

**A study on the capacity of Statistical Offices
of the Caribbean to produce environment,
social, economic and gender statistics**



NACIONES UNIDAS



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Contents

Abstract.....	7
I. Background and Objectives of the Study	8
A. Methodology of the Study	10
1. Introduction.....	10
B. Respondents and Response Rates	11
C. The Status of the Production of Economic Statistics in the Caribbean	12
1. Introduction.....	12
D. The Status of the Production of Social and Environmental Statistics in the Caribbean	16
1. Introduction.....	16
E. Collaborating, Developing Partnerships and Networking	27
F. Conclusion and Recommendations	31
Bibliography	35
Annex.....	37
Annex 1: Survey Questionnaire.....	38
List of Tables	
Table 1	Response Rate by Institution.....11
Table 2	Challenges with Data Production of National Accounts Data.....14
Table 3	Compilation and Production of SUT by NSOs in the Subregion.....15

Table 4	Availability of the Indicators "Maternal Mortality rate" and Proportion of Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel.....	25
Table 5	Donor Agencies that have Assisted with Capacity Development in the Subregion.....	28
Table 6	Types of Support or Assistance Required for Production of Indicators and Statistics.....	29
Table 7	Type of Support Required for the Production of Indicators.....	29
Table 8	Specific Capacity Building Needs Identified by Institution.....	30
Table 9	Preferred Capacity Building Activities Required by Office or Agency.....	30

List of Figures

Figure 1	Status of NSOs and Central Banks in Data Production and Use.....	12
Figure 2	Compilation of GDP by Sector (in Constant and Current Prices).....	13
Figure 3	Periodicity and Latest Available year of the indicator.....	20
Figure 4	Compilation of indicator "net enrolment in primary education" by periodicity and latest year of production.....	22
Figure 5	Compilation of indicator "net enrolment in secondary education" by periodicity and latest year of production.....	22
Figure 6	Compilation of the MDG indicators "HIV prevalence among population aged 15 – 24" and "proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs".....	26

List of Acronyms

CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CARTAC	Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
CFTC	United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSO	Central Statistical Office
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
ECCB	The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
LAC	Latin American and the Caribbean
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
NSA	National Statistical Agencies
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
PAHO/WHO	The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
PPP	Purchasing Power Parities
SAM	Social Accounting Matrix
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLC	Survey of Living Conditions
SNA	Systems of National Accounts
SPARC	Support to Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean
STATIN	Statistical Institute of Jamaica

SUT	Supply and Use Tables
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
UNDG	United Nations Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
WB	The World Bank

Abstract

Statistical organizations of the Caribbean countries continue to face serious challenges posed by the increased demand for more relevant, accurate and timely statistical data. Tangible progress has been made in delivering key products in the area of economic statistics. The central banks of the subregion have assisted greatly in this respect. However, even in this branch of statistics there are still several glaring gaps. The situation is even worse in other areas of statistics including social and environmental statistics. Even though all countries of the subregion have committed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as to other internationally agreed development goals serious challenges remain with respect to the compilation of the agreed indicators to assist in assessing progress towards the goals.

It is acknowledged that appreciable assistance has been provided by the various donor agencies to develop statistical competence. This assistance has translated into the many gains that have been made. However, the national statistical organizations require much more help if they are to reach the plateau of self reliance in the production of the necessary statistical services. The governments of the subregion have also committed to invest more in statistical development and in promoting a statistics culture in the Caribbean. The training institutions of the subregion have also started to address this urgent need by broadening and deepening their teaching curricula.

Funding support is urgently required to develop the appropriate cadre of statistical professionals to deliver the required outputs. However, this training must be continuous and must be sustained over an appropriate period since the current turnover of trained staff is high. This programme of training will need to be intensive for a period of at least five years after which it may be reduced. The modalities of training will also have to be more focused and in addition to formal training at educational institutions there is much room for on-the-job training, group training at the national level and much more south-south capacity building.

There is also an urgent need to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among the donor community in the delivery of assistance for statistical development. Several development agencies with very good intentions are currently operating in the Caribbean. There is a danger however, that efforts can be duplicated if agencies do not collaborate adequately. Development agencies therefore need to consult with each other much more and share their development agenda more freely if duplication is to be averted. Moreover, the pooling of resources can surely maximize the benefits to the countries of the subregion.

I. Background and Objectives of the Study

Regional Caribbean partners have repeatedly decried the severe lack of statistical data in the Caribbean subregion. The limited capacity across the Caribbean subregion to provide robust statistical data and information, in a timely manner and of a broad scope has had serious consequences on private and public sector planning and decision making. As a consequence, this scenario has curtailed socio-economic analysis and has led to policies that are not adequately based on objective criteria. Governments and businesses alike need timely and reliable statistics upon which they can base appropriate and more robust policy and governance decisions. Relevant, timely and reliable statistics also help to build the case for project and programme interventions in a given area. In their absence, however, investment and development decisions in both the private and public sectors can be seriously flawed.

Caribbean researchers have continuously acknowledged the fact that at present the region still remains data poor; as compared to other developing countries such as, their Latin American counterparts. Busby (2003) indicated that the data challenges encountered by data collectors in programmes such as, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) programme revealed not only the numerical data weakness but even more alarmingly, the weakness in the creation of data collection structures at the national level for tracking progress in implementation of government policies in the relevant areas. Studies previously conducted in this regard have pointed to obstacles to the data availability that include the following:

- Lack of financial resources,
- Lack of qualified personnel,
- Lack of institutional capacity,
- Lack of coordination between departments,
- Low priority on the political agenda, among others.

Busby (2003) additionally emphasized that the development problem concerning information in the Caribbean may be stated as a need to identify datasets that are critical to the analysis of the social and economic as well as environmental condition of the Caribbean countries; and the creation of mechanisms for their effective management. This problem was identified as being indirectly related to lack of focus in addressing the planning needs of the countries of the Caribbean region.

Moreover, Watson (2007) noted that in addition to the relatively high costs associated with the data collection process, supplementary reservations frequently expressed by data owners for example, the National Statistical Agencies about data sharing included (1) anxiety about losing control of the data, (2) confidentiality breaches, (3) the level of effort and amount of time required, (4) the risk of poor analysis or re-analyses, (5) a lack of collegial/institutional support for the activity, and (6) a risk that others will profit, even financially, from the agency's data collection efforts.

Over the past two decades, donor agencies which have operated in the Caribbean subregion have indicated that much support has been provided by them in order to improve regional capacity in statistics. While more assistance has been provided in the area of economic statistics, social statistics have nevertheless received support as well. Such assistance has been provided directly to individual national government departments for statistical development, as well as to regional organizations to promote capacity enhancement. However, sustaining the institutional capability continues to pose serious challenges. Very often the enhanced capacity does not endure for too long beyond the life of the donor support. Lack of donor staying power and longer term follow-up appears to have been one reason why efforts are not sustained. Another seems to be closely correlated to the high turnover of statistical personnel as soon as their statistical capacities are enhanced. Thirdly, in order to maximize benefits derived from donor support greater collaboration and cooperation between the various donor agencies is critical in order to avert duplication. For example, in 2009, the World Bank through its Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building Grant provided donor support in the sum of US\$ 345,000 to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat, to the advantage of its five borrowing OECS member states for the utilization of strengthening statistical capacity in the OECS subregion. Additionally, in 2010 the World Bank provided funding to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) for the development of a socio-economics database for the LAC region. Moreover, Jamaica and Guyana received donor support in the sums of US\$ 520,000 and US\$ 148,614 respectively, through the Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) Technical Cooperation Grant geared towards the modernization of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Jamaica and the improvement of trade statistics in Guyana in 2009.

On this premise attempts was made to pool resources and thereby increase economies of scale. It was thought that this would minimize the duplication of effort and scale up development effectiveness in keeping with the fundamental objectives of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness¹. These were the very principles behind the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) managed effort to tackle the problem on the social statistics side. Regrettably, this project called Support to Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean (SPARC) (include these in bibliography please) has thus far been unsuccessful in galvanizing donors to any significant degree.

Despite this scenario, there are many committed and dedicated people working in statistics in the subregion. National statistics organizations such as the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and the Central Statistical Office of Saint Lucia have been repeatedly cited for their excellence. Additionally, regional agencies such as the Caribbean Development Bank and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat have made tangible contributions to the generation of reliable and comprehensive micro data and in moving the subregion towards harmonized approaches.

The objective of the current study is to identify constraints that inhibit statistical organizations of the Caribbean to produce timely, reliable and relevant statistics and indicators of a broad scope. It is recognized that these statistics and indicators contribute crucially to evidence-based policy formulation. They are also indispensable tools which support planning and assist in monitoring of policies to enhance socioeconomic development. Additionally, these statistics and indicators constitute a goldmine of information that guides desirable business and investment decisions.

¹The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) outlines a roadmap for improving the quality of aid and its impact on development. The Declaration is based on five principles: ownership, alignment, harmonisation, results and mutual accountability. Available from [http://www.oecd.org/document/18/0,2340,en_2649_3236398_35401554_1_1_1_1,00.html].

