sustainable development targets lead to five main issues:

- *Limited regular and consistent surveys that generate data at appropriate levels result in a lack of time-series data and the lack of capacity to establish baselines;*
- *The need to strengthen technical capacity for data collection, analysis and primary research;*
- *The need to link various aspects of poverty such as gender, susceptibility and vulnerability and the effectiveness or lack of social protection measures to poverty reduction; and*
- *Limited availability of financial and other resources to undertake regular surveys and poverty assessments.; and*
- *Regular research outputs that use existing and new data*



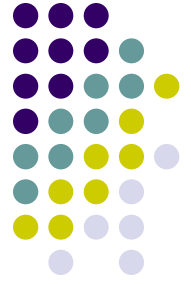
Efforts in Assessing Poverty (1992-2003)



Caribbean Countries	Implementation of Poverty Assessments 1993-2003											
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1. Surveys of Living Conditions												
Jamaica							×	×	×	×	×	×
Trinidad and Tobago	×						×					
Guyana	×						×					
Barbados				×								
Belize				×							×	
Saint Lucia				×								
St. Vincent & the Grenadines					×							
Grenada							×					
St. Kitts and Nevis									×			
Bahamas										×		
2. Labour Force Surveys												
Saint Lucia						×		×		×		
St. Vincent and the Grenadines					×	×	×	×				
Dominica	1983					×						×
Grenada												
3. Social Survey												
Montserrat						×						



The PSSDDG



- Poverty and Social Sector Development Donor Group*, chaired by UNDP, comprises:

CDB, CIDA, EU/EC, ECLAC, DfID (UK and Caribbean offices), FAO, IDB, OECS/SPU
UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA,
UNIFEM, USAID, WB, PAHO

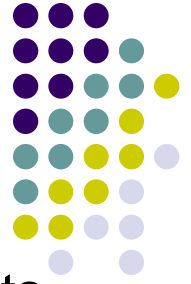
*part of Eastern Caribbean Donor Group

Varied Donor Interventions: Matrix of Existing Donor Activities in Poverty Reduction/Social Development

Intervention and Donor	Regional/Country	PRS & Indicators	Local Inst. Strengthening	Census-related	Income, Consumption, LSCs	Qualitative Assessments	Annual Monitoring
<u>CDB</u>							
Social Analysis Training	Regional		X				
PRAPS	SKN & Anguilla	X					
Poverty Mapping	Dominica	X		X	X	X	X
Basic Needs Trust Fund	10 BMCs	X					
<u>DFID</u>							
SD Assist. to CDB	10 BMCs		X				
PR and Gender/CS Dev	BRB, SVG, GUY, JAM & T & T		X				
<u>EU</u>							
Social Data Capture	SLU	X	X	X	X	X	X
PSAF*	SVG	X	X		X	X	X
<u>UNDP</u>							
Capacity Building for Social Data etc	Regional		X				
SD for Poverty Erad.	Grenada	X					
Social Stats and Indicators	Regional	X	X	X	X		
Prep. Asst - Poverty Erad. in OECS	Regional	X	X			X	
Poverty TTF	BAR & OECS, T & T, JAM & GUY	X					X
SD & Poverty - Harmonization*	Regional	X	X				
CWIQ Pilot	National - to be decided						X
<u>UNIFEM</u>							
Women, Gender & Poverty in Wis	Grenada & SLU		X				
Gender & Budgets	Belize	X	X				
Gender Analysis Training	BAR & OECS, T & T, JAM, GUY		X				
Gender & PRSPs*	OECS Sub-region	X					
Gender and RBA*	OECS Sub-region	X	X				
<u>WB</u>							
Mini-mecovi	OECS	X	X				
<u>IDB</u>							
SPARC	Regional		X				
Social Data	Guyana	X	X			X	X



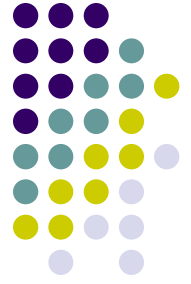
Project Support Document



- Developed end of 2005
- Enhanced issues relating to country ownership, technical inputs
 - Local Ownership enabled by multi-stakeholder participation
 - Participation of civil society
 - Building sustained capacity
 - Making data collection and analysis routine and a shared responsibility
 - Engagement with senior policy-makers – creating champions
 - Partnership building and coordination with civil society
 - Encouraging the demand for experiential data
 - Reflected joint UN system response and inputs into SPARC



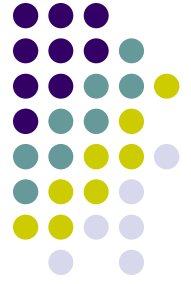
SPARC as enabler of MDG Achievement



- Being developed in the context of:
 - Localization and Regionalization at the OECS level by UNDP through the OECS Secretariat (Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis);
 - Customization of MDGs by CDB;
 - Fuller PRSP development (UNDP)
 - New round of CPAs (CDB)
 - Progress Reports on the MDGs in 2005 – Saint Lucia, Barbados, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda (UNDP)
 - Continuing support to coordination at the national level through SIMDG committees through CARICOM (UNDP, UNFPA)



