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Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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EVALUATION REPORT

Regional Training Workshop on Data Sharing, Data Ownership and the Harmonization of Survey Datasets

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I. Introduction

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the statistical capacities of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the region, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) convened a two-day *Regional Training Workshop on Data Sharing, Data Ownership and Harmonization of Survey Datasets* on 26-27 August 2009 at the Cascadia Hotel, Trinidad and Tobago. This workshop was one of the concluding activities of the Project on *Improving Household Surveys in the Caribbean* which has been implemented by the ECLAC Subregional office from 2007. The main objectives of the objectives of the workshop were to:

- (a) Exchange and learn from good practices in the conduct of household surveys in the subregion;
- (b) Further harmonize methodologies, concepts and definitions used in household surveys and to bring these in line with standard guidelines such as those of the International Household Survey Network (IHSN);
- (c) Demonstrate the usefulness of the Caribbean Household Surveys Databank (CHSD);
- (d) Encourage the sharing of survey datasets; and
- (e) Identify a way forward for the conduct of household surveys in the Caribbean subregion according to international guidelines and methodologies.

A cadre of senior statisticians and other experts from NSOs, ministries of social development and regional organizations/agencies benefited from this two-day exercise.

The ensuing report provides a synopsis of an evaluation exercise which was carried out at the end of the workshop as a means of assessing the participants' views of the training sessions and other aspects of the training.

A. Evaluation method

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the effectiveness of the workshop in deepening participants' knowledge of the tools and methodologies with respect to systemization of household survey micro datasets, internet-based dissemination and processing of micro data. In addition, it sought participants' views on the logistical arrangements and support provided for the workshop and identified weaknesses in the organization and conduct of the sessions. The latter was expected to provide feedback which would guide the organization of future workshops.

Evaluation forms were administered to all participants at end of the second day of the training. The evaluation comprised 9 items which took the form of open-ended questions and rating scale items using a 5-point rating scale, with scores from 1 to 5. Responses were gathered from 25 of the 30 participants which represented a response rate of 83.33%. The ensuing summary reflects the views of those 25 respondents on the training which is captured as 100% in this report.

II. Summary

A. Workshop objectives

In the initial segment of the evaluation, participants were required to record the degree to which each of the five workshops objectives (listed on page 3) were met. This was rated on a 5-point scale with 1 implying “Strongly Agree” and 5 implying “Strongly Disagree”. Table 1 below shows the ratings received by each objective along with the mean scores.

Table 1
The extent to which the workshop’s objectives were met

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Missing	Total	Mean
Objective 1	<i>Frequency</i>	9	14	2	0	0	0	25	1.72
	<i>%</i>	36	56	8	0	0	0	100	
Objective 2	<i>Frequency</i>	7	11	7	0	0	0	25	2.00
	<i>%</i>	28	44	28	0	0	0	100	
Objective 3	<i>Frequency</i>	9	16	0	0	0	0	25	1.64
	<i>%</i>	36	64	0	0	0	0	100	
Objective 4	<i>Frequency</i>	11	9	4	0	0	1	25	1.71
	<i>%</i>	44	36	16	0	0	4	100	
Objective 5	<i>Frequency</i>	5	14	1	2	0	3	25	2.00
	<i>%</i>	20	56	4	8	0	12	100	

With the exception of objective 5, all objectives received positive ratings. A clearer indication of the direction of the ratings can be deduced from the mean scores which show that there was a higher level of agreement on the achievement of objectives 1, 3 and 4 as indicated by the mean scores of 1.72, 1.64 and 1.71 respectively. For the remaining objectives (2 and 5), there was greater variation in the responses however, more than 70% of the respondents indicated general agreement to the achievement of those objectives.

