

CARIBBEAN

COMMUNITY

SECRETARIAT

**THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF
CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS**

SCCS/2014/39/15

**Georgetown, Guyana
27-29 October 2014**

30 October 2014

SURINAME COUNTRY REPORT

Attached for the attention of the Meeting is Paper 15 Entitled "Suriname's Country Report".

REPORT

TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS

39th MEETING,
Georgetown, Guyana
27-29 October 2014



Algemeen Bureau voor de Statistiek van Suriname (ABS)

General Bureau of Statistics of Suriname (GBS)

Iwan A. Sno
Director

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	:	02
PROGRESS REPORT UTILIZING THE CARICOM REPORTING TEMPLATE		
ECONOMY, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT STATISTICS	:	04
POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS	:	06
ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS, ICT STATISTICS AND OTHER MULTI-DOMAIN AREAS	:	07
PUBLIC RELATIONS & DATA DISSEMINATION; ETHICAL AND QUALITY ISSUES	:	08

INTRODUCTION

There are many producers of data and statistics in Suriname's National Statistical System¹, hence it is explicitly stated that this report relates predominantly to the work of our Bureau and mainly covers the period September 2013 – September 2014, as far as the review is concerned. A "p" after some data indicates the provisional nature of that data! Exceptions to the reporting period regard Caribbean Statistics Day 2014 and DEVINFO/SURINFO reporting (inclusive of CENSUSINFO).

As of December 2002 a new Statistics Act is in place, in March 2003 the Bureau of Statistics obtained semi-autonomous status as a Government Foundation and since June 2004 the GBS subscribed to the GDDS of the IMF.

Per 01 October 2013 the ABS had a total staff of 114 (76 female),

Per 01 January 2014 the staff complement was 112 (74 female) and per 1 July it was 115 (76 female)

The period under consideration was dominated by:

- a- Advancing as much as possible regular statistics in a timely matter**
- b- Expanding scope and coverage of the statistical activities of the GBS**
- c- Missions / interventions in the fields of National Accounts and for DEVINFO 7.0**
- d- Last, but certainly not least POPULATION CENSUS activities (mainly to be reported under RCCC)**

¹ The most important ones are: GBS, Civil Registration Office, Central Bank, Foundation for Tourism, National Planning Office, Ministry of Health (Planning Unit and NHIS), Bureau for Public Health, Ministry of Finance (Economic Affairs), Ministry of Education (Research & Planning Section), Ministry of Labour (statistics Section), Ministry of Agriculture (Statistics Section), Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing (Planning Section), Ministry of Justice and Police (Information & Education Section of the Police Force), Suriname Debt management Office, Ministry of Home Affairs (Bureau for Gender Affairs).

PROGRESS REPORT UTILIZING CARICOM REPORTING TEMPLATE

ECONOMY, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT STATISTICS

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (TABLES and GRAPHS)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY and/or Comments
National Accounts (data for 2011 to 2013 are preliminary)	<p>NA sheets with macro economic aggregates 2009-2013 came out on 9 September 2014</p> <p>Expenditure on GDP (EGDP) Ceased, as it needs a major revision according to a CARTAC Mission</p> <p>From 9-14 February 2014 a CARTAC follow-up mission (EGDP and SUT) was conducted</p>	<p>Same estimates as reported in previous column.</p> <p>Most of the hard copy information also available on the GBS Website</p>	<p>Expenditure on GDP needs to be revised</p> <p>Information on Sectoral Employment needs to be revised</p> <p>The Unit for employment is being reconsidered</p>	<p>GDP series revised (SNA 1993 compliant) and rebased (2007) in March 2012</p> <p>Through CARTAC intervention work on GDP by Expenditure, SUT, Quarterly GDP</p> <p>Intermediary Cost Survey conducted and continued</p> <p>Response issues</p>	<p>Follow-up hands on training, GDP by Expenditure. SUT. Quarterly GDP, as well as GDP Income approach. Training provided inter alia by CARTAC</p> <p>Participated in CARTAC workshop (National Accounting) in Barbados 11-21 October 2013</p> <p>2-week Attachment to STATIN (funded by CARTAC) during 28 October – 8 November 2013</p>	<p>ARC in use</p> <p>Computers with internet access</p>
- National Accounts Towards SNA 2008	None	NA	Business Census planned for 2016 to obtain baseline,	Work on a SUT with CARTAC Complete transition to ISIC rev 4 in Dec '14	More Training and technical assistance (TA) Required	
Input/Output table	Work initiated in November 2008, Provisional I/O table for 2007 released in November 2010	NA			<p>Training Energy Modeling / Input-Output Table / SURYA Model (December 2013)</p> <p>More training and TA required</p>	Use of Turbo-ABS and improvement of SURYA model of the Surinamese Economy
Quarterly GDP (see National Accounts)	Sectoral GDP and current prices EGDP have higher priority Things need to be reconsidered CB pressure.	NA	NA	Through CARTAC intervention work on Quarterly GDP Non-response	Training and technical assistance (TA) Required	Computers with internet access
<p>Merchandise Trade -Trade Indices</p> <p>Merchandise Trade - Trade Data Annual/ Quarterly (Annual data up to 2013 and Quarterly op to 2nd Quarter 2014p)</p>	<p>In progress (work commenced in April 2008 Next year we hope to be able to report that we have Our Trade indices series.</p> <p>Tables (HS, SITC, etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade Balance - Exports /Imports - Trade with Trade Blocks <p>Suriname submitted in line with agreed timelines</p>	<p>Quarterly/ half year or annual tables via public relations</p>	<p>Identify potential data sources</p>	<p>Trained staff within Trade section</p> <p>MOU signed with Central Bank (CB)</p> <p>Insufficient Inter-agency coordination</p> <p>Suriname amply met CARICOM deadline</p> <p>MOU signed with Central Bank</p>	<p>Follow-up hands on assistance from CARTAC (timing to be determined) to produce Trade indices</p> <p><u>Suriname needs to get in touch with CARICOM on the Expanded data set required for trade. At least 1 and at most 5 of the additional fields may turn out problematic.</u></p>	Computers with internet access