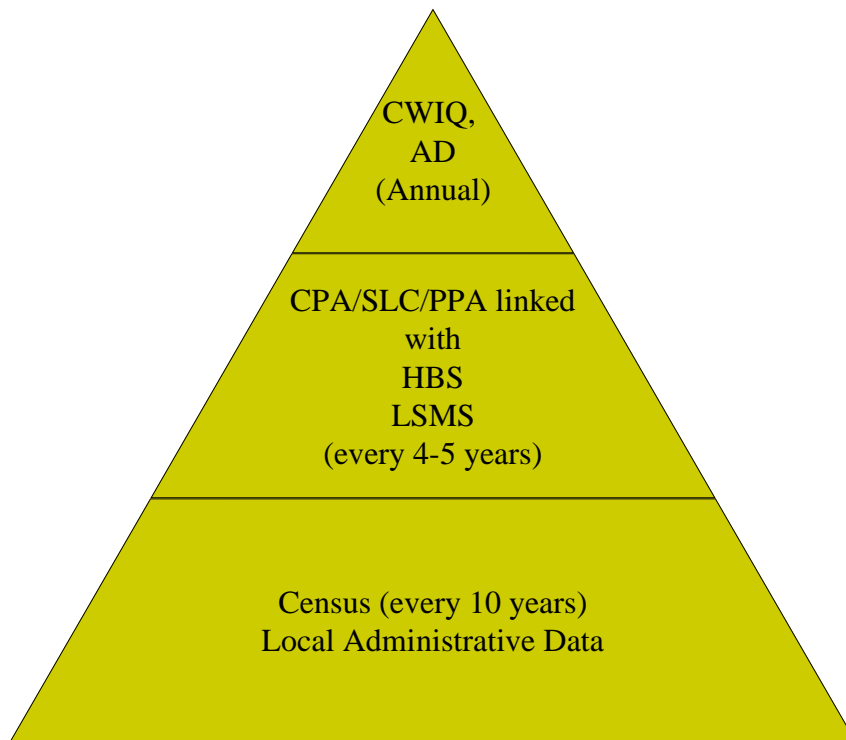
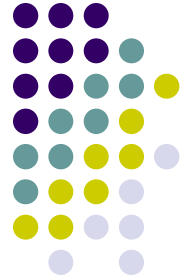
SPARC – part of the solution



The Support to Poverty Assessment and Reduction (SPARC) in the Caribbean seeks to address these issues and provide a framework of support and collaboration for countries. It aims to:

- **deliver a comprehensive package of support to Caribbean countries to strengthen national and regional capacities to systematically collect, analyze and disseminate social data for poverty assessment as well as critically inform social policy formulation at national levels. The SPARC framework would lead to improved data collection and analytical skills which would in turn strengthen poverty monitoring systems to complement social development strategies and policies linked to the achievement of the MDGs.**

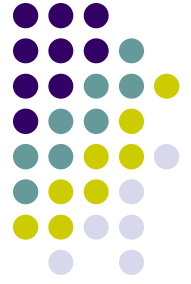
Proposed MDG and Poverty Monitoring Framework



- ***Tools for measuring the depth and determinants of poverty (Understanding)***
 - HBS, LSMS etc., Participative Poverty Monitoring (listening to the poor)
- ***Tools for comparing differences over space (Targeting)***
 - Local admin. records
 - Pop. Census + Hhold survey = Poverty maps
- ***Tools for monitoring changes over time (Tracking)***
 - service delivery monitoring
 - Administrative data/MIS; Institution-based surveys; household surveys, CWIQ



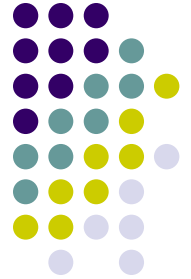
Since COHSOD XII.....



- Efforts have focused on:
 - Refinement and further clarification of activities and expected outputs;
 - Engagement with senior policymakers;
 - More in-depth discussions on specific needs of countries in the formulation of 3.5 year work-plan (demand-led);
 - Finalization of implementation arrangements;
 - Broad-based consultation and partnership building with other regional initiatives i.e. IDB PR and SP Network and the Statistical Literacy Initiative;
 - Exploring in more detail, links with other tools such as DevInfo (Regional workshop Sep 2006);
 - Resource mobilization and initiation of activities



Programme Components



- **Building National Capacity for Data Collection and Survey Design** - assisting in designing surveys to collect data, enhancing data analysis, updating and harmonizing, support to continuous poverty and human development assessments, analysis, evidence-based policy-making and programmes
- **Monitoring and Evaluation for policy and implementation** for monitoring of processes and outcomes; enabling independent monitoring and evaluation and enhancing coordination
- **Data Dissemination:** addressing dissemination strategy and supporting the publication of data through various reports



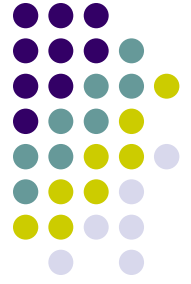
Programme Components (2)



