

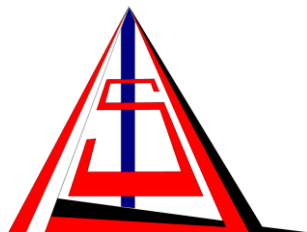
# Challenges for the Caribbean Countries on Data Revolution & Monitoring of SDGs

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# Introduction

## CARICOM Member States



# Introduction

CARICOM comprises 15 member states:

- ❖ Antigua and Barbuda
- ❖ The Bahamas
- ❖ Barbados
- ❖ Belize
- ❖ Dominica
- ❖ Grenada
- ❖ Guyana
- ❖ Haiti
- ❖ Jamaica
- ❖ Montserrat
- ❖ St Kitts and Nevis
- ❖ St Lucia
- ❖ St Vincent and The Grenadines
- ❖ Suriname
- ❖ Trinidad and Tobago

# Introduction

## ❖ CARICOM 5 Associate Members:

- ❖ Anguilla
- ❖ Bermuda
- ❖ British Virgin Islands
- ❖ Cayman Islands
- ❖ Turks and Caicos Islands

❖ *(The discussions in the presentation will however exclude Haiti)*

# Introduction

❖ Countries are all small

Country	Year	Mid-Year Population
Montserrat	2014	4,976
Dominica	2013	69,037
The Bahamas	2014	372,461
Suriname	2013	550,222
Trinidad and Tobago	2013	1,340,557
Jamaica	2014	2,720,554

# Introduction

- ❖ The region comprises mainly Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- ❖ The region faces challenges such as vulnerability to natural hazards and risks arising from climate change
- ❖ The region has experienced moderate to low economic growth for several decades
- ❖ High debt levels in some countries such as Jamaica where the debt ratio is above 100% of GDP

# The Statistical System

- ❖ Weak statistical systems as investment in the statistical infrastructure and capacity by governments has been low
- ❖ Funds provided through the budgetary mechanism are not adequate to support the expanding data needs of the region
- ❖ This affects human resource and technological expansion
- ❖ Some National Statistics Offices (NSOs) lack autonomy; Many are units within Ministries rather than independent organizations

# The Statistical System

- ❖ The countries in the region all have decentralized statistical systems
- ❖ Lack of coordination among official data producers:
  - Fragmented production of statistics
  - Inter-agency access to data from administrative and official sources is inconsistent
  - Quality of information is not guaranteed, as the data are not always compiled for statistical purposes



# Challenges

- ❖ There has been a growing demand for more statistics to be provided in a more timely manner and be more easily accessible especially micro-data
- ❖ The data revolution and the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals will add to the demands for statistics

# Challenges

- ❖ These increasing demands are now putting pressure on NSOs - strain on resources
- ❖ Increasing cost of surveys
- ❖ Few countries in the region undertake continuous household surveys which will be required for some indicators
- ❖ There has also been a reduction in assistance from International Development Partners for surveys such as Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and the Reproductive Health Survey

# Challenges

- ❖ Small size of the countries limits the level of disaggregation of data required for some indicators
- ❖ The use of Administrative Data will therefore become more important
- ❖ Access to administrative data however, is inconsistent and an underdeveloped NSS makes coordination more difficult

# Response to the Challenges

- ❖ NSOs are now being forced to become more efficient in their operations especially with the use of information technology to modernise their processes
- ❖ Countries are intensifying efforts to develop National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) with assistance from PARIS21

# Response to the Challenges

- ❖ A regional approach led by the CARICOM Community Secretariat (CCS)
- ❖ The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) and its subsidiary Group the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) were proactive in enabling the consideration of the post-2015 development agenda at the regional meetings

# Response to the Challenges

- ❖ In 2014, the CCS hosted the CARICOM Second High Level Forum on Statistics (HLF) and the underlying theme - “A Data Revolution for Sustainable Development” emanated from the Open Working Group (OWG) report on the Post 2015 development agenda
- ❖ The Second HLF is the stimulus to garner political support for increasing investment in statistics in countries of the Region

# Response to the Challenges

- ❖ The Prime Minister of Grenada has volunteered to champion the cause of the HLF which will be on the agenda of the next Heads of Government meeting of CARICOM
- ❖ Follow-up work on the HLF relative to a number of issues pertaining to support to statistical capacity-building is in progress

# Response to the Challenges

- ❖ Internal Think-Tank was launched late 2014 within the CCS to support Member States with the negotiations during 2015
- ❖ Fifty-Third meeting of Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) mandated the Secretariat to provide support thereby reinforcing the need for the Think-Tank



# Response to the Challenges

- ❖ The Think-Tank commenced the review of the SDG goals and targets in the specific thematic areas, taking into consideration the priorities of the region as reflected in the Community Strategic Plan and regional/sectoral strategies that have been developed -policy priorities and statistics link

# Response to the Challenges

- ❖ CCS convened a workshop in May 2015 to train as well as to review the SDG indicators in the context of regional and national priorities
- ❖ Focus of the workshop was on the indicators for Goals 1-16 based on a preliminary list of indicators out of the UNSC

# The Way Forward

- ❖ Continued improvement in the regional statistics Programme with support from projects currently underway in the Region such as the Tenth European Development Fund (EDF), PRASC programme, PARIS 21
- ❖ Reconciliation of the SDGs with the indicators that would be required to monitor the SAMOA Pathway. This would avoid duplication of efforts and burden on the NSOs and the Statistical Systems

# The Way Forward

- ▶ Determining a minimum set of SDG indicators to be produced by CARICOM initially. The approach of determining the minimum set would have to be based on the priorities at the national and regional levels
- ▶ Undertaking a Baseline Study to identify sources of data and to obtain baseline values for the indicators.

# The Way Forward

- ❖ Identifying the critical capacity constraints/requirements in the National Statistical Systems that need to be dealt with immediately and in the medium to long term to enable countries to produce the relevant indicators
- ❖ Goal17, which focuses on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development is critical to the process

**The End**