



EXPERIENCE IN CONDUCTING 2020 ROUND OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN CARICOM- UNDER COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS

Remote

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Presentation by Philomen Harrison

OVERVIEW

- The Regionally-Coordinated Approach to Census-taking in CARICOM
- Benefits of Regionally-Coordinated Approach
- Impact on Census-taking under Global COVID-19 Pandemic
- Work completed or in progress that can mitigate impact of COVID_19
[Country Highlights]
- Highlights of the Online Census Facility and the Census Resolution 2019

- Census-taking in the Region has a long history for the use of a regionally-coordinated approach dating back to the colonial era and through the Post World War II period to the current Census Round.
- In 1976, the Ninth Meeting of the Commonwealth Caribbean Government Statisticians recommended that the CARICOM Secretariat and the Council of Ministers establish a Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC), coordinated by the Secretariat.
- CARICOM Regional Census Strategies were prepared from the 1980 round to the current Round.
- The RCCC reports to the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS), which was established by CARICOM Heads of Governments in 1974
- The CARICOM Regional Census Strategy for the 2020 Round was launched at the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the RCCC that was held in Georgetown, Guyana in July 2018;

- **Benefits of Regionally-Coordinated Approach:**
- The opportunity to identify and examine common census problems and to have collective inputs in devising strategies for their solution.
- The comparability of the census data for participating countries, achieved through the use of a common questionnaire and other instruments of data collection, with a common core of questions, and uniformed concepts and definitions.
- Significant cost savings resulting from the sharing of facilities, expertise and other resources.
- The avoidance of duplication of efforts and the pooling and sharing of census skills and other scarce resources to ensure optimal benefits for the overall programme.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE CARICOM REGIONALLY COORDINATED STRATEGY:

To provide support to countries in the conduct of the 2020 Census exercise, to enable the availability of timely, high quality and comparable Census Data for planning and decision-making in CARICOM

ESTIMATED YEAR FOR THE CONDUCT OF CENSUS IN THE 2020 CENSUS ROUND

YEAR	NO. OF COUNTRIES	REMARKS
2020	6	The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize Saint Lucia,, Cayman Islands, [Trinidad and Tobago],
2021	9	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, British Virgin Islands
2022	3	Suriname, Guyana, Turks and Caicos Islands

ESTIMATED YEAR FOR THE CONDUCT OF CENSUS IN THE 2020 CENSUS ROUND

YEAR	NO. OF COUNTRIES	REMARKS
2020	0	
2021	12	Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands., Belize, Barbados, The Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Cayman Islands
2022	6	Suriname, Guyana, Turks and Caicos Islands, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Impact on Census-taking under Global COVID-19

- **Budget:**

- *Census Budget* prepared, submitted and approved but then COVID-19 resulting in a hold on these budgets, shifting of allocations, for other countries budget preparation in progress.

- **Planning and Preparatory Activities:**

- *Pre-tests of the questionnaire* completed and questionnaire prepared (one country);
- *Census legislation* prepared but not implemented (one country);
- *Census Office* not established (one country);
- *Pilot-testing* of the entire census not completed for most countries;
- *Mapping work* completed included the identification of six hundred and nine (609) Enumeration Districts (ED) for the 2020 Round of the Population Census, editing and finalization of electronic maps, for these districts. One challenge included the need for assistance in linking an electronic dashboard to monitor the field works while in progress using GIS and a part of the Survey Solutions application; (one country)

- Update of 2010 **CARICOM Common Census Questionnaire (CCQ)** for the 2020 Census Round occurred in **May 2017** and continued with revisions (up to **2019**);
- Production of **CARICOM Census Guidelines** to the Common Census Questionnaire in September 2019;
- **Online Census 2020 facility was launched** - Discussions on Census Issues and to provide access to Census Questionnaire and Guidelines and to **international principles, recommendations and guidelines**;

- **Provision of Training on Disability Statistics**
- Collaboration- CARICOM/UNSD (2016) and Washington Group/University of London (2017).
- **Training in Census Mapping and GIS** has also been undertaken
 - Collaboration ESRI/CCS with funding support of the IDB-project- Common Census Framework 2.0, in December 2018 being executed by the CCS;
 - Collaboration CARICOM/IDB-funded project with PRASC-Canada/ESRI Mid July 2018 training workshop (back-to back with the mid-year 28th RCCC Meeting in);
- **Assessment of Mapping/GIS** under IDB-funded project by the Consultant under Component II and work is in progress on a manual with a mapping template;

