

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

SCCS/2014/39/5 Rev. 1

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

20 October 2014

**STATUS REPORT ON DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS
AND THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2014/2015**

1. INTRODUCTION

This Paper provides an update on some of the activities that have been executed in the area of Demographic and Social Statistics for the period 2014. It presents the status of submission of Demographic and Social data to the Secretariat. The Paper also provides an update of developmental work taking place and an overview of the Work Plan for 2014/2015.

2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

The Social Statistics Sub-Unit continued with the collection and compilation of data in various areas in 2014. Data from National Statistical Offices/Websites and publications of Member States and Associate Members for various themes were collected.

Databases were updated in the following areas: Labour Force Statistics, Education, Crime, Health, Poverty, Power and Decision-making, Population and Vital Statistics, Millennium Development Goals/Caribbean Specific Millennium Development Goals (MDGs/CSMDGs). Existing tables were updated on the Web (i.e. Mid-Year Population, Crude Birth Rates, Crude Death Rates were updated with the latest year available). A Stats Lunch was organized by the Regional Statistics Programme for the CARICOM

Secretariat Staff. It featured a presentation on Social Statistics. In-country visits were undertaken to seven (7) countries.

2.1 Update of Demographic and Social Statistics Databases

Labour Force Statistics

The database on Labour Force Statistics was updated and revised with data collected from five (5) countries (2013).

Education Statistics

Education data were collected from five (5) member countries (2011-2012) and the database was updated.

Health Statistics

Health data were collected from ten (10) countries (2011/2012). The Vital Statistics database was updated with data collected for five (5) countries (2011-2012).

Population, Households and Families

Population databases were updated based on mid-year population data for 2013 received from seven (7) countries and from three (3) countries for 2014.

Crime

Crime data were collected for four (4) countries for the period 2012-2013 to update the regional database.

2.2 Other activities:

Stats Lunch

In April 2014, a presentation was prepared and presented as part of a series of activities to advocate within the CARICOM Secretariat on the uses and achievements made in Statistics and to enlighten the CARICOM Secretariat Staff on the “what, how and why of statistics”.

The presentation was entitled: “*Demographic and Social Statistics: What, Why and How - What goes into the production and dissemination of Demographic and Social Statistics*”.

In-country Technical Assistance Mission

Technical assistant visits were undertaken during the period 22 June – 24 July 2014 in seven (7) countries, namely Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. This activity was part of the Regional Statistics Work Programme under the Tenth European Development Fund (EDF).

The purpose of this technical assistance was to build capacity and address data gaps in selected areas of Social Statistics. Countries were selected based on the number of data gaps that existed at the regional level. The areas of focus were Health/HIV, Crime, Education, Power and Decision-making (incl. CSMDGs/MDGs Indicators and gender disaggregated data).

Staff of relevant line ministries and the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) received training in Basic Statistics. Some of the topics covered were: the importance of collecting data, differences between data, information and statistics, types of variables, types of statistics, how to find outliers, cross cutting issues on gender and age, data

management: how to percentage a table, designing tables in Excel, creating and developing datasets and databases in Excel, and managing tables and charts.

The Regional Statistics staff also visited the relevant line ministries/agencies in the respective countries.

These activities were executed by the Regional Statistics Staff (in collaboration with the Focal Point in the NSOs). The outcome of this activity was to minimize as much as possible the data gaps in order to make available data for policy and decision-making as well as reporting on international commitments and obligations. The focus was therefore on the strengthening of the countries capacity to enable them in the collection of data.

While the gaps were not immediately filled, this technical assistance mission has set the stage for enabling closer/stronger collaboration between the NSOs and the line ministries and the agencies in the National Statistical Systems (NSS) in producing the data.

3. DATA REQUESTS

Internal and external data requests were filled. Data were requested on the following:

- Total Unemployment Rates (2006 –latest year)
- Youth Unemployment Rates: Latest year available, 2010 Census
- Youth (15-24, 15-29) and Elderly Population (60+) , 2010 Census
- Human Development Index for CARICOM Countries: 2005-2012
- CSMDGs Education indicators- 2005-2012
- Migration data for ten (10) countries, 2010 Census.

4. DISSEMINATION/PUBLICATIONS

Demographic profiles were updated with 2013 data for eleven (11) countries although data is not available for all the indicators covered.

5. WORK PLAN FOR DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS 2014/2015

The following activities are included in the Demographic and Social Statistics Work Plan for 2014/2015

- (i) Continue to collect, compile, validate and disseminate data;
- (ii) Continue with updating of these databases with timely up-to-date data;
- (iii) Continue research, collection and documentation of metadata;
- (iv) Review and revise Metadata in collaboration with Member States;
- (v) Continue work in data quality assurance framework;
- (vi) Review/Refine list of Indicators and/or come up with List of Indicators for new areas;
- (vii) Disseminate Publications;
- (viii) Continue collaboration with relevant agencies to improve the respective systems of statistics.

ACTION REQUIRED

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

- (i) **consider** the status of Demographic and Social data submissions by Member States;
- (ii) **request** the cooperation of countries in the submission of data and to respond to other requests;

- (iii) **support** the Secretariat's Work Programme for 2014/2015 in the area of Demographic and Social Statistics.