A. Methodology of the Study

1. Introduction

This study researches the views, recommendations and suggestions of national and regional stakeholders with respect to statistical development issues in the Caribbean. It documents the resultant findings, engages in analysis of these findings and puts forward recommendations based on the findings and analysis. Even though some desk research was undertaken to enrich the study, the final report depended mainly on data collected through the administration of a questionnaire. This questionnaire was administered to the main producers of statistics in the subregion. Twenty-one countries² of the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean were invited to participate in an online survey using the questionnaire. The respondents comprised national statistical offices, central banks and a few departments of line ministries of governments.

a) The Questionnaire – the main data collection instrument

The questionnaire comprises four main sections. All questions research the availability, coverage, periodicity and timeliness of the production of key economic, social, gender and environmental statistics and indicators. In each of these sections, questions on a sample of the key statistical aggregates and indicators are included. These statistics and indicators are considered to form part of the core outputs of most modern national statistical systems. Hence, the economic statistics section includes questions on the production of key aggregates in the area of the National Accounts, Trade and Prices statistics. In the social statistics section a sample of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators for seven goals are included. The final section researches international collaboration and networking, as well as capacity building needs. It is important to know the key partners involved in statistical collaboration and capacity building in order to establish synergies. This will avert the duplication of efforts. It is also of paramount importance to learn from the countries themselves what they perceive as the key capacity building needs. When these needs are articulated by the agencies themselves, development assistance is more impactful since there is more ownership and empowerment of the receiving partners.

The instrument for this study was designed by Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and administered to all countries as an email survey. This meant that the cost of collecting the data was negligible.

b) Other data collection

As is common in most studies like this, an element of desk research was necessary. This research greatly assisted in guiding analytical thought and supporting conclusions. Additionally, at the time of the design of the study, the need to solicit feedback from the main users of statistics was recognized. However, given the prevailing human resources and budgetary constraints, the study was able only to survey the central banks of the subregion who are key users and also important producers of economic statistics. Regrettably, other important users of statistics, who are also recognized to be major stakeholders in statistical development of the subregion could not be consulted for their views and recommendations even though it was hoped to engage them in focus group discussions which would have enriched the analysis.

² Countries targeted for this study included Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

B. Respondents and Response Rates

b) The Respondents in the study

The main respondents in this study are the national statistical agencies and the national central banks³ of the countries of the subregion. In all Caribbean countries these two national agencies constitute the major producers of statistics and indicators. Arguably, in the case of the former, their primary function is to produce relevant, reliable and timely statistics and indicators of a broad scope. However, in all countries social and agricultural statistics are produced by other departments of governments. The Ministries of Education and Health produce education and health statistics respectively, and the Ministry of Agriculture produces agricultural statistics. Despite this arrangement, the national statistical office (NSO) in each country is charged with the overall coordination and oversight of the production of all statistics and indicators at the national level. The main reason for this arrangement is that the NSO has the necessary professional competence and expertise in statistics whereas the other agencies collect the basic data from administrative sources. It is for this reason that all NSOs were invited to complete our questionnaires. In a few cases, direct contact was made with the responsible line ministries in order to facilitate the completion of the questionnaires.

The national central banks are the second largest producer of statistics and indicators in Caribbean countries. They are also a major user of statistics – particularly economic statistics. With respect to the production of statistics, the main focus of the banks is on specific areas of economic statistics. Hence, in a study like this, it is important to obtain feedback from these entities. All central banks of the subregion were therefore invited to complete our survey questionnaire as well.

d) Response Rates

Table 1 provides a summary of the responses to our survey. Cover letters together with the questionnaire were sent to all 21 English and Dutch speaking countries of the Caribbean. The questionnaire was sent to the NSO in all countries as well as to their respective central banks. The table shows that 16 or 76 percent of the national statistical offices returned the questionnaire fully completed. In the case of two other countries, one completed the section on economic statistics only and the other completed the section on social and environmental statistics only. Additionally, of the 10 central banks 4 of the subregion, 9 or approximately 90 percent responded to our questionnaire, with regards to the information that they produce.

TABLE 1
RESPONSE RATE BY INSTITUTION

Type of institution	Number of Emailed Questionnaires	Number of Responses received	Response rate (Percentage)
Central Bank	10	9	90.0
National Statistical Office	21	16	76.2
Total	31	26	83.9

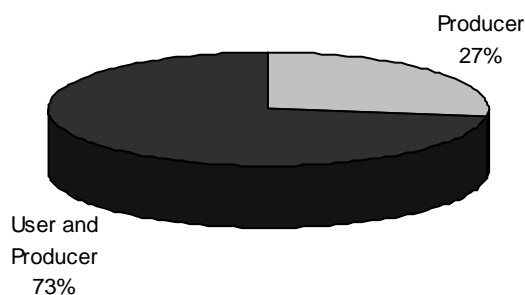
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of responses to regional survey

³ The East Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) provides central banking services for all countries of the OECS

⁴ In all but one case the Central Bank responding to the survey was single national monetary authority for that country; In the case of OECS the Central Bank is the monetary authority for the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union which comprises eight island economies.

One of the items on the questionnaire also assessed the status of the different institutions with respect to the production and use of indicators, thus, whether they were producers or users of data/indicators. Approximately 75 percent of the institutions indicated that they were both “users and producers”. The composition of respondents according to those two categories is given in figure 1 below.

FIGURE 1
STATUS OF NSOS AND CENTRAL BANKS IN DATA PRODUCTION AND USE



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of responses to regional survey

C. The Status of the Production of Economic Statistics in the Caribbean

1. Introduction

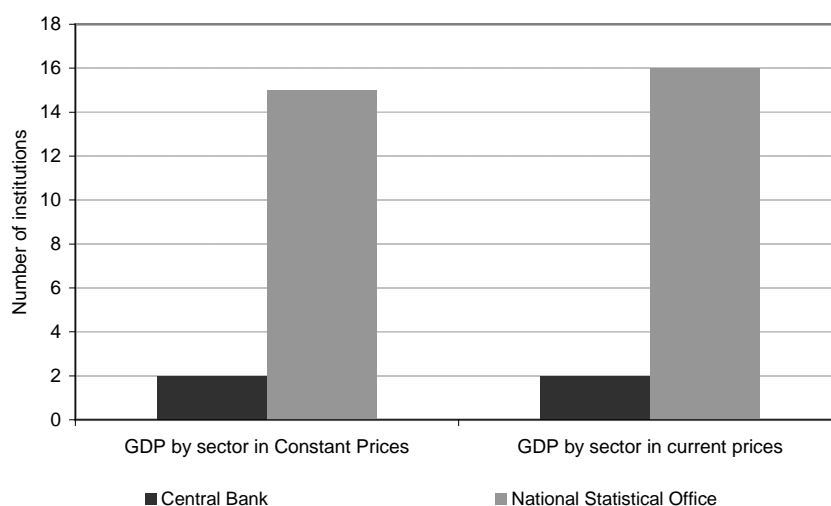
In planning the study considerable attention was paid to identify what could be considered as the minimum set of statistics and indicators in all of the key sectors that would be expected of countries of the Caribbean. This would then form the benchmark against which comparisons can be made. In this connection, several international reports on this issue were reviewed in order to guide the final decision. One such report was done in October 2010 by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in which they proposed a core set of economic statistics for Asia and the Pacific. This core set of statistics was put together by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the development of economic statistics after several group meetings and discussions. The TAG asserts that this minimum core “sets a clear and achievable target for the region by identifying the minimum set of economic statistics that all countries in Asia and the Pacific should have the capacity to produce by 2020 after taking into account their varying needs. ESCAP (2010, pg 12)” This core set of economic statistics for UNESCAP includes the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by the production and expenditure approaches in nominal and real prices, External trade in merchandise and services, Supply and Use tables, Balance of Payments statistics, among others. The CARICOM statistics section has similarly proposed a core set of economic statistics for the Caribbean which included all of the above together with others. Based on these reviews the questionnaire for the study was designed to include statistics and indicators that are common and internationally recognized. For Environmental and Social statistics and indicators the

benchmark that is used in the study is the set of MDG indicators. Current capacities of the various countries' can then be measured against the production of these minimum core of statistics.

a) The Status of the Production of selected National Accounts Statistics

Among the most useful economic statistics that are essential in measuring economic movements in the real sector of the economy of all countries are the set of National Accounts statistics. The most basic aggregates here are the GDP in nominal and real prices. As a minimum, most countries should be producing these using the production approach. Among other uses, the GDP in real prices provides an internationally accepted measure of the economic growth of the country. Figure 2 presents details on the current status of the production of the two measures in the countries of this study. Figure 2 additionally shows that of the 16 countries that responded the NSOs were responsible for producing the GDP in current prices. However with respect to the production of GDP in constant prices, all but one NSO produced that indicator. The responses also show that only one country is producing quarterly estimates of the GDP even though all countries compile this important indicator on an annual basis.

FIGURE 2
COMPILATION OF GDP BY SECTOR (IN CONSTANT AND CURRENT PRICES)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of responses to regional survey

In accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics⁵ government statistics should be relevant and timely. In this survey, the timeliness of production of statistics was also researched. The results of this are displayed in the accompanying graphs. They reveal that at the time of the survey in April 2011 whereas nine countries had produced these estimates for 2009 only five others had produced them for the year 2010. For one country the latest estimates of these statistics relate to the year 2006 or earlier. For maximum analytical purposes the GDP estimates for the previous year should be available by the first quarter of the subsequent year. For most Caribbean countries however, even though they may have preliminary estimates of these statistics in accordance

⁵ The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics outline 10 core principles that should be adhered to and implemented in the development of national statistical systems. The Principles were adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994. Available at: [<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/gpintro.aspx>].

with this benchmark, the previous year's estimates are often finalized by the middle of the subsequent year.

