

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

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

RCCC/2010/19/2

**Roseau, Dominica
10-11 November 2010**

4 November 2010

**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 an update on 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 Eighteenth Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee to the current time. The report also highlights activities planned for next year (2011) and beyond.

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 for International Development (DFID), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the European Union under the Caribbean Integration Support Programme (CISP) Ninth European Development Fund (9th EDF) are among the International Development Partners that have supported activities under the 2010 Regional Strategy.

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

2. PROGRESS OF WORK – July - November 2010

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

- **July – September 2010** – Component II - Common Methodologies, of the Common Census Framework Project funded by IDB/UNFPA was completed. The outputs of this component were finalised and distributed to Member States and Associate Members. Among the outputs were:
 - Census Enumerator's Manual;
 - Census Supervisor's Manual
 - Census Prototype Training Guide;
 - Census Training Workbook.

- **July - Oct 2010** – Technical assistance in Mapping/Geographic Information System (GIS) to countries continued during the rest of July to the end of October 2010`.

During the 18th RCCC Meeting it was reported that twelve (12) countries had already benefited by receiving technical assistance from the Consultant in the areas of mapping and GIS. From July to the present, an additional six (6) countries namely Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis and Suriname received Technical Assistance from the Consultant

An Enumeration District map-template was produced as part of this activity. All countries who have received technical assistance have received copies of the template and the manual for use in their census mapping activities.

- **September 6-10, 2010** – Second CARICOM Regional Workshop on Census Data Processing for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. The venue for this Meeting was the Royal St. Lucian Resort in Saint Lucia. The Workshop was

facilitated by the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland through the Department of International Development (DFID). The European Union under the 9th EDF funded the attendance of participants.

The focus of the Workshop was on Census Data Capture and Forms Processing, given that most National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the Region would be using contemporary technologies such as Optical Character Recognition/Intelligent Character Recognition (OCR/ICR). The overall objective was to ensure that each NSO would be able to develop and apply data capture techniques appropriately to ensure that the data entry process could be completed in the shortest possible timeframe while providing data that are of a relatively high quality even prior to the application of further traditional editing programmes.

The workshop was attended by participants from ten Member States and two Associate Members. The Bahamas, Guyana, Anguilla, Cayman Islands, Suriname, Haiti and Bermuda did not attend.

The **achievements** of the Workshop among others were:

It provided training in TELEform software in form design and data capturing which will assist National Statistical Offices to develop and apply data capture techniques for their population and housing census data. In general the workshop:

- (i) **enhanced** the understanding of the topology of the relevant data capture application software including installing, configuring and implementing functions;
- (ii) **improved** knowledge of form design, questionnaire production requirements and coordinating and managing the scanning of the forms;
- (iii) **improved** capabilities to verify and validate data and in general trouble shooting other related activities to the forms processing; and
- (iv) **enhanced** networking and information interchange of the trained persons across the Region in the application of the training acquired.

- **September 2010 and continuing** – IDB/UNFPA funded Common Census Framework Project – Component III - Compatibility of Dissemination Tools has commenced.

This Dissemination Component 3, of the Common Census Framework would promote the use of compatible dissemination tools to facilitate electronic access, query, analysis and dissemination to statistical Census data.

The Specific Objectives of the consultancy services are as follows: (i) promote the use of tools to facilitate electronic access, query, analysis and dissemination to statistical data. (ii) design information technology tools that allow users direct access, compatibility, electronic distribution and transformation to basic statistical data and create their own dynamic tabulations without jeopardizing statistical secrecy and data confidentiality (iii) provide technical assistance to the countries to develop their existing information technology tools and support the adoption of a common dissemination tool. (iv) make recommendations as to data access tools that are compatible in the Caribbean particularly, REDATAM and DevINFO and assist individual countries in proposing strategies to reach that goal

A Consultant was recruited and is currently undertaking activities under the contract. A draft comparative analysis of existing information technology tools and data dissemination tools used in Member States has been completed. The analysis focuses mainly on the concepts, definitions, coverage and scope of the questions and responses across countries of CARICOM based on recommendations from the Common Methodology Consultant report of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census.

3. WORK PLAN UNDER THE 2010 REGIONAL STRATEGY for 2011

The following activities would be implemented under the 2010 Regional Strategy of the support from November 2010 and in 2011–

- The UNSD and CARICOM Secretariat sponsored Follow-up Training Workshop on Census Data Processing for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses
- Continued work on The Common Census Project – Component III - Compatibility of Dissemination Tools.

The Consultant will be required to work closely with developers/trainers of the Redatam online and DevInfo/CensusInfo dissemination tools to ensure that where needed countries are assisted in ensuring that this online querying system of the census database is fully developed based on CARICOM specified online tabulation plans.

Design a schedule for the delivery of technical assistance to provide technical assistance to the countries to develop their existing information technology tools and support the adoption of a common regional tool;

Undertake the provision of technical assistance to the countries to develop their existing information technology tools and support the adoption of a common tool;

Facilitate the development of appropriate web based/electronic tools to allow for the dissemination of census data over the internet. Tools should be designed to allow the submission of queries online by users via user friendly online input screens. Tools should produce formatted output online and allow the export of this output in the commonly used formats of Excel, HTML, XML and MDB. Tools should have the flexibility of allowing users to produce online thematic maps by making use of national ED/administrative boundary geospatial files

- **Application of in-country technical assistance in data processing focusing on issues related to data capture (scanning) data editing using Teleform and CSPro under a DFID supported consultant.**

- Planning for the commencement of a Common Census Data Analysis.

ACTION REQUIRED

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

- **consider** the status report of the activity undertaken under the 2010 Regional Census Programme and the proposed activities for 2011 and beyond.
