

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

RCCC/2009/17/2

Gros Islet, Saint Lucia

29 October 2009

28 October 2009

**STATUS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL
STRATEGY OF SUPPORT TO THE CONDUCT OF THE 2010 ROUND OF
POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES IN THE CARIBBEAN
COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC) Meeting with an update of the status of the implementation of the various components of the Regional Strategy of Support to the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (PHC) in the CARICOM Region focusing on activities conducted after the Sixteenth Meeting of the RCCC to the current time. The report also focuses on activity planned for the period 2010/2011.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland acting through the Department of International Development (DFID) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) are among the organisations that have so far supported activities in the Regional Strategy of support for the 2010 Round of Censuses.

There are still some activities for which funds have not been obtained such as, Census Data Analysis of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

2. PROGRESS OF WORK - November 2008 to October 2009

For the period November 2008 to October 2009 the following activities have been undertaken by the CARICOM Secretariat or in collaboration with other organisations as part of the preparatory activities for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses:

- **2009** - *Fourth CARICOM Demographic Analysis Workshop – Strengthening Capacity in Demographic Analysis* executed by the CARICOM Secretariat and facilitated by the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica and Salises, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.
- **2009** – An assessment of mapping and GIS status in two Member States was conducted. Currently, the Secretariat has engaged the services of a Consultant to assist countries in this area. The work of the Consultant begins in November 2009 and will continue over a period of 12 months.
- **May 2009** – *CARICOM Workshop on Census Organisation and Administration* for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census in Grenada funded by DFID.
- **May 2009** – *CARICOM Workshop on Common Methodologies* for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census in Grenada. This is a component of the IDB-funded Common Census Framework Project. Two Consultants were also recruited to assist countries in this regard
- **Sept 2009** – *CARICOM Workshop on Census Data Processing* for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census in Saint Lucia funded by DFID.

- **Oct 2009** – CensusInfo Training conducted in Guyana for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census organised by the UNSD and the CARICOM Secretariat in collaboration with UNICEF’s DevInfo Support Group of India.

Attachment to this paper contains activities that have been conducted in previous years in support of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census.

3. DETAILS OF SELECTED ACTIVITIES

3.1. Fourth Demographic Analysis Workshop

The Fourth Demographic Analysis Training Workshop was conducted in 2009 at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at UWI, St Augustine Campus and catered for 17 participants from 13 Caribbean countries over a period of seven weeks. Unfortunately, one participant got ill and was unable to complete the workshop. Participants were drawn from National Statistical Offices and Ministries from Member States and Associate Members.

The Fourth Demographic Analysis Workshop was conducted during the period June- July 2009. The workshops of 2007-2009 were funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and they followed a workshop in 2006 that was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the CARICOM Capacity Development Programme (CCDP)

The Workshops were aimed at strengthening trainees’ capacity with respect to collecting, collating, analysing, interpreting and disseminating demographic statistics and in supporting the compilation of indicators of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in the preparation of the MDG reports. The multi-year programme of training in Demographic Analysis (2007-2009) sought to address the training needs of statisticians and social policy personnel in the Region. The workshops were meant to train a critical mass of persons in

demography in the Region. (refer to SCCS2008/33/15). In addition, a Short Course on the Principles of Demography was conducted targeting more senior personnel.

Summary of Demographic Analysis Workshops

	Year	Period	No of Participants	Remarks/ Comments
1	2006	3rd Jul - 11th Aug	22	
2	2007	2nd Jul - 17th Aug	22	
3	2008	2nd Jun - 24th Jul	20	
4	2009	12 - 22 Jan 2009	15	Short course for Senior Personnel
5	2009	8th Jun - 24th Jul	16	

3.2 Workshop on Census Administration and Organisation - May 2009.

The convening of the Workshop was in response to several requests by Member States and Associate Members for training in census organisation and administration, in order to strengthen the capacity to conduct the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. Underpinning the call for training in this area was the recognition that since the 2000 Census Round, staff turnover has occurred in the Statistical Offices throughout the Region. In fact, a Census Administration and Organisation Workshop was included in the 2000 Census Strategy but no funding was received to undertake this and similar activities in the 2000 Census Round. There was, therefore, the need for a new cadre of persons to be trained to effectively manage the censuses. The Workshop also assisted in the harmonisation of statistics in the Region, in support of the Common Census Framework Initiative.

The objectives of the Workshop on Census Administration and Organisation were to -

- (i) **build** capacity with respect to census organisation and administration;
- (ii) **provide** an overview and to inform on some critical factors that impact on the conduct of Population and Housing Censuses;
- (iii) **identify** challenges that can negatively affect the census output; and
- (iv) **forge** consensus on best practices that can mitigate the challenges in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

The **outputs** of the Workshop were the -

- (i) **enhancement** of the requisite management skills of over twenty (20) census managers for the proper organisation and administration of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses;
- (ii) **development** of a knowledge base in census organisation and administration;
- (iii) **promotion** of awareness of the entire census processes in theory and practice; and
- (iv) **facilitation** of interchange of experience and ideas on census organisation and administration.