Countries are also encouraged to produce the GDP estimates by the expenditure method. This is important for many reasons and also constitutes an international recommendation. However, the production of these estimates using this approach and following the international guidelines often presents more challenges to the national statistical authorities since data demands are higher. It is noted that the East Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) in conjunction with the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) have recently teamed up to assist the eastern Caribbean countries to improve estimates by this approach. Currently these countries are compiling these statistics but the component of private final consumption estimate is found as a residual. In addition to the four countries from the ECCB region who responded to our survey, all of the other countries who responded reported that they are compiling these statistics according to the expenditure approach.

The survey also assessed the challenges with the production of these statistics and indicators. Possible options that were included on the questionnaire were: Limited or Inadequately Trained Staff; Low Demand from Users and Lack of Standardization. The results for both indicators displayed in table 2 below revealed that more than 80 percent of the countries regard their main challenge as either limited or inadequately trained staff. Only one country reported their main challenge to be low demand or poor response by the data suppliers.

TABLE 2
CHALLENGES WITH DATA PRODUCTION OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS DATA

		Limited Staffing	Inadequate trained personnel	Low demand (from users)	Source data and low response	Total
GDP by sector (in current prices)	Central Bank	1	0	0	0	1
	National Statistical Office	6	2	1	1	10
	Total	7	2	1	1	11
GDP by sector (in constant prices)	Central Bank	1	0	0	0	1
	National Statistical Office	9	0	1	1	11
	Total	10	0	1	1	12

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of responses to regional survey

Another key area of economic statistics, the availability of which was researched in the survey was the Supply and Use Tables (SUT)⁶. Both Systems of National Accounts (SNA) for 1993 and 1998 requires countries to compile SUT. In accordance with these international guidelines "the annual estimates of gross value added and its components as well as output, intermediate consumption, final consumption expenditure and the GDP estimates should all have their origin in the SUT"⁷. These tables help to check the consistency of the flows of goods and services as well as the cost of the various industries. Additionally, they help to analyze the link and the interaction between

⁶ Supply and use tables are the main macroeconomic tool used by statisticians or economist for compiling estimates for many of the components of national accounts. They provide a coordinating framework for checking the consistency of economic statistics on flows of goods and services obtained from different kinds of statistical sources. Available from: [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesF/SeriesF_77E.pdf].

⁷ <http://www.statssa.gov.za/newsletters/NationalAccounts012005.pdf>.

final demand and the levels of industrial output. SUT can be further used to generate a Social Accounting Matrix⁸ (SAM) which affords even more breadth and depth in socioeconomic analyses.

In the survey, countries were asked whether they are compiling SUT and their latest year of compilation. Just over half the countries who responded to our survey reported that they do compile SUT. However, of the 11 institutions reported on the production of SUT one NSO reported compiling on an annual basis and had produced tables for 2009. In all other cases the latest year reported was 2006 or earlier. The major challenge in connection with the compilation of these tables was either limited staffing or inadequately trained personnel. Table 3 displays the responses received by NSOs who reported on this indicator.

TABLE 3
COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION OF SUT BY NSOS IN THE SUBREGION

Challenges with data production	Latest available year/ period	Periodicity		Total
		Annually	Other	
Limited Staffing	2009	1	0	1
	2006 or earlier	1	4	5
Inadequate trained personnel	2006 or earlier	0	2	2

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of responses to regional survey

The informal sector is very significant in the Caribbean. A recent survey of the informal sector of St. Lucia using the ‘1-2 Methodology’⁹ revealed this important information. It is therefore important to assess its contribution to the national economies. The SNA 2008 strongly recommends this in order to enrich the accuracy of the final GDP estimate. As a consequence, in this survey the countries were asked if they produce estimates of the informal sector’s contribution to their GDP. Only five countries reported that they are compiling estimates of this measure. Additionally, only one of these five countries had estimates for 2010; two had estimates for 2009 and one country had for 2008. Most countries once again reported that the main constraints here related to limited or inadequately trained personnel.

b) Merchandise Trade Statistics and Statistics on Trade in Services

Merchandise trade statistics constitute an account of a country’s total imports and exports of goods but excludes statistics on services. The compilation of merchandise trade statistics has always been a strong area for Caribbean countries. These results do support this showing that most countries (81 percent) reported that they are compiling “Gross Imports” as well as “Gross Exports”. However, what is surprising is that two of the countries which responded to our survey reported that they do not compile either of these aggregate statistics. In terms of timeliness, one country reported having compiled trade statistics for 2010 whereas the others have only compiled for 2009 or earlier years. As before, the greatest challenge that most countries are facing in the production of these data is limited or inadequately trained personnel. Another two countries reported that their main challenge relates to “Standardization”.

⁸ Social Accounting Matrix is a framework for representing the national accounts of a country in a matrix-form which elaborates linkages between the supply and use tables and institutional sector accounts. Available from: [<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/glossresults.asp?gID=507>].

⁹ The 1-2 Methodology refers to a specific mixed household-enterprise survey approach which was used for the conduct of the Informal Sector Survey in Saint Lucia. In the first phase of the “1-2 survey” a household labour force survey was administered to heads of households for the purposes of identifying persons involved in the informal sector. Informal enterprises identified in phase 1 were then the statistical units for the enterprise survey in phase 2.

With respect to statistics on trade in services, Caribbean countries have perennially encountered serious challenges to compile detailed statistics on trade in services. Despite this, the national central banks have lead the way in the compilation of the “Balance of Payments” (BOP) statistics for all countries. This survey also researched the status of the compilation of the BOP statistics. The results show that fifteen countries which responded to the survey are compiling this set of statistics. Two of these countries reported “Lack of Standardization” as their main challenge in the compilation of these statistics.

c) Consumer Price Indices

The regular compilation of the consumer price index is among the minimum core of economic statistics that have been identified for Caribbean countries. Among other important uses this statistic provides an internationally accepted measure of a country’s inflation rate. As a consequence of this importance the survey also researched the status of the production of these statistics. Fifteen NSOs responding to this question reported that they are producing these indices on a regular basis. Twelve countries are compiling them on a monthly basis and the others are doing so on a quarterly basis. One of the challenges that remain however is the high cost of conducting regular household expenditure surveys that are necessary in order to update these statistics. From these surveys the Average Shopping Basket can be derived and the goods in this basket are then priced over an appropriate period. Experts advise that after approximately five years this basket can become unrepresentative of consumer expenditure and a new survey is then needed. Most countries of the Caribbean can only afford to do such surveys every 10 years. Much attention is currently being devoted to assisting the countries of the subregion to institute multipurpose household surveys that could include an expenditure component in order to facilitate data that can be used to update this index. The current results also show that six countries reported their major challenge to be either Limited or Inadequate Staffing whereas another three countries see the Lack of Standardization as their major challenge.

d) Industrial Production Indices

The survey also included a question on the compilation of industrial production indices. These indices help to assess structural movements in the key sectors of the economy such as manufacturing, mining and utilities. The indices are thus useful in assessing overall economic development. The responses show that only 4 of 13 NSO that responded to this question are compiling these indices. Of these, two countries reported the compilation of the indices for the year 2010 on a quarterly basis and another country on a monthly basis. The other two countries did not indicate their latest available year. With respect to the challenges countries face to produce these statistics four reported Limited Staffing and one Inadequate trained personnel as their main challenges. One other country stated that their main challenge was the Low Demand from users. The others who responded did not provide a reason for not compiling these indices.

D. The Status of the Production of Social and Environmental Statistics in the Caribbean

1. Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) adopted by world leaders in 2000 to be achieved by 2015 provided concrete benchmarks for grappling with poverty in all its forms. All leaders agreed that they should work towards these common goals, ensuring that human development reaches everyone. In order to assess their progress towards these goals the world leaders also agreed on several indicators of achievement which countries should compile on a regular basis to monitor such achievements. At the opening of a recent meeting held in Japan to review achievements, the Secretary General of the

United Nations made the following statement: “The MDGs are more than just targets for governments. They are a rallying point for all partners -- civil society, the private sector, foundations and citizens everywhere who care about our world.”¹⁰

It is for these reasons, among others, that in our present study we decided to research the status of the compilation of the MDG indicators. If the latter are not being generated it is difficult to assess progress. The survey questionnaire therefore included a selection of indicators from each of the seven (7) Goals and countries were asked whether they were compiling them and what was their more recent output here. They were also invited to report any challenges they may have with respect to the compilation of these indicators. Box 1 summarizes the responses of the countries to the social and environmental questions in the questionnaire.

BOX 1 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Millennium Development Goals represent an agenda for reducing poverty and improving lives through a global partnership by 2015. The adoption of the MDGs reflects a collective commitment of all countries to integrate those goals in their national development plans and priorities and work towards the attainment of those universal objectives within the 15-year time frame.

The eight goals of the MDGs comprise 21 quantifiable targets and 60 indicators. The first seven goals, which are featured and assessed in this study, are directed at the overarching goal of reducing poverty in all its forms. The table below lists that first 7 goals and targets along with the selected indicators that were featured in this study.