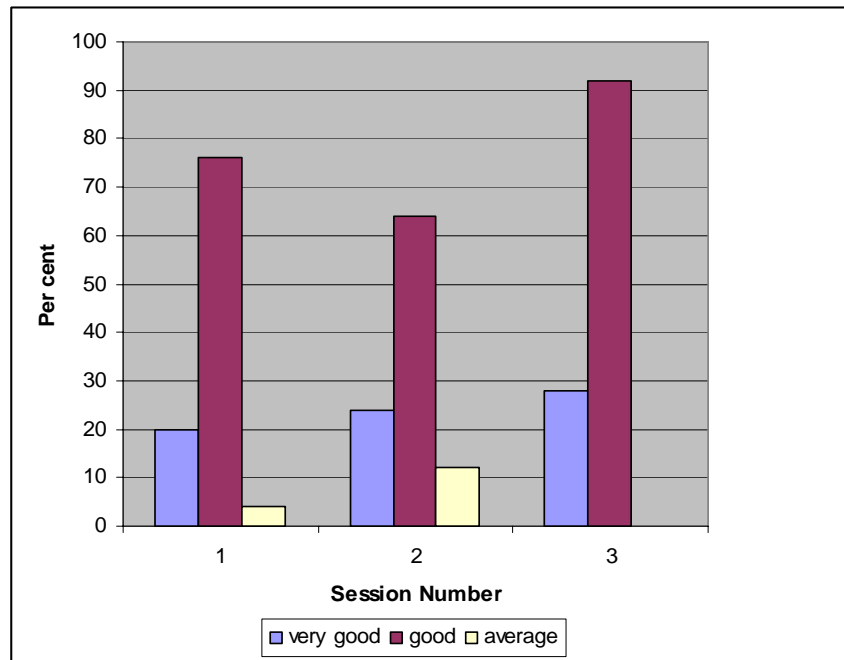
1. Evaluation of sessions on day 1

Participants rated the main presentations delivered on day 1 in terms of the quality of delivery. The three sessions that were evaluated included the presentation on:

- (a) Outputs of the Household Surveys Project;
- (b) Methodologies in Survey Design – Latin America Experience; and
- (c) Methodologies in Survey Design – Caribbean Experience.

Those sessions were rated along a 5-point scale, with 1 implying “very good” and 5 implying “very poor”. Without exception, all sessions received positive ratings that ranged from “very good” to “average”; the modal rating in all cases being “good”. A more concise comparison of the ratings for those three sessions is displayed in figure 1. Session numbers 1 to 3 shown on the horizontal axis correspond to the numbering listed above.

Figure 1
Participants’ ratings of the delivery of sessions on day 1



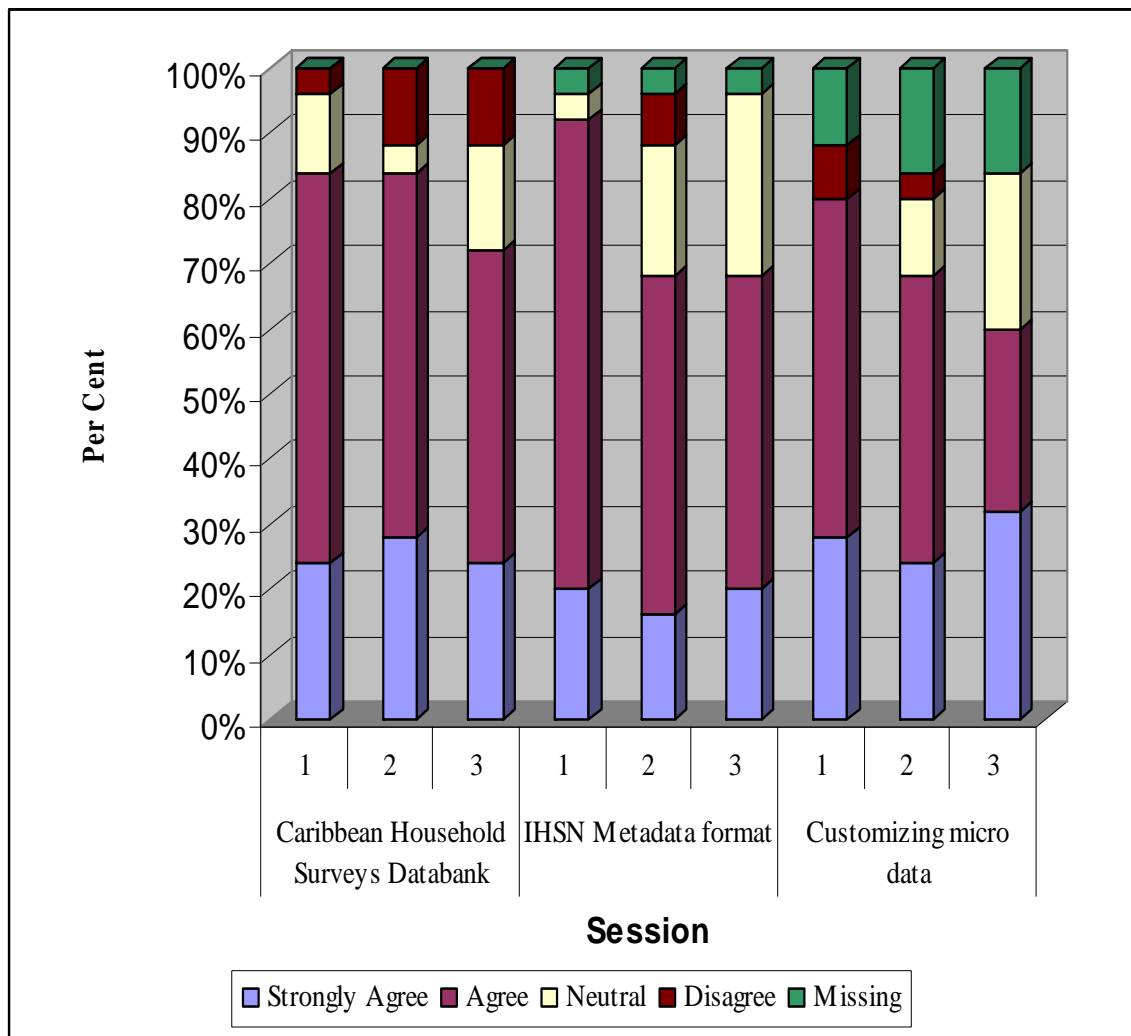
2. Evaluation of individual training sessions on day 2

