

Coordination of Statistical Development in the Caribbean Region



Mr. Sylvan Roberts
Statistician

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

The views expressed in this paper, which has been reproduced without formal editing are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the organization.

1

BACKGROUND

■ States in the Caribbean-ECLAC (SRO)



2

POPULATION OF SELECTED COUNTRIES (000 persons)

	2005	2006	2007
Antigua & Barbuda	82.79	84.33	85.90
Barbados	211.00	211.28	-
British Virgin Islands	25.80	-	-
Guyana	767.60	760.20	-
Jamaica	2,654.40	2,667.20	
Montserrat	4.79	4.66	4.82
St. Kitts and Nevis	49.35	49.99	50.46
Suriname	499.10	510.00	
Trinidad & Tobago	1,294.49	1,297.94	1,303.19

3

CHALLENGES

- The following are some challenges encountered:
 1. Lack of human resources and human resource development within the region.
 2. Lack of capacity building and training of adequate personnel.

4

STAFFING OF STATISTICAL AGENCIES IN THE REGION

	Antigua & Barbuda	Barbados	Belize	British Virgin Islands	Guyana	Jamaica	Saint Lucia	St. Kitts and Nevis	Suriname	Trinidad and Tobago
DEGREE	4	15	11	8	18	72	9	5	9	0
Subject Matter Training	2	8	5	6	13	71	9	4	8	0
Male	1	5	2	2	4	23	3	4	3	0
Female	1	3	3	4	9	48	6	0	5	0
Without Subject Matter Training	2	7	6	2	5	1	0	1	1	0
Male	1	0	2	0	5	1	0	1	0	0
Female	1	7	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
NON-DEGREE	15	56	22	15	11	281	42	9	94	0
Subject Matter Training	9	10	0	3	0	274	17	2	23	0
Male	4	7	0	1	0	85	9	1	7	0
Female	5	3	0	2	0	189	8	1	16	0
Without Subject Matter Training	6	46	22	12	11	7	25	7	71	0
Male	5	16	15	2	1	3	4	0	26	0
Female	1	30	7	10	10	4	21	7	45	0
% with Degrees	21%	21%	33%	35%	62%	20%	18%	36%	9%	
% with Subject Matter Training	58%	25%	15%	39%	45%	98%	51%	43%	30%	
% Females	37%	51%	30%	70%	66%	68%	69%	57%	64%	

5

CHALLENGES cont'd

3. Increasing demands for data and statistics. e.g requirements of the agreed MDGs/IADGs.
4. Different types of data sources which include: Censuses, Surveys and Administrative Records.
5. The CSME movement: The need for harmonization of statistics in the sub-region.
6. National challenges to Coordination

6

REGIONAL MECHANISM

- ECLAC and CARICOM: Collaborating and Cooperation links established
- Need to avoid duplication of efforts and scarce resources
- Maximize benefits to the various Member Countries

7

GOOD PRACTICES/SUCCESS STORIES

- Trinidad & Tobago
 - Close attention paid by the government to resourcing of the Central Statistical Office.
 - For example, recent censuses and the complete funding of the recent household budget survey.
- Jamaica
 - Possesses a rich history of data collection and analysis.
 - Adequate human resource capacity as well as training of necessary personnel.
- Belize, Dominica and Suriname
- All three countries have been producing some key environmental statistics on a regular basis. This area especially poses challenges to smaller countries in the region

8

CONCLUSION

- There have been serious setbacks due to the recent financial downturn experienced worldwide therefore posing a threat to statistical offices in the region.
- In response to this challenge as shown in a recent meeting which included politicians, statisticians and other users of statistics several promising statements were made by current ministers of governments.
- Another promising development was the resounding endorsement of a CARICOM Resolution in 2005 in support of Statistical Development in the sub-region .

9

THANK YOU

10