Main Observations and recommendations from this Workshop

The workshop brought together twenty-two census managers/officers from the Region to share their experiences. The Facilitators who were former Directors or Deputy Directors of Statistics and other senior personnel from the Region provided high quality presentations throughout the Workshop. The materials were very useful and the presentations have been documented in a report which has been sent out to all Member States and Associate Members.

Topics dealt with at the workshop were:

- Origin of Population and Housing Censuses – The Caribbean Context
- In uses of the Results of Population and Housing Censuses
- Management of Population and Housing Censuses – An overview

- The 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme and the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses
- Statistical Legislation Governing the conduct of Censuses in the Region – Case Studies of Statistic Acts/Census Regulations
- Initial Considerations in the Conducting of Population and Housing Censuses
- Preparation and Development of the Questionnaire and other Census Documents
- Mapping and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) capabilities in the Conduct of Population and Housing Censuses
- Staff Recruitment and Training
- Field Organisation and Management
- Public Awareness Programmes
- Census Data Processing Strategies
- The Process of Quality Assurance
- Evaluation and Analysis of Census Results
- Dissemination of the Census Results
- Production of an Administrative Report – Continuous documentation of all Census Processes

3.3 Workshop on Census Data Processing – September 2009

The Workshop on Census Data Processing focused on this area which is critical to facilitating timely and high quality census results. The target group for the Workshop comprised personnel from National Statistical Offices of Member States/Associate Members responsible for the planning and directing of the data processing operations or persons who would be actually engaged in the census data processing and who possess knowledge of all the areas including editing,

coding, data capture, archiving and storage.

The objectives of the Workshop on Data Processing were to -

- (i) **strengthen** capacity with respect to census data processing;
- (ii) **identify** key data processing challenges and the solutions applied in the 2000 Census Round;
- (iii) **promote** and **foster** the practices that can enable improvement in the efficiency of the process and accuracy of the results in the approach to data processing in the 2010 Census Round;
- (iv) **present** examples of contemporary technologies in census data processing, including the use of Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) and Optical Character Recognition/Intelligent Character Recognition (OCR/ICR); and
- (v) **recommend** actions to be taken that can mitigate the challenges in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

The **outputs** of the Workshop were the -

- (i) **facilitation** of interchange of experiences and ideas on data processing;
- (ii) **enhancement** of the requisite data processing skills of over twenty (20) personnel for effective organisation and conduct of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses;
- (iii) **improved** knowledge base in census data processing;
- (iv) **improved** awareness in the utilisation of the various technologies available for census data processing; and
- (v) **recommendations** on approaches that can facilitate timely and accurate census results.

Main Observation/Recommendations from This Meeting

What came out very clearly was that data editing has been the main challenge to most countries relative to the timely production of census reports. It was recommended that CARICOM coordinate the production of a standard program

for data editing which can be adapted by countries. It was recommended at the meeting that training in programming in CSPro will enhance the capacity of data processing personnel.

Setting up of the Teleform system prior to scanning in the new countries using this technology is also proving to be a challenge. The discussion at the meeting also revealed that over 50% of the countries in the region will go to the field in 2010.

The report which will include all issues (e.g. assistance required) that came out during the meeting is being prepared to be circulated to all Member States and Associate Members.

3.4 CARICOM Regional DevInfo Training Workshop and a Training Workshop on CensusInfo

The CARICOM Secretariat and the UNSD along with the UNICEF and the DevInfo Support Group convened a training workshop in CensusInfo during October 12-15 2009 in Guyana. CensusInfo, which is based on the DevInfo technology, was developed by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF) to help countries disseminate their Census data. CensusInfo was recommended by the Fifteenth Meeting of the RCCC as a main platform for the dissemination of data from the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census.

The CensusInfo Workshop was held back-to-back with a training workshop on the updated version of DevInfo v6.0 which was organised by the CARICOM Secretariat in collaboration with UNICEF. Like DevInfo, CensusInfo is web-enabled and contains map capabilities for the presentation of results. The training therefore targeted participants who would be engaged in the dissemination of the 2010 Round of Census as well as persons engaged in planning, monitoring and evaluation in Member States.

4. SUPPORT TO THE IDB-FUNDED COMMON CENSUS FRAMEWORK PROJECT

The Common Census Framework Project is being funded jointly by IDB and UNFPA.

There are three components: viz

- (i) Preparation of Common Core Questionnaire.
- (ii) Preparation of Common Methodologies.
- (iii) Compatibility of Dissemination Tools.

This framework will be discussed fully under **item 5.2**

5. WORK PLAN FOR 2010-2011 UNDER THE REGIONAL CENSUS STRATEGY

5.1 Train the Trainers Workshop on Common Methodologies – Nov 2009

The Workshop is part of the overall regional strategy of support, which is partly being executed under the project, Common Framework for Population Census in CARICOM which is jointly funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The component on the Development of Common Methodologies is centred on the agreement by Member Countries on common concepts, definitions, methods and processes to be used in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in the Region. This workshop follows one that was held in May earlier this year which sought to create the foundation for the development of the common methodologies.

