

CARIBBEAN

COMMUNITY

SECRETARIAT

**FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL CENSUS COORDINATING
COMMITTEE**

RESTRICTED

RCCC/2006/14/4

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

9-10 November 2006

31 October 2006

**OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE 2000
CENSUS ANALYSIS PROJECT**

I. Introduction

In addition to the preparation of National and Regional Analytical Reports, the 2000 Census Analysis Project also supports the compilation of a set of basic statistics in one volume. This Basic Table Volume will contain a variety of key basic statistics for all Member States in one compendium. As such, it will enable the user to conveniently locate a variety of Member States' statistics in one place. The Project also provides for the dissemination of the results of the analytical reports in order to promote their use in decision-making and socio-economic and demographic planning. The dissemination activity together with the preparation of the Regional Special Topic Monographs (RSTMs) will have to be postponed until next year since currently, the finalisation of the National Census Reports (NCRs) is ongoing.

II. The Basic Table Volume

As stated above, the Basic Table Volume (BTV) will comprise a wide variety of key statistics on most of the issues addressed in the census questionnaire. Further, these statistics will be available, in one location, for all 18 countries that are partaking in the Project. A tabulation plan was drafted for this activity and this plan attempted to include tables that are similar to those that were identified and used for

the 1990 Round. It is therefore hoped that in many instances, sensible comparisons will be possible for the two points in time. The BTV is similar to the compendium of statistics that in the past were the main output of Population and Housing Censuses. It is very encouraging that nowadays, we try to analyse our databases much more thereby fostering their usefulness.

The Data Processing Consultant (DPC) has prepared tables as per tabulation plan, for all countries whose databases were shared with us. Hence, tables are available for fifteen (15) countries. These have been sent to the respective country for vetting against their existing data sets before they are published. Directors/Chief Statisticians are being asked to expedite this process since we need to finalize the Basic Table Volume as soon as possible.

III. Dissemination of Census 2000 Results

A very important component of the 2000 Census Analysis Project is the dissemination of the data generated as well as the results obtained from further analysis of the data. The Project also provides for this in terms of the conventional means of dissemination, for example, electronically via the internet as well as through hard copies and compact discs. However, a more dynamic approach to data and results' dissemination will be used and budgetary provision has proved more cost effective than conventional means. This method will involve the hosting of a half-day session for all the national stakeholders during which the major findings of the National Census Reports (NCR) will be presented. It is expected that these results will form the basis for a rich ensuing discussion in which policy implications of the results will be at the focus. The plan is to hire a consultant to prepare a presentation based on the NCR and deliver this presentation at this forum. The major objective of these efforts will be to promote the use of demographic data and analyses in policy as well as other decisions.

IV. The Regional Special Topic Monographs (RSTMs)

The principal aim of producing regional monographs is to address issues that have an impact at the regional level. For the 2000 round of Population and Housing Censuses five (5) areas were identified as key to the region at this time, namely, **“International Migration”, “Ageing”, “Gender Issues”, “Children and Youth”** and **“Economic Activity, Education and Training”**. Finding the qualified writers to prepare these monographs was also very painstaking; considerable efforts were exerted to eventually identify persons who could write the monographs and who agreed to the conditions of service associated with their preparation. All writers were requested to document the key issues that they want to address in the monograph, prepare an outline and a tabulation plan based on these issues and prepare themselves to attend a three (3) day workshop together with the consultants and the Census Coordinator. The idea was that at this forum, both the outlines and tabulation plans would be developed for the writer to immediately commence preparation of the monograph on return to base. The Data Processing Consultant would immediately address the matter of generating all tables identified in the tabulation plan for each of the writer. Hence, the many hiccups and pitfalls experienced with the NCRs would certainly be averted and these reports would be done in a more timely fashion.

The preparation of the RSTMs was scheduled in the current work plan, to commence in the second quarter of the year but due to the delays in the completion of the NCRs the start of these had to be deferred to the third quarter. The meeting of writers of the RSTMs was scheduled to be held in October 2006, however, the Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance Unit decided to postpone these monographs for next year. It is hoped that the writers will remain committed or that replacement writers can be identified with relative ease as this remains a challenge in the Region.

ACTION REQUIRED

The **Meeting** is **invited** to:

- (i) **note** that the draft of the Basic Table Volume has been prepared and circulated to most Member States;
- (ii) **also note** that budgetary provision has been made for proactively disseminating the data and results of the census 2000 analysis;
- (iii) **further note** that the preparation of the regional monographs have been postponed until next year.