- **Regional coordination** building on CSME efforts and seeking to harmonize data collection efforts at the regional level and among donors
- **Development of Legislative Framework** addressing the governance of data, its access and use



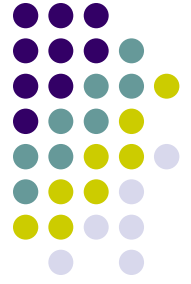
Management and Implementation Arrangements



- Dual modality framework: 2 programme streams: (i) Regional Programme or (ii) bilateral or parallel projects
- Regional Programme Managed by UNDP comprising of pooled resources
- Governance:
 - Programme Steering Cttee
 - Technical Advisory Group
 - PSSDDG still plays a role



Management and Implementation Arrangements (2)



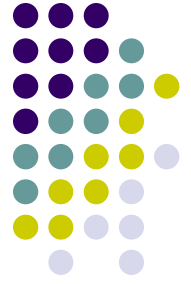
- The PSC will comprise no more than sixteen (16) members as follows:
 - 5 Country Representatives; 4 Regional Organizations - CARICOM, OECS, UWI and Regional CSOs; 6 Donors-CDB, UNDP, EU, WB, IDB; and CIDA or DFID (rotating); 1 UN System Representative (rotating).
- Overall oversight of the programme will be under the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) which shall meet annually. The PSC will perform the following functions:
 - Oversight of the Project;
 - Approve Annual Work Plans and resource allocation;
 - Review progress in achieving outputs, outcomes and targets under project;
 - Agree on criteria for allocation of support; and
 - Support resource mobilization strategies.

The TAG will be a Management Sub-Committee of the PSC with representation from the following organizations:

- CARICOM, OECS, CDB, IDB, UNDP, UWI and a Country Representative who will act as chair.
- The TAG will function as follows:
 - Act as the Interim Governing Body for the Programme until the PSC is constituted;
 - Provide continuous guidance and support on programme management matters to the Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU) and PSC;
 - Approve specific un-programmed activities; and
 - Review implementation issues between meetings of the PSC especially with regard to 'bottle necks' and propose appropriate action.
- Other coordination mechanisms such as the Poverty and Social Sector Development Donor Group (PSSDDG) which has functioned as the coordinating mechanism for poverty and social development issues related to the Eastern Caribbean should continue to function and provide support and coordinate inputs from their constituencies to the PSC.



Implementation of SPARC thus far:



- UNDP, CDB and OECS MECOVI collaboration continues
- Funding from UNDP, CDB, IDB and World Bank thus far
- PAHO – Health Information Systems and other data collection efforts
- UNFPA support to CARICOM and to the 2010 Round of Census
- Establishment of the TWG
- UNECLAC efforts to enhance capacities in HHS
- Project document has been finalized and is with CARISEC for signature
- New sources of funding being sought and outreach to donor community
- CWIQ being expanded to other three countries – DMI, GUY
- Discussions within the UN Theme Group on HIV and AIDS on how SPARC can also assist with current challenges with data collection in HIV and AIDS



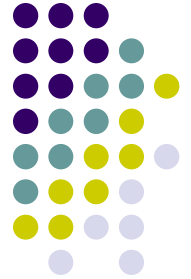
Proposed Programme Activities for next six months 2006



- Launch of the project (before close of 2006)
- Formalization of the PSC
- Hiring of SPARC Coordinator (ongoing)
- Inventory of existing data and cleaning (UNFPA and CARICOM)
- Audit of Data Gaps and Skills Needs
- Harmonization of statistics (CARICOM, UNDP)
- Development of guidelines for vital statistics and registration (CARICOM, UNDP)
- Begin background review on social impact analysis and what had been done in the Caribbean – prepare concept paper for further work (UNDP, DFID)
- Rationalized strategy on support to the MDGs (UNDP, CARICOM, ECLAC, CDB and OECS Sec)
- Strengthening national coordination mechanisms (UNDP, CARICOM)
- Expansion of CWIQ roll-out (UNDP)
- Preparatory Phase of OECS Human Development Report (OECS, UNDP)
- Initiation of support to Legislative Reform process



We ask COHSOD to:



1. **Note** the progress made in finalizing the SPARC initiative and the results of the collaborative effort of the organizations involved
2. **Reaffirm** its approval of the SPARC framework which promotes the MDGs as an integrated development framework and further exhort countries to integrate it into their ongoing work;
3. **Identify the first five country representatives to the SPARC PSC;** and
4. **Urge** CARICOM countries to give priority to data collection, improved analysis and interpretation and the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 and beyond.



For More Information

Contact:

Leisa Perch, Programme Mgr, Poverty
Reduction/HIV-AIDS

UN House, Marine Gardens

Hastings, Ch. Ch

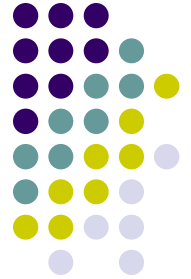
Barbados, West Indies

Tel: 246 467-6005

Fax: 246 429-2448

Email: leisa.perch@undp.org

Website: www.bb.undp.org/poverty/html





THANK YOU!!!