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (TABLES and GRAPHS)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY and/or Comments
CPI (data available and disseminated up to September 2014p, released on 22 October 2014)	- exchange rates - consumer price indices and inflation - information on fuel prices	Monthly via Public Relations Unit to all Mass Media, also disseminated via the GBS website	For quite a while only the Districts of Paramaribo and Wanica were published. The GBS now reports information for 4 domains (6 Districts): Paramaribo/Wanica Nickerie, Coronie/Saramacca Commewijne (Rural interior Districts still excluded and this situation is repeatedly criticized in Parliament)	-HBS(Oct.2007- April 2008) new HBS conducted during November 2013 to August 2014, and coverage was expanded with 1 more district to total 7) CPI usually disseminated within 3 weeks of the reference month As of May 2011, not only 11 major groups but also 32 Sub groups (classes) are reported	Advanced Index Number Theory and Practice)	ARC in use Medium term plan to use hand helds for price /outlet observations <u>Remark:</u> Members of Parliament increasingly complain about the fact that there is no "national coverage"
Enterprises Statistics (Annual data up to 2013 and Quarterly data up to 2nd Quarter 2014p) (OTHER AREAS OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS and HFI	Turnover, Labour Cost and Number of employees, <u>Wages and Prices in the Construction Industry (LPB)</u> Hard copy publication Quarterly Economic Statistics (Turnover, Labour Cost, Number of Employees, for Large Enterprises) in August 2014	Annual data up to 2013 Quarterly data up to 2 nd Quarter 2014p	Differential non-response, causing some estimates to become suspect	Non-response, causing some estimates to become suspect Economic Census 2007 information used for register. Both unweighted and weighted response rates are being studied	Also benefits from CARTAC national accounts intervention Two-week Attachment to STATIN (funded by CARTAC) (see p. 4) from 28 October/- 8 November 2013	Use of computers with internet access A Database Matching Operation was conducted involving: Census Listings, Register of Establishments and Agricultural Census Database: Results show that closer collaboration is imperative.

POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND LIVING STATISTICS

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (Tables & Graphs)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY and/or Comments
<p>Population and Demographic Statistics</p> <p>8th Population Census (Field work, inclusive of PES: 13 August 2012 up to 3 November 2012)</p>	<p>Population estimates up to mid-year 2013 Population projections up to 2032 Life tables up to 2012 Selected vital statistics and indicators up to 2012; All Census results Published from 25 January 2013 to 1 August 2014</p>	<p>Same as previous column, <u>plus incidental data requests.</u></p>	<p>SEE RCCC REPORT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Late availability of most vital statistics - Selected local practices at variance with international standards 		<p>Use of computers with internet access</p> <p>Use of UNMORTPAK-IV</p>
<p>Social and Living Conditions Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous HHS (is in fact an expanded Labour Force Survey) - Statistical Yearbook (since 1995); Yearbook 2012 (Nov 2013); the 2013 Yearbook is planned for November 2014 (Population, Health, Education, Crime and a lot more data) - Traffic and Transport Statistics (TTS) 	<p>Continuous Quarterly HHS in Suriname commenced in 1986 (One glitch in 1991) Data published Annually</p> <p>Selected data up to 2013 (2012 data is a combination of HHO first Quarter and Census 3rd Quarter)</p> <p>Statistical Yearbook has Annual, Quarterly and Monthly data.</p> <p>TTS: Monthly and Annual data (e.g. air traffic, road traffic, arrivals and departures.)</p>	<p>Contribution to financial notes to the 2015 Budget</p> <p>Annual data up to 2012 and monthly up to October 2013 (both to be advanced +1 in November</p> <p>Publication scheduled for February 2014, brought forward and published November 2013</p>	<p>Identification of data sources Inter-agency coordination (GBS & Tourism Foundation)</p> <p>From 2009 to date only Arrivals and no Departures registered.</p>	<p>Geographic coverage expanded to the District of Nickerie and shortly also Commewijne will be surveyed continuously (In May 2011 GBS opened a Branch Office in Commewijne)</p> <p>A new border management system was initiated in late 2012 (it has yet to yield Statistics)</p>	<p>Applied Sampling (especially Sampling of very mobile populations)</p> <p>Training to conduct proper Exit Surveys for Tourism purposes</p>	<p>Use of computers with internet access</p>
<p>Gender Statistics</p>	<p>Selected data up to 2014</p>	<p>Publication "Selected Gender Statistics" produced in September 2013, launched on CSD 2013 (observed in Suriname 14-10-2013), next issue scheduled for September 2015</p>	<p>Data from the interior missing, so geographic coverage not optimal</p>	<p><u>Best practices</u> Output rhythm for odd years maintained</p> <p><u>Challenges</u> Late response Format problems</p>	<p>Participated in all relevant national training Activities, inclusive of the Workshop on Common Literacy Survey 21-22 October 2013</p> <p>More Training required</p>	<p>Use of computers with internet access</p>
<p>MICS Surveys Conducted in 2000, 2006 and 2010</p>	<p>MICS Data up to 2010</p>	<p>Same as previous column</p>		<p><u>MICS 5 scheduled for next year. Exact timing tbd because of elections in 2015</u></p>	<p>Usual support from UNICEF expected, as we speak staff is in Panama preparing for MICS 5</p>	<p>Use of computers with internet access</p>

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS, ICT STATISTICS & OTHER MULTI-DOMAIN AREAS

AREA OF STATISTICS	DATA PRODUCTION (Tables & Graphs)	DATA DISSEMINATED	DATA GAPS	BEST PRACTICES/ CHALLENGES	TRAINING/ TA APPLIED REQUIRED	USE OF TECHNOLOGY and/or Comments
Environment Statistics	Data and indicators on different environmental topics and sectors	Every two years. Last publication October 2012 Next (expanded publication) planned for November 2014	Identify potential data sources	<u>Best practices</u> Output rhythm for “even” years maintained Envstat Workshop held in June with Partner CI Suriname <u>Challenge</u> Sufficient Inter-agency Cooperation, but insufficient Inter-agency Coordination	GBS Participates in most CARICOM training activities and had a representative in the UN Expert group on FDES Revision.	Use of computers with internet access Use of FDES
DISSEMINATION TOOLS: SURINFO 1.0 AND SURINAME CENSUS INFO 1.0	Both Launched Officially on 15 October 2014 (Caribbean Statistics Day 2014)	SURINFO: MICS 2006 and 2010 data and data from Statistical Yearbooks 2010-2012 CENSUSINFO: Census 2012 data	Info not asked in MICS or Census	Increased access to Basic Statistics via the internet.	Devinfo 7 training 14-18 October 2013 and continuous GBS support to selected data producers (most notably the Gender Bureau)	USE OF DEVINFO TOOL FOR DATA DISSEMINATION
ICT Statistics Least Developed Area	Limited data on ICT from establishments, on Cyber café's, Internet uses, Fixed lines and mobile users (various years) Limited info from HHS and from Census 2012	Same as previous column	Minor information is obtained from the continuous Household Survey (HHS) and has to be supplemented with registration data Census 2012 also collected some data	Administrative Data obtained through the TAS* ; Data not covered by TAS mandate still problematic	The GBS participated in the first Training course on Information Society Measurement in the Caribbean., February 2009 Follow-up training is required.	Use of computers with internet access
BASIC INDICATORS	Monthly and Quarterly data on: Economic, Financial, Monetary and Social Indicators, up to June 2014	Last Publication with data up to June 2014, issued in July 2014		Quick way to produce and disseminate simple data quite fast. Networking		Use of computers with internet access
STATISTICAL PAPERS OF THE GBS	Statistical Papers 13 Monograph, November 2013 (Effects of Globalization on Mining in Suriname)	Same as previous column		At least one paper produced annually. Paper 14 a Monograph on Housing planned for November 2014	NA	GBS Work in progress and/or academic papers of young staff who would have no other possibilities to publish their work

* TAS = Telecommunications Authority Suriname