In addition to the assessment of the keynote presentations on day 1, a separate and more concise assessment was done of the three training sessions held on day 2. Those sessions were assessed in terms of the relevance of the material and its delivery by the presenter. The latter checked the effectiveness and conciseness of the presentations as well as the quality and effectiveness of the visual aids/ handouts. A 5-point scale was used with score of 1 to 5 corresponding to “strongly agree” and “strongly disagree” respectively. The codes 1 – 3 included in the horizontal axis of the graph in figure 2 correspond to the statements used for evaluating each aspect of the sessions and those are as follows:

- (a) Content was presently clearly and effectively;
- (b) Visual aids and handouts were used effectively; and
- (c) The session introduced new approaches, techniques or facilities that would be of value to my job.

As displayed in figure 2 below, participants' assessments of the training sessions returned positive feedback. In terms of the assessment of the material and presentations (captured in bars labeled 1 and 2 below), at least 60% of the respondents provided ratings to indicate "strong agreement" or "agreement" with the statements. In a few instances however, ratings of 4 which correspond to "disagree" were assigned thereby implying that a small minority of the respondents were dissatisfied with the presentations for those sessions.

Figure 2
Participants' assessment of the three training sessions on day 2



Participants views on the relevance of the material/ techniques received more varied ratings as can be seen by the bars labeled 3. Thus, in terms of the value added by the materials/ techniques introduced in those 3 sessions, ratings for "agree" or "strongly agree" were recorded for 60 – 72 % of the respondents.

B. Takeaways

As follow-up to the previous items and a means of further assessing the usefulness of the workshop material, participants were asked to indicate whether or not they would consider adopting any of the techniques or materials presented during the training. The overwhelming majority (20 respondents) stated “yes”; 3 stated “no” and 2 declined to respond.

Participants who indicated an interest in using the material had an opportunity to elaborate on their particular interest (s). Those choices were grouped into categories and tallied. Table 2 displays the takeaways identified by participants along with the frequencies of those choices.