The workshop targets personnel from Member States/Associate Members who would be leading the training of trainers' activity in their respective countries. It is hoped that a common census framework would lead to the availability of comparable data in the Region to guide policy and decision-making, nationally and regionally, contributing to the strengthening of the CARICOM integration

process. It is recognised that the process of adopting Common Methodologies must take into consideration country specific issues with respect to census-taking. It is expected that the Common Methodologies developed would be approved and adopted by Directors of Statistics/Chief Statisticians.

The objectives of the Workshop on the Development of Common Methodologies are to -

- (i) **inform** census-trainers of the comparative analysis undertaken on the metadata across countries proposed for the 2010 Census Round;
- (ii) **train** census-trainers on the Common Methodologies that have been agreed to by countries for use in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in the Region;
- (iii) **address** the harmonisation of procedures with regard to data collection, data capture, data editing/validation and tabulation processes relative to the common questionnaire that has been developed;
- (iv) **build** capacity on the Common Methodologies and Approaches for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in the Region.

Expected outputs of the Workshop -

- (i) Training of approximately 25 Census Trainers from Member States and Associate Members in the following -
 - a. Clear Guidelines and Comprehensive Training of Common Methodologies and Enumeration Processes;
 - b. Clear understanding and Adoption of best practices to be used for Data Collection Techniques;
- (ii) Draft Enumeration Census Manuals and Technical Documents;
- (iii) Comparative Analysis Report on the metadata in use across countries; and
- (iv) Census Prototype Training Programme

5.2 Other Activities of Support to the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

The implementation plan of the Regional Strategy includes the following areas:

- (i) Provision of Technical Assistance and training as required;
- (ii) Support in Mapping/GIS; :
- (iii) Support to data capture, data processing and data dissemination. This support in data processing will take the form of training in software applications which are used for processing of data (data capture, editing and tabulation) and dissemination of information including data editing. The services of a consultant would be available early in 2010 to provide in-country support in the production of clean Census data sets.

ACTION REQUIRED

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

- (i) **consider** the status report and the proposed work under the Regional Strategy to Support the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in the Region.

**Previous Activities: - STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL
ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE 2010 ROUND OF PHC .**

The following activities have been implemented to support countries with the preparation and conduct of their censuses:

- (i) **2005/6** - The CARICOM Secretariat conducted a Census Symposium in 2005 to discuss the experiences of the 2000 Round of Census as a platform for the preparatory work required to enable greater efficiency in the conduct of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in countries of the Region. Support for this symposium was received from the UNFPA and the United Nations Development Programme. Further, with support from the United Nations Population Fund, the CARICOM Secretariat also executed a Consultancy in 2006 to define an outline strategy of support to Member States and Associate Members in the 2010 Round of Censuses.

- (ii) **2006–2009** – Strengthening Capacity in Demographic Analysis in CARICOM – Demographic Analysis Workshops executed by the CARICOM Secretariat. This training programme is aimed at building capacity in Demographic Analysis in the Region through training courses of 7-week duration. The multi-year programme of training in Demographic Analysis seeks to address the training needs of statisticians and social policy formulators in the Region providing a critical mass of persons in this area of statistics and data analysis. Three (3) workshops have been conducted during 2006 to 2008, the first workshop being funded by the Canadian International Development Agency and the remaining workshops by the Caribbean Development Bank. A short-course for senior personnel on the Principles of Demography was also conducted in January this year.

- (iii) **September 2007** – A UNFPA Regional Workshop for Preparatory Activities, Analysis and Exchange of Experience for the Successful Implementation of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Panama. The workshop reviewed the implementation of the 2000 Population and Housing Censuses, promoted collaboration between the countries and the international organisations, shared relevant information, including strategies for advocacy of the 2010 Round and identified lessons learnt on successful advocacy strategies.

- (iv) **October 2007** – A Regional Workshop on Census Cartography and Management organised by the UNSD in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat was held in Trinidad and Tobago. The workshop highlighted the significant additional capabilities of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and other geospatial technologies in census mapping activities, including preparation of enumeration, enumeration operations, advanced analysis and dissemination of census data and how to successfully implement and use the technologies.

- (v) **2008** – Establishment of Resource Consortium, jointly executed by UNFPA was launched at the Thirty-third Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians.

- (v) **March 2008** - UNFPA Training on Census Data Capture and Processing Using CSPro 4.0. In collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, UNFPA conducted this workshop in Jamaica which focused on the IT aspects of data capturing, cleaning, tabulation, e-publishing and mapping results.

- (vi) **March 2008** - Meeting of Population and Housing Census Experts which was held in Jamaica to discuss challenges and best practices in the 2000 Round (funded by UNFPA, DFID and Member States and Associate Members).

- (vii) **May 2008** – CARICOM Workshop on the Design of a Common Questionnaire for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. This is one component of the Common Census Framework Project funded by the IDB/UNFPA.

- (viii) **2008** – An assessment of mapping and GIS status in Member States and Associate Members. The CARICOM Secretariat has started gathering information on the extent of assistance Member States and Associate Members will need on mapping and setting up of GIS for possible intervention (funded by DFID). In-country assistance was provided to two member countries.