<i>MDG Goals and Targets</i>	<i>Indicators for Monitoring Progress</i>
GOAL 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	
Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	1.1 Proportion of population below \$1 per day 1.2 Poverty gap ratio 1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young children	1.5 Employment-to-population ratio
Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age 1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
GOAL 2: Achieve universal primary education	
Target 2.A: Ensure, that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education 2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grader of primary 2.3 Literacy rate of 15 -24 year-olds, women and men
GOAL 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	
Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	3.1 Ratios of boys to girls in primary, secondary and tertiary education 3.2 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
GOAL 4: Reduce child mortality	
Target 4.A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	4.1 Under-five mortality rate 4.2 Infant mortality rate 4.3 Proportion of 1-year old children immunized against measles

(continues)

¹⁰ Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations video message to follow up meeting on the MDGs held in Tokyo, Japan between June 2-3, 2011.

Box 1 Millennium Development Goals (concluded)

MDG Goals and Targets	Indicators for Monitoring Progress
GOAL 5: Improve maternal health	
Target 5.A: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	5.1 Maternal mortality ratio 5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
Target 5.B: Achieve by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate
GOAL 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	
Target 6.A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years
Target 6.B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	6.5 Proportion of population with HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs
Target 6.C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria	6.6 Incidence and death associated with malaria 6.9 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis
GOAL 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	
Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest 7.2 CO2 emissions, total, per capita, and per \$1 GDP (PPP) 7.3 Proportion of total water resources used
Target 7.B: Proportion of biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected
Source: United Nations Statistical Division, Millennium Development Goals Indicators Database, [http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/default.aspx].	

a) The status of the compilation of selected indicators on Poverty, Goal 1, in the Caribbean

The first indicator which countries agreed to measure under Goal 1 is the percentage of the population below the national poverty line, or the Poverty Headcount Ratio. This indicator affords a measure of the proportion of the population that are regarded as poor in accordance with a national standard. Since the middle of the 1990's most Caribbean countries have conducted household surveys to assess poverty using the national poverty line. However, countries face several challenges with the generation of this measure. Firstly, because of the high cost involved the required household survey cannot be replicated on a regular basis. Hence, between 1995 and at present many countries have only been able to conduct two surveys. Jamaica is the only Caribbean country that does an annual Standard of Living Survey from which updated poverty estimates are generated. However, even when poverty lines are compiled there is a danger in comparing them if they are not adjusted for exchange rates fluctuations. Resultant from Caribbean countries not compiling purchasing power parities (PPPs) on any regular basis, these poverty lines are not adjusted by PPPs. These measures can therefore be misleading if they are compared across time and between countries. The World Bank produces estimates of PPPs for countries but applies these only to make estimates of the proportion of the population below US\$ 1 per day. Because of these challenges, the study included questions only on the PPP-based internationally comparable US\$ 1 per day poverty line.

Five of the thirteen countries that responded indicated that they are compiling the *proportion of the population below \$1 (PPP) per day*. One country however indicated that the compilation of this indicator was 'on hold'. One country reported that their latest estimate of this indicator was for the year 2009 and that it was compiled annually. Another two countries reported 2008 as their latest available year for that indicator but the indicator was being compiled very irregularly. Four of the seven countries responding to the question on Major Challenges reported that inadequate trained personnel were their major challenge. This result is indicative of the urgent need for capacity enhancement. In addition to the pre-coded challenges in the questionnaire, one country cited the "lack of national consensus on methodology" as a national challenge.

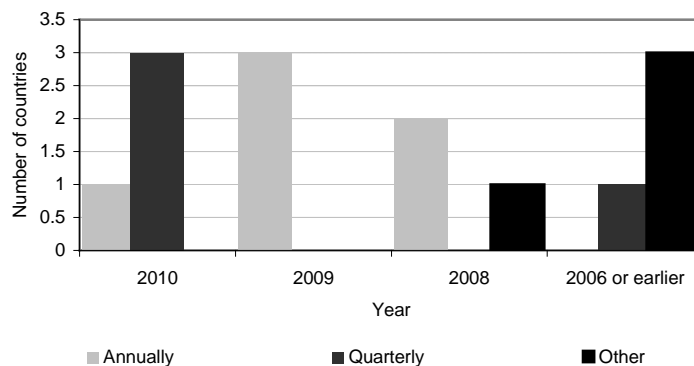
The study did assess the status of the compilation of the *Poverty Gap Ratio*. In accordance with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) 2003 publication on the “Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals”¹¹ the Poverty Gap Ratio is a measure of the “poverty deficit” of the population at large. The publication further explains that this deficit “is the per capita amount of resources that would be needed to bring all poor people above the poverty line through perfectly targeted cash transfers”. A total of seven countries out of fourteen reported that they compiled this indicator. However, only one country compiled it annually with the latest year of compilation being 2009. Two other countries have an estimate for 2009 but these countries compiled the indicator irregularly. One country reported that their latest estimate of this indicator was for 2008 but it was compiled every five years. Four countries indicated that their most serious challenge was inadequately trained personnel; and the recurring issue of “no national consensus on methodology” was recorded for one country.

The third indicator under Goal 1 that was researched in this study was the *Share of the Poorest Quintile in National Consumption*. This indicator expresses the consumption or income of the poorest 1/5 of the population as a percentage of total consumption or income and is therefore a measure of relative inequality in the population. Even though the World Bank usually calculates this indicator from national household survey data the survey conducted for this study revealed that nine of the fourteen countries responding to this question affirmed that they compiled this indicator. Three countries produced it annually; with the remaining six countries producing it at different intervals. Three countries reported having their latest available indicator for the year 2009. Most of the countries who reported on this indicator cited their main challenge was the lack of trained personnel. For one country, “discrepancies with household surveys or national accounts” posed an additional challenge.

The *employment to population ratio* was another indicator that was researched in this survey. This ratio is not an MDG indicator but one that is considered to be part of the minimum core set of indicators which countries should be compiling. It is defined as the proportion of the economy’s working age population that is employed. In most countries this indicator is ranked as important as the unemployment rate since it provides information on the potential of the economy to create jobs. A high overall ratio is considered a good indicator but should not be considered in isolation. Figure 3 summarizes the responses from countries to the questions on this indicator. Fifteen of sixteen countries who responded reported on the compilation this indicator. With regard to timeliness, four countries had compiled this ratio for the year 2010; and of those, three compiled this indicator on a quarterly basis. For another three countries, their latest estimate was for the year 2009, and for a further three, their latest was for 2008. The greatest challenge here for most countries was limited staffing but an equal number of countries reported either inadequate training, lack of standardization or insufficient equipment as their major challenge.

¹¹ “Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals”, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/95 ISBN 92-1-161467-8

FIGURE 3
PERIODICITY AND LATEST AVAILABLE YEAR OF THE INDICATOR
“EMPLOYMENT TO POPULATION RATIO”



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of responses to regional survey

For Goal 1 the compilation of two additional indicators was researched. These are the prevalence of underweight children under five years of age and the proportion of population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption. The first indicator refers to underweight children and reflects child malnutrition. The second measures the prevalence of undernourishment in the population at large. Both indicators are closely linked to poverty and sustained economic development and countries are encouraged to compile them regularly in order to assess factors such as the level of food insecurity. Nine of the fifteen countries reported that they compile this indicator which measured malnutrition in children. Five countries reported that they compiled this indicator on an annual basis; whereas, the others compiled it at different points in time. The latest estimate available for two of these countries is for 2009; two countries have estimates up to 2008 and four countries for 2006 or earlier. With respect to the indicator measuring malnutrition in the population at large only four countries currently compile it. Three of the four countries reported compiling this indicator very infrequently; with 2008 being the latest available estimate for one country only. The results showed that the biggest challenges to the production of both indicators were either limited or poorly trained staff.

b) The status of the compilation of selected indicators for Goal 2 - Education

The indicators in Goal 2 seek to assess the achievement of universal primary education. The status of the compilation of five indicators related to this goal was researched in the survey. These indicators included Net Enrolment Rate in Primary Education, Net Enrolment Rate in Secondary Education, the Proportion of Pupils starting Grade 1 who reach the last Grade of Primary Education, Mean Years of Schooling and Literacy Rate of 15-24 year olds, Men and Women.

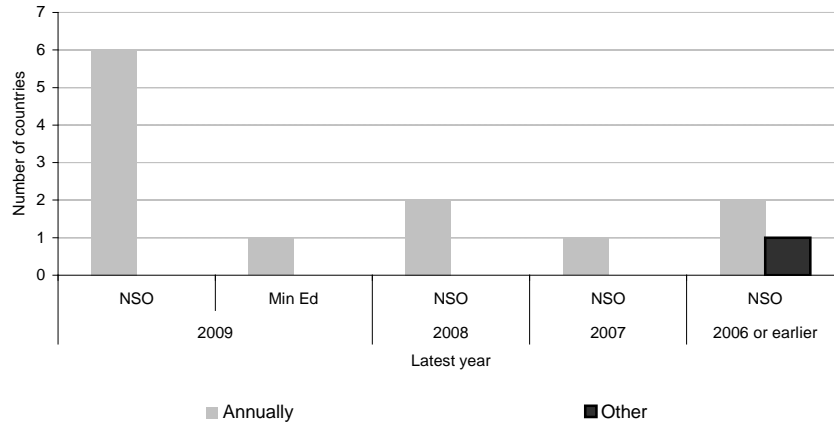
For the indicator measuring *net enrolment in primary education* 13 of 16 countries who responded to these questions reported that they are compiling this indicator. Seven of these countries reported that their latest estimate is for the year 2009; two countries had estimates up to 2008, one country for 2007 and the remaining had estimates for 2006 or earlier. Five countries stated that their biggest challenge to the production of this indicator relates to either limited or inadequately trained staff. One other country stated more specifically that their major challenges were related to the lack of detailed population estimates.