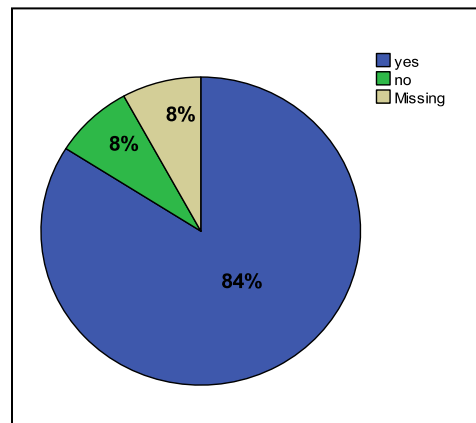
Table 2
Technique, material or idea to be adopted

Number of responses	Technique/ material/ idea to be adopted
9	IHSN Meta data toolkit for survey documentation
1	Jamaica’s approach to basic needs index (unmet) development
2	Data sharing with ECLAC and IPUMS
1	Techniques for harmonization
1	Data anonymization techniques

C. Participants’ Expectations

Participants’ responses to the dichotomous question “Did the training meet your expectations?” are displayed in figure 3.

Figure 3
Did the training meet your expectations?



The two respondents who indicated that their expectations were not met had an opportunity to elaborate on the reasons for their selection. The reasons cited related to the

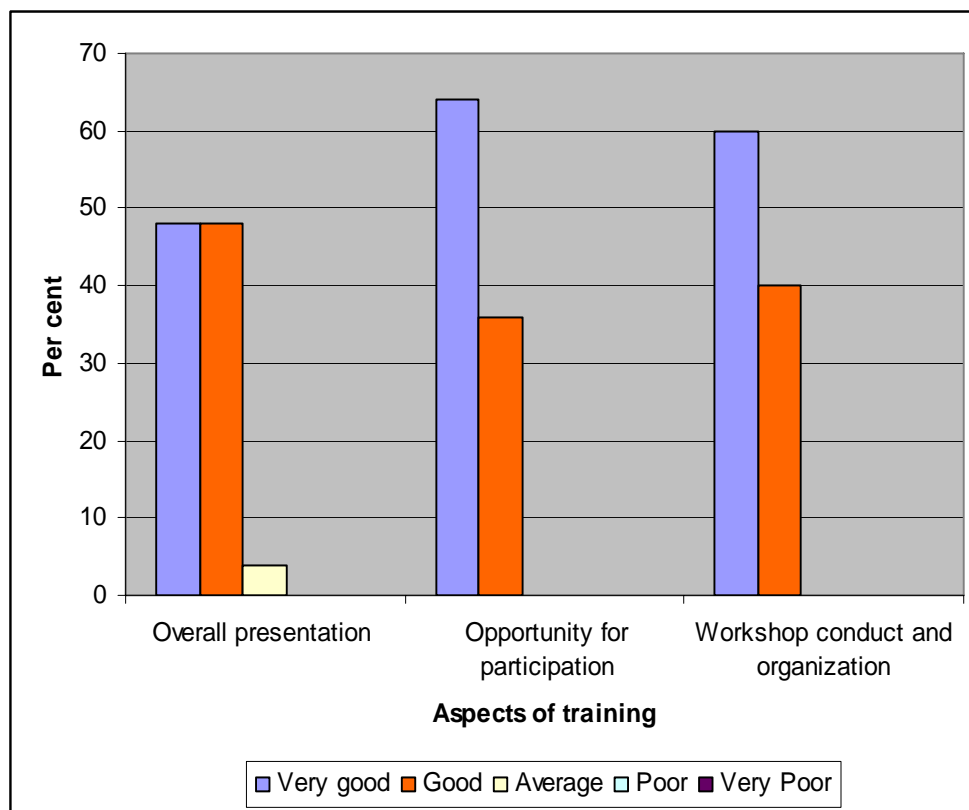
quality of the visual aids (power points etc) used for the demonstrations and the depth of the training. The specific comments were as follows:

- “The demonstration of the IHSN could be better if the font was larger”;
- “Issues were not dealt with in depth”.

D. Assessment of Overall Workshop

Feedback on the overall standard and organization of the workshop was overwhelmingly positive. The mean scores received for the three aspects assessed received mean scores that ranged from 1.36 – 1.56. Those means based on the 1 – 5 scale, where 1 = very good and 5 = very poor, placed overall assessments of the workshop as “generally good”. The disaggregation of responses by rating for each aspect of the training is given in figure 4.