- **Support to Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)**
 - Collaboration CARICOM/IDB-funded project and PRASC Canada/ ESRI training workshop discussions of experiences of countries using CAPI (back-to-back at the mid-year RCCC meeting in July 2018) included presentations by World Bank and the US Census Bureau.
 - Support was also provided through Grenada who has developed the Common Census questionnaire template in Survey Solutions at which CCS contributed through face-face /remotely (IDB supported) - template in Survey Solutions is available.
 - Assessment of use of CAPI in preparation for the Census by Consultant under Component I of the IDB-funded project, development of management framework for the CAPI is in progress;.

Work Completed or In Progress – to Mitigate Impact of COVID-19

- **Communication and Advocacy**
- With support received from Statistics Canada under the PRASC a **Communication and Advocacy Strategy for the 2020 Census Round** was developed by the CCS, which can be used by countries in the development of national Communication and Advocacy frameworks and products for the 2020 Census.
- The census as a core aspect of the RSDS was a feature element of the **Third High Level Advocacy Forum in February 2019** (with IDB Support) and the **Census Resolution** was endorsed in 2019 calling on Governments to support the Census;
- The Secretariat also prepared a paper for consideration by the **Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development** one of the political arms of the Community in September 2019 to advocate on the usefulness of the Census and to obtain support for its conduct in countries and the decisions were endorsed which included to provide support to the Census.

- **Census Data Dissemination and related**
- The CARICOM Secretariat has also recently received support from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to revamp its Census e-portal, which is a central repository across countries for census data analysis and dissemination.
- As part of the above support the 30 RCCC meeting which was held in Trinidad and Tobago in July 2019 there was a one- day Demo on IT tools related to a number of aspects of the Census including:
 - Redatam; Cloud Platform possibilities; Demographic Analysis and Population Projection System - DAPPS.

- **Census Project Management Framework**
- The IDB project is also supporting the preparation of a Census Project Management framework and work is in progress on the assessment on a generic project management framework system along the lines of the Generic Business Process Model (GSBPM) under Component III of the IDB- Common Census Framework.
- **Other Support Provided under Census Strategy**
- The Secretariat has so far provided support to countries on an as needs basis on aspects such as the development of its national questionnaire, concepts and definitions, training of trainers
- Facilitated the development of a Statement relative to the inclusion of a Consent Form with the Census;

Some Activities Outstanding

- Support to the provisioning/sharing of Equipment across countries ;
- Convene Census Management and Organisation Training Workshop .
- Design programme for Common Census Questionnaire template in CSPro
- Facilitate the undertaking of Attachments e.g. CAPI, Mapping/GIS etc
- Convene Census TWG meeting/workshops as required.
- Training on Unpaid Care and Domestic Work (Collaboration with UNWOMEN and Italy)

Some Activities Outstanding

- Completion of Census e-Portal.
- Census Data Analysis
- Utilisation of virtual training facility through the virtual Caribbean Institute of Statistical Training (e-CISTAR) and Research platform which we hope to re-launch by the end of July

- **Online Census Facility-Knowledge Base and networking**
- The CARICOM Secretariat has developed an **online census facility that can enable knowledge development and exchange, networking** among statisticians that are conducting the census to solve common challenges and share best practices.
- It contains a blog in which the sharing and networking of ideas and issues pertaining to the census can take place.
- There will essentially be a **public segment** that will serve to communicate and advocate for the census and encourage support from the population across the Region.

Work Completed or In Progress

Highlights of the Resolution on the 2020 Census Round in CARICOM

1. *Calls* on all CARICOM countries to provide adequate financial resources and in a timely manner, to the National Statistical Offices for the conduct of the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census;
2. *Emphasises* the importance of the Population and Housing Census as an *integrated programme* of the CARICOM Statistical System, which is therefore to be implemented as part of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics;
3. *Urges* all CARICOM countries to ensure that the results from the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census are disseminated and in a timely manner and that outstanding census results from the previous census round should be made public.



CRSDS

CARICOM



**Regional Strategy for the
Development of Statistics**