Sixteen countries also responded to the questions on the indicator *net enrolment in secondary education* and of these 12 are compiling it. Six of these countries compiled this indicator on an annual

basis and have produced their latest estimate for the year 2009. Two countries had produced estimates up to the year 2008; and the remaining countries had estimates for 2007 or earlier. Challenges here are identical to those for the compilation of the primary education enrolment rate. Figures 4 and 5 below show the periodicity of compilation and latest available years for the two indicators net enrolment in primary education and net enrolment in secondary education, respectively.

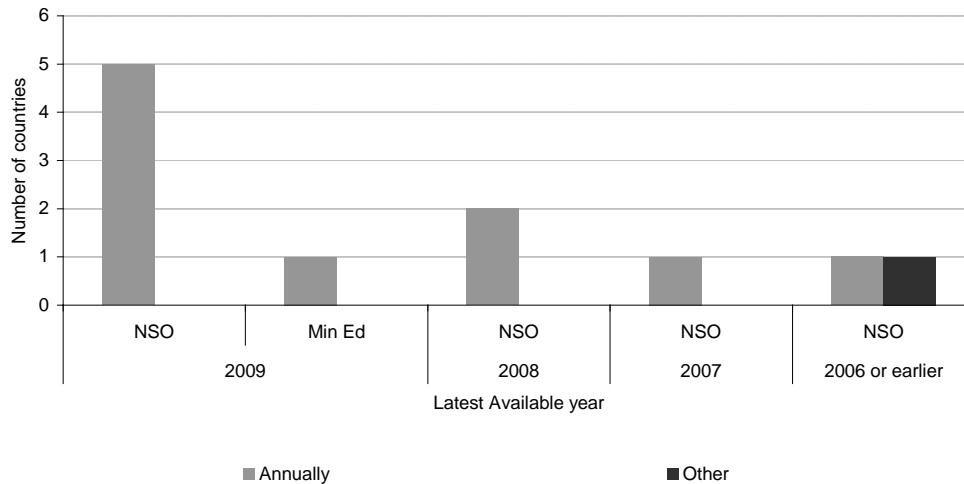
The *proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach the last grade of primary education* is a measure of the success of the education system's success of keeping children at school from one grade to the next. As such it is also a measure of the education system's internal efficiency. In our survey, only seven out of 15 (47 percent) countries reported that they are compiling this indicator and all compile it annually. The latest estimate for four countries is for the year 2009; and each of the remaining countries had estimates for 2008, 2007 and 2006 or earlier. The biggest challenge here, as reported by most countries related to either limited or inadequately trained staff.

FIGURE 4
COMPILATION OF INDICATOR “NET ENROLMENT IN PRIMARY EDUCATION” BY PERIODICITY AND LATEST YEAR OF PRODUCTION



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of responses to regional survey

FIGURE 5
COMPILATION OF INDICATOR “NET ENROLMENT IN SECONDARY EDUCATION” BY PERIODICITY AND LATEST YEAR OF PRODUCTION



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, (ECLAC), on the basis of responses to regional survey

The *mean years of schooling* is not an MDG indicator but has recently been used in compiling the Human Development Index developed by the United Nations Development Programme. Given its importance in compiling this annual index of development its availability among the countries of the Caribbean was researched in the survey. The results showed that only 5 out of 15 (33 percent) countries which responded to this question affirmed that they are compiling it. Four countries

are compiling this indicator annually; and one compiles it irregularly. In terms of availability of the indicator three countries reported estimates for 2009, one country for 2008 and the other for 2006 or earlier. For this indicator each of the five countries reported having different main challenges. These challenges included limited staff, inadequately trained staff, insufficient equipment and lack of standardization.

The last indicator from this section that was researched in the survey was the *literacy rate of 15-24 year olds, men and women*. For Caribbean countries the very definition of the term 'literacy' presents several problems since this is not harmonized. The internationally accepted definition of literacy relates to "the proportion of the population who can both read and write with understanding a short simple statement on everyday life" but even to measure this presents very many problems conceptually, technically and logistically. Only 5 of the 15 countries who responded to this question indicated that they compiled this indicator. Furthermore, the latest available estimate for one of these countries is for the year 2008 and it was done on an ad hoc basis. The other two countries reported having latest estimates for 2006 or earlier. For this indicator most countries reported their main challenges as either inadequately trained staff or lack of standardization.

c) The status of the compilation of selected indicators for MDG 3 – Gender Related Issues

Only two indicators, namely, the Ratio of boys to girls in primary, secondary and tertiary education and the Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament were researched in this section. With respect to the former indicator, 11 out of 16 (69 percent) countries who responded affirmed that they compile this indicator and they all do so annually. With regards to the latter indicator 12 of 15 (80 percent) countries reported compiling it mainly on an annual basis. Two countries reported that their main challenge with the compilation of this indicator was a low demand from the users.

d) Compiling indicators for Goal 4 – Child Health

The Goal 4 seeks to reduce child mortality by two thirds by the year 2015. Consequently, several child health related indicators have been agreed upon, in order to monitor progress towards this goal. In this study, the status of the compilation of the three MDG indicators was assessed. These indicators are the Under five Mortality Rate, the Infant Mortality Rate and the Proportion of one year old children Immunized against Measles.

With respect to the compilation of the *under five mortality rate* the results show that 13 out of the 16 (81 percent) countries who responded are compiling this indicator. Approximately 50 percent of the countries compiled this indicator annually and two countries have compiled 2010 estimates. For another three countries, their latest estimate was for the year 2009; and two countries for 2006 or earlier. Four countries reported that limited staffing was their greatest obstacle to the compilation of this indicator. One other country reported "delays with getting data from responsible department" as their key challenge.

The *infant mortality rate* (IMR) is compiled by expressing all infant deaths in a particular year per thousand live births in that year; and it is a very important social indicator. Aside from conclusive indications of a country's health conditions it is also a good indicator of overall development. For these very reasons, for most countries the compilation of this indicator on a regular basis is of high priority. A prevailing high IMR implies a deteriorating health infrastructure. When health conditions are poor, the overall life expectancy and levels of living of the population decrease. Fourteen of sixteen (88 percent) of the countries who responded that they compiled the IMR, and most countries compiled an annual estimate. The biggest challenge reported related was limited staffing or insufficient equipment. As with the previous indicator delays with getting data from responsible departments was also cited as a challenge.

The third indicator under Goal 4 that was researched in this study was the *proportion of 1-year old children immunized against measles*. This indicator is defined as the percentage of 1-year old children who have received at least one dose of the measles vaccine. There are several vaccine-preventable childhood diseases and measles is the leading cause of childhood deaths. It is for this very reason that many developing countries prioritize the financing of immunization among children against these diseases. The proportion immunized is indicative of the coverage and quality of the child health care within a country. In the survey for this study 13 countries provided responses to this indicator. Of these 9 or 69 percent affirmed that they compile this very important indicator. Additionally, one country reported producing this indicator irregularly. The data further showed that most countries which compiled this indicator do so annually and their greatest challenge has to do with limited staffing. One country also identified the high cost of conducting the MICS as a factor that limited the production of this indicator.

BOX I.2 MULTIPLE INDICATORS CLUSTER SURVEY AS A TOOL FOR MDG MONITORING

The Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) is a household survey programme developed by the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) for monitoring human development in general and the situation of children and women in particular. Since it was developed in the mid-1990's the MICS has been conducted in many Caribbean countries and has served as a key source of statistical information for a number of indicators.

With support from UNICEF and other development partners, a number of Caribbean countries have in the past conducted MICS. These surveys have enabled countries to produce estimates of a range of indicators in the areas of fertility, child mortality, nutrition, child health, environment, reproductive health, education, child protection, HIV/AIDS, orphans and maternal mortality.

Caribbean countries initially participated in the second round of surveys (MICS2) which was conducted between 1999 and 2001 and assessed the progress towards the goals and objectives set for 2000. The third round of surveys, MICS3, which was held in 2006, served as a monitoring tool for 21 of the MDG indicators. It therefore stood out as one of the single largest sources of data for MDG monitoring.

The following table shows the Caribbean countries that have conducted the different rounds of MICS since 2000.

MICS2	MICS3	MICS4
Cuba	Belize	Barbados
Dominican Republic	Cuba	Belize
Guyana	Guyana	Jamaica
Jamaica	Jamaica	Suriname
Suriname	Suriname	Trinidad and Tobago
	Trinidad and Tobago	

The latest round of surveys, MICS4, was conducted between 2009 and 2011.

Source: <http://www.childinfo.org/MICS>.

e) The status of the compilation of indicators under Goal 5 – Maternal Health in the Caribbean

Maternal health is also extremely important to the overall socio-economic development of any country. It is for this reason that the two key targets under the Goal to improve maternal health are to reduce the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by three quarters and to achieve universal access to reproductive health by the year 2015. In this study the status of three of the five indicators under this

goal, namely, the MMR, the proportion of births attended by skilled health physicians and the contraceptive prevalence rate, were assessed.

