



STATUS REPORT OF THE COMMON CENSUS FRAMEWORK

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(UNFPA)**

Project No.: ATN/OC- 10157- RG



OVERVIEW

- Background
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Project Background

- In January 2005 the Council of Ministers of CARICOM agreed to establish a Regional Statistical Program in support of the CSME.
- In accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers, the CARICOM Secretariat presented a proposal under the 2005 Call for Proposals of the Initiative for the Promotion of Regional Public Goods to develop a common questionnaire and common methodologies for data collection and validation.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

(Terms of Reference of the SCCS, 1974)

- 2. In pursuit of this objective the SCCS shall, provided that it takes no action with respect to any country without agreement of the Government of that country:

(2a) To Develop and harmonize statistical concepts and methodology;

Source: TOR of the SCCS: resolution 54/74/4

Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community



OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The development and adoption by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) of a Common Framework for Gathering, Processing and Disseminating the 2010 Round of Population & Housing Census data for region wide comparability.



Project Objectives

- develop Common Methodologies
- disseminate recommendations and best practices
- support implementation of technical recommendations, and
- promote tools that facilitate open access to the data and improve dissemination.



PROJECT & REGIONAL BENEFITS

- The **project's main benefit** will be the creation, adoption, and dissemination of a standardized methodology to produce high-quality statistics from Population & Housing Census data.
- The **Region will benefit** as a whole in the framework of its economic integration process and the ability to compare information across countries allowing for the calculation of valid regional aggregates and the preparation of cross-country comparative studies



Project Coordination

In July 2008 the Project Coordinating Unit was established at the CARICOM Secretariat comprising a Project Coordinator and a Project Assistant under the direction of the Project Director.



The Framework Components

This Common Census Framework consists of Three Components:

1. Common Questionnaire,
2. Common Methodologies
3. Common Tool for Data Access and Dissemination.



PLAN OF ACTION

- CARICOM Workshop on Common Census Questionnaire
- Recruitment of the Common Census Questionnaire Consultants
- Recruitment of the Common Methodologies Consultants
- CARICOM Workshop on the Use of Common Methodologies
- Technical Assistance to Member States and Associate Members
- Draft Recommendations for approval by all Member States
- Common tool for data access and



PROJECT STATUS

COMPONENT 1

COMMON QUESTIONNAIRE



Common Questionnaire Objective

- Activities in this component will be centered on organizing a technical workshop in which Statistical Directors/Chief Statisticians and specialists from the statistical offices will address issues related to questionnaire design and thematic coverage.



Common Questionnaire Specific Objectives

- Agreement on core and non core census questions by all countries
- Development of a Draft Questionnaire
- Technical assistance to Member States
- Draft Report and Manuals



Common Questionnaire

A Common Questionnaire Workshop was convened in May 2008 to forge consensus with respect to the design of a draft Common Questionnaire to be used as an instrument in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses; to make recommendations on the relevant thematic areas for which information should be collected.



Project Status

Common Questionnaire

- CARICOM Workshop on Common Census Questionnaire – 13-16 May, 2008, Dominica chaired by Mrs. Melinda Williams (Bermuda)
- 22 Participants from Member States & Associate Members.
- Core and Non-Core Questions were identified and drafted
- Draft Workshop Report circulated for comments
- Feedback received and report amended
- Final Report submitted to Countries



Project Status

Common Questionnaire

- Two Consultants were hired in June/2009 – Mr. Rick Baxter and Ms. Lalita Sohail
- Reviewed Core & Non-Core Questions and produced a draft Common Questionnaire
- Presently providing Technical Assistance to 10 Countries using draft Questionnaire
- Draft Enumerators Manual completed and being further reviewed



PROJECT STATUS

COMPONENT 2

COMMON METHODOLOGIES



Common Methodologies Objective

To forge consensus with respect to the development of Common Methodologies and to address issues with regard to data collection, data capture, data validation and tabulation processes relative to the common questionnaire that has been developed.



Common Methodologies Specific Objectives

- Guidelines for the standardization of methodologies and processes for data collection.
- 1 Consensus Building workshop and 1 Train-the-Trainers workshop for 40 professionals from CARICOM's statistical offices
- Technical assistance to Member States.



Common Methodologies Status

- CARICOM Workshop on the Use of Common Methodologies - 25-29 May, 2009, Grenada chaired by Ms. Gatlin Roberts (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)
- 25 Participants from Member States and Associate Members (MS/AM) were placed into three (3) groups to facilitate participation and discussion on the consensus required for Concepts and Definitions for the Common Methodology.
- Draft Workshop Report & recommendations circulated for comments
- Feedback received and report amended



Project Status

Common Methodologies

- Recruitment of the Common Methodologies Consultants- 1st October, 2009 – Mr. Michael Levin & Mr. Keith Padmore
- Preparation of provisional Trainers, Supervisors, Enumerator's manuals are completed and are being edited and verified
- Consultants would facilitate the CARICOM Workshop on Train-the-Trainers
16-20, November, 2009, Jamaica
- Consultants to provide Technical Assistance to 8-10 Countries after consultation with MS/AM.



PROJECT STATUS

COMPONENT 3

Compatibility of Dissemination Tools



Compatibility of Dissemination Tools Objectives

- Adopt Recommendations as to data access tools that are compatible in the Caribbean to all Member States
- Technical assistance and local workshop provided on how to adapt existing National systems to the new Regional tool.



Project Status

Compatibility of Dissemination Tools

- Terms of Reference (TOR) and Expression of Interest (EOI) have been developed and are being reviewed.
- Further planning and discussions are on-going.



Technical Support System

- CARICOM Statistics **Help desk** has been created with a link to Census technical discussion forum
- UNFPA Resource Consortium
- 2010 Round Census Web page



CONCLUSION

- This Common Census Framework will allow for comparable data across CARICOM countries and an input for the design of the region wide policies and programs needed to consolidate the integration process in the framework of the CSME.



ACTION REQUIRED

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Support** the work of Common Census Framework project
- **Forge** consensus on Common Methodologies
- **Agree** on recommendations and best practices
- **Support** implementation of technical recommendations, and
- **Promote** tools that facilitate open access to the data and improve dissemination.



THANK YOU



FOR YOUR ATTENTION