The *maternal mortality ratio* is a measure of deaths that are related to the pregnancies. This ratio relates to the number of women who die during pregnancy or childbirth from causes related to pregnancies inclusive of the management of such pregnancies. Eleven of sixteen (69 percent) countries who responded reported compiling this indicator on an annual basis. The latest available estimate for six countries was for the year 2009 or 2010. One country reported that their latest available estimate was for the year 2006 or earlier. Table 4 showed the periodicity of collection and latest available years for this indicator. The greatest challenge for most countries to compile this measure was limited staffing.

TABLE 4
AVAILABILITY OF THE INDICATORS “MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE” AND
“PROPORTION OF BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL

Year	Maternal Mortality Ratio		Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	
	Annually	Annually	Annually	Irregularly
2010	2	2		
2009	4	1		
2006 or earlier	1	1		1
Total Reporting	7	4		1

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of responses to regional survey

The *proportion of births attended by skilled physicians* is the percentage of deliveries attended by persons who are trained to provide the essential supervision and care under such circumstances. In order to accurately compile this indicator a very good system of death registration is essential. Very often the lack of such a system can pose the most serious challenges to the accurate production of this estimate. In the survey 9 out of 15 (60 percent) countries who responded affirmed that they compiled this indicator mainly on an annual basis. The latest available estimate for two countries was the year 2010, one country in 2009; and one country in 2006 or earlier. Again, the most serious challenge reported dealt with limited staffing. Additionally, one country reported the cost of conducting MICS as a challenge.

The *contraceptive prevalence rate* is the third Goal 5 indicator that was researched in this study. This rate relates to women aged 15-49 years, or their sexual partners who are practicing any form of contraceptive use. This indicator is useful since among other things it helps in measuring access to reproductive health services which is crucial to know in order to improve reproductive health. The results indicated that only 6 of the 15 (40 percent) countries who responded to these questions were compiling this indicator. However, only three of the six countries reported their latest available estimates. Estimates for these countries are available for 2009, 2008, 2006 or earlier.

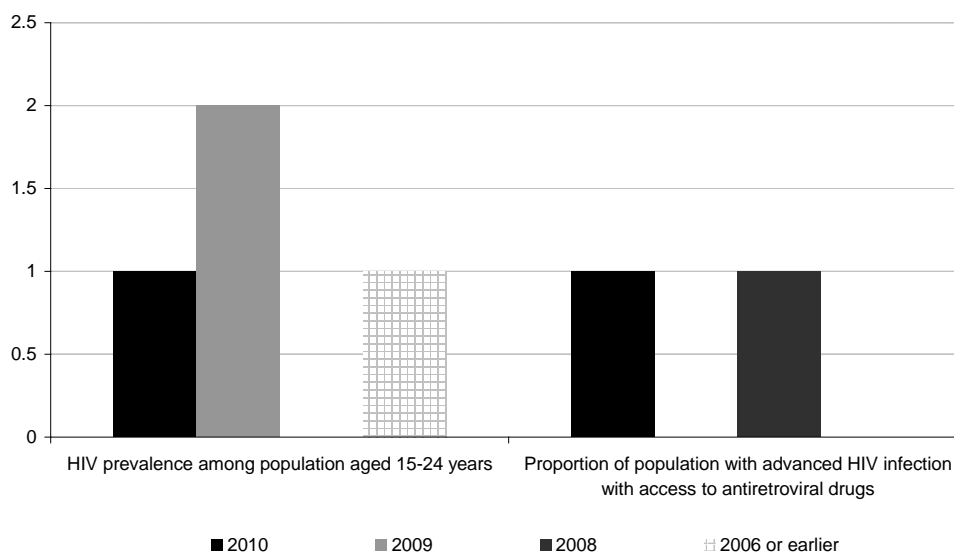
f) The status of the production of selected indicators under Goal 6 in Caribbean Countries

Goal 6 goal has as its primary objective the combating of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. One of its main targets is to halt and begin to reverse the trend of HIV/AIDS and malaria by the year 2015. In this study the status of the Caribbean with respect to the production of some indicators that were agreed to monitor the achievement of this goal is researched.

The *prevalence of HIV among the population aged 15-24 years* is one related indicator that was researched in the survey for the study. Sixteen countries provided responses to these questions

and seven (44 percent) reported that they were compiling this indicator, as displayed in Figure 6. All countries who compile the indicator do so annually; with only one country having an estimate for 2010. For the remaining three countries the available estimates were for 2009 and for 2006 or earlier. Limited staffing was reported to be the most significant challenge to compiling this indicator.

FIGURE 6
COMPILATION OF THE MDG INDICATORS “HIV PREVALENCE AMONG POPULATION AGED 15 – 24” AND “PROPORTION OF POPULATION WITH ADVANCED HIV INFECTION WITH ACCESS TO ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUGS”



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of responses to regional survey

The study also researched the status of compilation of *the proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs*. Only 5 of the 16 (31 percent) countries who responded to this indicator affirmed that they were compiling it. Only one of these countries has the estimate for the year 2010. Three of the five countries did not report their latest year's estimate. For two of these countries limited staffing is the greatest challenge. One other country reported inadequately trained personnel and another low demand from users as their main challenges.

The status of compilation of the *incidence and death rates associated with malaria* was also researched in the survey. The results showed that 7 out of 15 (47 percent) reported that they are compiling this indicator. Most countries compile annual estimates and two countries had estimates for 2010. The latest for one other country was 2009. Limited staffing and lack of standardization were once again reported to be the main challenges for countries to compile this indicator.

Finally for this section, countries were asked to report on their compilation of *the incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis*. The MDGs have a thrust on the eradication of poverty and curing tuberculosis is of paramount importance in addressing poverty and inequality. Hence, countries agree to monitor this situation by compiling this indicator on a regular basis. For the Caribbean the results of this study showed that 9 of 16 (56 percent) countries who responded were compiling this indicator; with most countries doing so annually. Two countries reported having estimates for 2010 and one for 2009. The others did not provide the year of their latest available

estimate. Again, the greatest challenges for most countries were limited staffing and lack of standardization.

g) Compiling indicators for Goal 7 in the Caribbean

The main objectives of Goal 7 are to ensure environmental sustainability. In order to monitor the progress towards this goal member states of the United Nations agreed to compute some indicators on a regular basis. Among these are the CO₂ emissions per capita, the proportion of land area covered by forest, the proportion of terrestrial and maritime areas protected and the proportion of total water resources used. The computing of these indicators by countries of the Caribbean was researched in this study.

Two of fourteen (14 percent) countries of the Caribbean reported that they are compiling the indicator relating to *CO₂ emissions per capita*. Countries produced this indicator annually but reported the latest available years as being 2008 and 2007. For the other country their latest available measure was for 2007. Countries not reporting on this indicator cited limited staffing and inadequately trained personnel as the main challenges.

For *the proportion of land area covered by forest* the status of compilation is somewhat better since 9 out of 15 (60 percent) countries were computing this indicator. Three countries compiled this indicator annually and the latest estimate for one country was for the year 2009. Two other countries had indicators for 2008 as their latest estimate. The other four countries did not report on their latest estimate. Two countries had estimates for 2010, but reported that this indicator was compiled on an ad hoc basis. Furthermore, one country stated that low demand from users was its greatest challenge.

Responses from countries for information related to the *proportion of terrestrial and maritime areas protected* were very low. Of the 12 countries that responded, three countries affirmed that they were compiling this indicator. Two of those countries compiled this indicator annually and had estimates for 2009. Although countries' challenges to compile this indicator would have been very interesting to know, most countries did not provide responses to the question.

An equally poor rate of response was obtained to *the proportion of total water resources used*. Even though 10 countries responded to this indicator, only one affirmed that they were compiling it. This country's latest estimate was for the year 2009 and produces the indicator annually. It was reported that the main challenge to compile this indicator related to inadequately trained personnel.

E. Collaborating, Developing Partnerships and Networking

Statistical development is crucially dependent on collaboration, building partnerships and networking. Because of the highly specialized nature of the field of statistics, the knowledge experience and proven skills that more developed societies have established can be suitably adapted to meet the challenges of developing regions such as that of the Caribbean. It is true that statistical development is extremely costly. However, very often the evidence show that the gains achieved from investing in the development of statistical expertise and the consequential promotion of an evidence based culture far surpass these initially high input costs.

In an effort to evaluate the experiences of the subregion in fostering collaboration, building partnerships and promoting networking a set of questions were also included in the survey questionnaire that was used for the study. Table 5 shows the institutions or agencies that have assisted the Caribbean countries in furthering statistical development. Among these agencies CARICOM stands out as the organization that has provided assistance to most of the countries of the Caribbean. Nineteen institutions reported obtaining assistance from this regional organization. However it should be noted that most of this funding assistance would have been obtained originally by CARICOM from

the various donor agencies such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Kingdom, Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union (EU); as well as, from the different funds of the United Nations. CARICOM has been quite successful in attracting significant donor support on behalf of the countries of the Caribbean and they should continue to play this role. However, it should be noted that the countries that were surveyed reported CARICOM as the source of support rather than the primary donor, who may be one of the other agencies or organization that operates within the Caribbean. In terms of direct support most countries reported the IMF and UNDP as the main organizations. A significant amount of assistance has also been provided to countries of the Caribbean from UNICEF, the European Union and the ILO, among others.

TABLE 5
DONOR AGENCIES THAT HAVE ASSISTED WITH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE
SUBREGION

Pre-selected list of agencies				Agencies identified by respondents			
Agency	Central Bank	Ministry	NSO	Other Agencies	Central Bank	Ministry	NSO
CDB	0	0	8	CARTAC	1	0	0
PARIS21	0	0	3	Commonwealth Secretariat	2	0	4
European Union	0	0	6	Dutch Central Bank	2	0	0
CARICOM	3	1	15	ECLAC	0	0	1
World Bank	1	0	2	OECS	0	0	1
IMF	6	0	4	CDC	0	1	0
DFID	0	0	3	IDB	0	0	2
ILO	0	0	6	UNFPA	0	0	1
UNDP	0	1	9	CFTC	0	0	1
UNICEF	0	0	7	Dutch Financial Markets Authority	1	0	0
UNESCO	1	0	2				
CIDA	0	1	2				
UNEP	0	1	0				
FAO	8	1	16				
PAHO/WHO	0	1	1				

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the basis of responses to the Regional Survey.

The survey also researched the type of specific support that countries have required in the past to facilitate the production of statistics and indicators. Table 6 presents a summary of these responses. The data in this table clearly showed that countries required Technical Support as a priority. Fifteen of the NSOs surveyed identified this type of technical assistance as their main requirement. Eight countries also reported that Access to Financial Resources was also an important type of assistance that countries have required.

TABLE 6
TYPES OF SUPPORT OR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FOR PRODUCTION OF INDICATORS AND STATISTICS

		Access to financial resources	Technical Support	Assistance with research	
Type of institution	Central Bank	Count	1	7	1
		%	10.00%	30.40%	20.00%
	NSO	Count	8	15	4
		%	80.00%	65.20%	80.00%
	Ministry	Count	1	1	0
		%	10.00%	4.30%	0.00%
Total		Count	10	23	5
		%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the basis of responses to the Regional Survey.

Countries were also asked to report their specific requirements for support or assistance in developing or building their capacity to compile economic, social, gender or environmental indicators. Further, if they did require such assistance, they were asked to indicate the specific capacities that needed to be developed. Table 7 shows the results to these questions. With respect to support for the production of economic indicators six NSO's and three national Central Banks reported that they continue to require technical assistance to help with the compilation of their economic statistics and indicators. Five NSO's and three Central Banks require help with technical training of their staff and one NSO stated that it would require financial assistance in this area. For the compilation of social statistics and indicators four NSO's indicated their need for support in terms of technical assistance for the production of gender indicators. Three NSO's would like technical training and three would like access to financial assistance in their work on gender statistics and indicators. Assistance required in the area of the compilation of environmental indicators included six countries who reported requiring technical assistance, and five requiring technical training. One country would also like to access financial assistance to generate their environmental indicators.

TABLE 7
TYPE OF SUPPORT REQUIRED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF INDICATORS

Type of support	Type of Institution	Type of indicator			
		Economic	Social	Gender	Environment
Grants/Financial Assistance	Central Bank	0	0	0	0
	NSO	1	4	3	1
Technical Assistance	Central Bank	3	0	0	0
	NSO	6	3	4	5
	Ministry	0	0	0	1
Technical Training	Central Bank	2	0	0	0
	NSO	6	5	4	6
	Ministry	0	1	1	0

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the basis of responses to the Regional Survey.

The countries in the survey were also invited to record the specific capacities that they identified as needing to be developed. Four preset categories of capacities, namely, Data Collection Methods, Qualitative Research Techniques, Quantitative Research Techniques and Techniques of Generating Indicators were included in the questionnaires but countries were also invited to specify any other capacity that they may deem as important. The results to this question are summarized in table 8. From these tables it can be seen that 13 NSO's and five national Central Banks indicated that as a priority, they would like assistance in the area of techniques for generating indicators. Second in importance was the development of capacities in data collection methodologies. Ten countries and

five Central Banks ranked this area of capacity enhancement as their second priority. However, it should be noted that additionally, 10 countries and four central banks regarded capacity building in quantitative research techniques as another area of development that is in need of developmental assistance.

TABLE 8
SPECIFIC CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY INSTITUTION

Type of institution		Data Collection methodology	Techniques for generating indicators	Qualitative Research Techniques	Quantitative Research Techniques
Central Bank	Count	4	4	2	3
	%	26.70%	22.20%	20.00%	21.40%
NSO	Count	10	13	8	10
	%	66.70%	72.20%	80.00%	71.40%
Ministry of Health	Count	1	1	0	1
	%	6.70%	5.60%	0.00%	7.10%
Total	Count	15	18	10	14
	%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the basis of responses to the Regional Survey.

The modality of capacity building activities is very important since activities should aim at enhancing maximum impact. It is known that some modalities are more impactful than others and in times of dwindling financial resources the donor community is justifiably insisting that the impact of their assistance be maximized. In the survey, countries were asked to specify the preferred modalities through which capacity building could be channelled to their organization. Four modalities were preset but countries were again invited to include and specify any other such modality. The responses to this question are presented in Table 9.

TABLE 9
PREFERRED CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES REQUIRED BY OFFICE OR AGENCY

Type of institution		National Training workshop on specific indicators	Assistance through 1-2 year project	In-house training from experts	Access to technical advisor or expert
Central Bank	Count	3	0	4	3
	%	23.1%	.0%	25.0%	27.3%
NSO	Count	9	8	11	8
	%	69.2%	88.9%	68.8%	72.7%
Ministry of Health	Count	1	1	1	0
	%	7.7%	11.1%	6.3%	.0%
Total	Count	13	9	16	11
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the basis of responses to the Regional Survey.

It is clear from the table that most countries identified In-house training from Experts as their top method to build capacities of their office or agency. Eleven NSOs and five Central Banks identified this as their preferred modality. Nine countries and four central banks also identified National Training Workshops on specific Indicators as their second method of preference, and seven countries together with four central banks recorded the Access to a Technical Advisor or Expert as their third choice.

F. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study shows that the Caribbean continues to struggle to enhance its statistical capacities. Even though some progress has been made in the area of economic statistics, significant gaps still remain in this area of statistics. Additionally, more serious gaps remain in all other areas of statistics. Capacity enhancement to compile social and environmental statistics is crucial for assessing progress towards achieving the MDGs; as well as, other internationally agreed development goals. However, the data revealed serious deficiencies in these areas of statistics. Capacities must also be sustained since the need for updated statistics is continuous and expanding. The Caribbean faces increased demands for evidence based policies and decisions and these can only be addressed through accurate, relevant, and timely statistical data of a very broad scope. Consequently, arising from the analyses in this study, the following measures are highly recommended as immediate steps to address this situation:

a) General Recommendations:

- i) Evidence based policies and decisions are crucially dependent on reliable and timely statistical data which the survey shows are noticeably lacking in the Caribbean. Both the governments of the Caribbean and the regional development partners therefore need to urgently find ways to address this serious situation.
- ii) The survey also showed that the training of staff at statistical agencies is the most urgent need expressed by all countries in all areas assessed. All partners, inclusive of the governments and donor agencies should therefore re-think, re-plan and re-programme much more support to statistical agencies.
- iii) Formal training arms of existing academic institutions operating in the Caribbean should immediately introduce appropriate training that will rapidly address the most urgent needs of the statistical organizations of the subregion.
- iv) The approach to statistical development in the Caribbean should involve both the users and the producers of statistics and should encourage and enhance a 'culture' of statistics among all segments of the population.
- v) The presence of this culture should be expressed by ensuring that the appropriate statistical environment is established in all government ministries and private sector entities.
- vi) In order to accomplish all of the above it is urgent that countries be provided the necessary equipment, including modern access to the internet, computer hardware and software and training in the use and maintenance of these equipment.
- vii) In order to maximize the benefits to country donor agencies and partners in statistical development of the Caribbean should quickly identify viable mechanisms and frameworks for genuine collaboration and cooperation in delivering the inputs that are essential for rapid and sustainable statistical development of the subregion.

b) Specific Recommendations

Although much progress has been made in the area of economic statistics, supplementary financial investment by all development partners is essential to developing the requisite human resources to address the following specific areas:

- i) Caribbean countries require substantive assistance to expand the scope of their national accounts statistics through the platform of the new international System of National Accounts 2008. Urgent support from all development partners to address this serious shortcoming is therefore strongly recommended.

- ii) All countries should move swiftly to compile GDP estimates in current and real prices for a particular year by the first quarter of the subsequent year.
- iii) Within the next two years all countries should be compiling quarterly estimates of their GDP.
- iv) Within the next two years all countries should be generating GDP estimates in accordance with the expenditure method.
- v) Within the next two years all countries should be compiling SUT on a frequent and regular basis.
- vi) In the next five years at least five Caribbean countries should have made significant progress in compiling Social Accounting Matrices.
- vii) Within a year all countries should be compiling comprehensive merchandise trade statistics on a timely basis, that is, with a three month lag.
- viii) Within five years all countries should be producing comprehensive statistics on trade in services.
- ix) Within the next five years most countries should be conducting more regular Household Budget/Expenditure and Income surveys to facilitate more updated Consumer Price Indices.
- x) Within the next five years all countries should have established a continuous Labour Force Survey, and thus be generating key labour force statistics on a quarterly basis.
- xi) Within the next two years countries of the Caribbean should be assisted to establish a viable data collection system for employment and earnings.
- xii) Within the next three years all countries should be generating Industrial Production Indices on an annual basis.
- xiii) Collaborative efforts should be immediately engaged to train staff from both the Customs and Statistics departments in trade statistics in order to enhance standardization for Customs and Statistics organizations.
- xiv) Assistance should be provided to countries to develop indicators of developments in the real sector of the economy and in the development of international investment and international debt statistics.
- xv) Technical assistance is urgently recommended for Caribbean countries to be able to install and use tourism satellite accounts to more ably assess economic movements in the tourism sector.
- xvi) Urgent technical assistance and support is strongly recommended in the assessment of the Informal Sector's contribution to the economies of Caribbean countries since this sector is significant and growing.

In the areas of social, environmental and other statistics the following are recommended:
- xvii) More concerted support is needed to assist countries to develop capacities to compile social statistics and indicators.
- xviii) Focused attention should be given to establish a viable coordination mechanism at the national level to ensure the delivery of the agreed products.
- xix) Administrative data sources should be significantly strengthened since this is the most economic source of social statistics.

- xx) Funding support to countries should be increased in order to enable them to conduct household surveys which are another rich source of basic data for the key social and environmental indicators.
- xxi) Both donor agencies and governments should increase their financial support to national statistical organizations to facilitate the conduct of and to more fully analyze population and housing censuses, economic censuses and agricultural censuses on a frequent and consistent basis.
- xxii) Concerted efforts should be made to address capacity enhancement which countries urgently need in order to compile statistical indicators for most of the MDGs.
- xxiii) Countries need training in establishing and maintaining databases, establishing data dissemination policies and in data anonymization techniques.
- xxiv) Countries need to be better equipped with data dissemination tools and packages such as CensusInfo;
- xxv) There is an urgent need for more intensive training of senior statistical personnel in management including the management of projects.

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Annex

Annex 1

Survey Questionnaire



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Objective of Survey:

In recent years, the increased demand for timely and reliable data in support of evidence-based decision making has drawn attention to the limitations of available statistical data. In particular, the need for data to monitor the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals has pointed to stark data gaps and issues with data production. Additionally, data to support competent planning and set national priorities suffer from a number of gaps which often reflect challenges with national data production.

In an attempt to get a better assessment of the existing gaps and a sound sense of the key factors contributing to lack of social, economic and other data, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean is undertaking the conduct of a study of the capacity of National Statistical Systems in the subregion to produce accurate, relevant and timely national data. The primary objective of the study is to identify the factors that inhibit data production and determine the capacity building needs, at the national level, which would inform the kind of interventions that can be used to improve national statistical capacity.

Your responses to this questionnaire will contribute invaluablely to this study. We therefore look forward to your full cooperation in this endeavour. Please be assured that all responses will be kept strictly confidential and specific comments would not be attributed to individual national institutions. Please note that most of the questions are close-ended and so you are only required to select the appropriate response from the drop-down lists next to each item.

We solicit your kind assistance in completing the questionnaire. Kindly return completed responses to the following addresses by **31 March 2011**. sherry.holder@eclac.org or sinovia.moonie@eclac.org. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

List of Abbreviations:

MDG – Millennium Development Goals
ECLAC – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
IADG – Internationally Agreed Development Goals

Country: Select One

Date: Day Month

Are you a user or producer of data? (*tick one*)

User

Producer

User & Producer

Details of Respondent

Name:

Institution:

Telephone:

Facsimile:

Email:

Production of Economic Statistics/Indicators

Directions: This section pertains to the production of key economic statistics and indicators. For each item, select responses from the drop boxes.

NOTE: This questionnaire was designed to assess production of indicators across the key thematic areas and as such, it will include indicators that are not produced by your respective agency or institution. Hence, kindly provide answers only for those items that apply to your institution and disregard any questions that are not applicable.

1 (a) Is your organization one of the leading agencies responsible for the production of economic statistics and indicators? Select one

2 Availability, Coverage, Periodicity and Timeliness of the production of economic statistics

Guidelines for completing the table

"*Compilation*": Indicate whether or not the data/ indicator is produced. Options for selection were: 'Yes', 'No', 'Not Applicable'

"*Periodicity*": Indicate the regularity of production i.e. monthly, quarterly. Options for selection were: 'Annually', 'Monthly', 'Quarterly', 'Monthly'

"*Timeliness*": Relate to the latest year (s) for which data/ indicator is available. Options for selection were: '2010', '2009', '2008', '2007', and '2006 or earlier'.

"*Challenges with data production*": A pre-defined list of options were available. Options for selection were: 'Limited staffing', 'Inadequate trained personnel', 'Insufficient equipment', 'Lack of standardization' or 'Low demand from users'.

Data Category	Compilation	Periodicity	Latest available year/ period	Challenges with data production
1 National Accounts				
(a) GDP by sector (in constant prices)	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
(b) GDP by sector (in current prices)	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
(c) GDP By expenditure	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
(d) Supply and Use Tables	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
(e) Estimates of Informal Sector contribution to GDP	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
2 Balance of Payments				
(a) Merchandise Trade	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
(b) Trade in Services	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
3 External Trade				
(a) Gross Imports	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
(b) Gross Exports	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
(c) Trade Balance	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one

4	<i>Consumer Price Indices</i>
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Select one

Select one

Select one

Select one

5	<i>Industrial Production Indices</i>
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Select one

Select one

Select one

Select one

Production of Social Statistics and MDG/ IADG Indicators

Directions: This section pertains to the production of key social, gender and environment statistics and indicators. For each item, select responses from the drop boxes.

NOTE: This questionnaire was designed to assess production of indicators across the key thematic areas and as such, it will include indicators that are not produced by your respective agency or institution. Hence, kindly provide answers only for those items that apply to your institution and disregard any questions that are not applicable.

1 (a) Is your agency/organization one of the leading agencies responsible for the production of social statistics and indicators? Select one

2 **Availability, Coverage , Periodicity and Timeliness of the production of economic statistics**

Guidelines for completing the table

"*Compilation*": Indicate whether or not the data/ indicator is produced. Options for selection were: 'Yes'. 'No'. 'Not Applicable'

"*Periodicity*": Indicate the regularity of production i.e. monthly, quarterly. Options for selection were: 'Annually'. 'Monthly'. 'Quarterly'. 'Monthly'

"*Timeliness*": Relate to the latest year (s) for which data/indicator is available. Options for selection were: ' 2010'. ' 2009'. ' 2008'. ' 2007'. and ' 2006 or earlier'.

"*Challenges with data production*:" A pre-defined list of options were available. Options for selection were: 'Limited staffing'. 'Inadequate trained personnel'. 'Insufficient equipment'. 'Lack of standardization' or 'Low demand from users'.

Goal Data Category

Compilation

Periodicity

Latest available year/ period

Challenges with data production

1

41

Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day
Poverty gap ratio
Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
Employment-to-population ratio
Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age
Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one

Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one

Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one

Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one

2

Net enrolment in primary education
Net enrolment in secondary education
Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary
Mean years of schooling
Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds, men and women

Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one

Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one

Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one

Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one
Select one

3	Ratio of boys to girls in primary, secondary and tertiary education	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
4	Under-five mortality rate	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
	Infant mortality rate	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
	Proportion of 1-year old children immunised against measles	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
5	Maternal mortality rate	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
	Contraceptive prevalence rate	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
6	HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
	Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
	Incidence and death rates associated with malaria	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
	Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
7	CO2 emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP)	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
	Proportion of land area covered by forest	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
	Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one
	Proportion of total water resources used	Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one

International collaboration/ partnership and networking

1 (a) From which institutions or agencies has your office received assistance to develop capacity in planning economic social/gender/environment statistics and indicators?

- Caribbean Development Bank
- World Bank
- UNDP
- UNEP
- Other (please specify)
- PARIS21
- IMF
- UNICEF
- FAO
- European Union
- DFID
- UNESCO
- PAHO/WHO
- CARICOM
- ILO
- CIDA

(b) What type of support/ assistance have you required in the past to facilitate the production of statistics and indicators?

- Access to financial resources
- Technical support
- Assistance with research
- Other (please specify)

Capacity building needs

2 Does your institution or agency currently require support or assistance with developing or building its capacity in producing economic, social, gender or environment indicators?

Production of economic indicators	Select one	Select one
Production of social indicators	Select one	Select one
Production of gender indicators	Select one	Select one
Production of environment indicators	Select one	Select one

3 If yes, to any of the areas above, what are the capacities that need to be developed? (please select all that apply)

- Data collection methodology
- Qualitative research techniques
- Other (please specify)
- Techniques of generating indicators
- Quantitative research techniques

4 (a) Please specify the preferred capacity building activities that are required by your office or agency.

- National training workshop on specific indicators
- In-house training from experts
- Other (please specify)
- Assistance through 1-2 year project
- Access to technical advisor or expert

(b) Please provide further details of your capacity building needs here.

Additional Comments

5 Please feel free to provide any additional comments that you think are relevant