Figure 4
Overall assessment of some aspects of the workshop



E. Topics that should have been included

Participants identified a number of topics that should have been featured in the workshop. The specific comments are listed below:

- “More on anonymization and integration”;
- “Comprehensive schedule”;
- “Techniques for anonymizing survey datasets”
- “Further development on the proper aspects of harmonization of collecting data”;
- “Since the workshop dealt with “household surveys” in general the subjects should have been chosen accordingly; dealing with issues related to developing, planning and implementing a household survey programme”;

F. Topics that should have been excluded

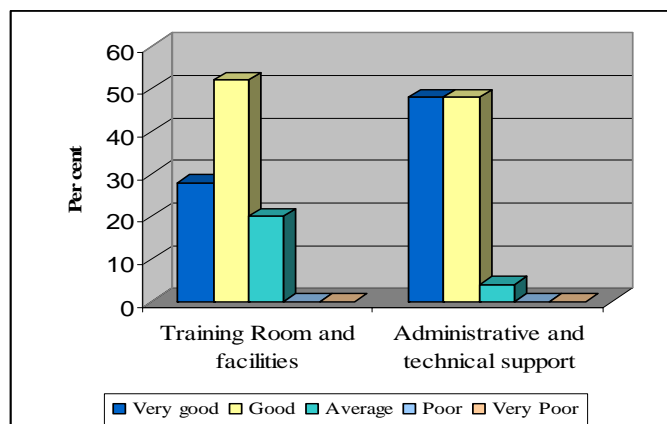
In addition to identifying areas to enrich the training, participants were also required to identify areas/ topics that were deemed unnecessary. Participants did not provide any feedback in that area; however one person used the opportunity to register the following observation:

“Standardization was briefly covered however countries are not charged to standardize our datasets. The standardization, as presented, is handled by ECLAC or IPUMS.”

G. Facilities and Training

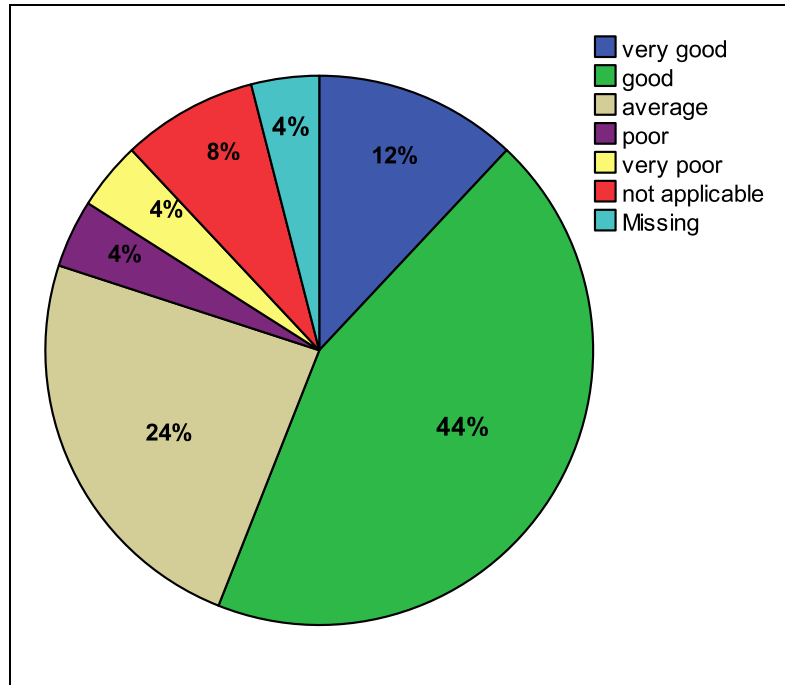
This item sought feedback on the venue for the training as well as the hotel arrangements.

Figure 5
Feedback on logistical arrangements and support



Participants' views on the training facilities and the administrative and technical support provided for the workshop was generally positive. Feedback on the hotel accommodation for the workshop returned more mixed responses as can be seen in figure 6 below.

Figure 6
Feedback on hotel accommodation



H. General Comments

The final item of the evaluation provided participants with an opportunity to register general comments on the workshop. Most of the participants used this section to echo very positive sentiments on the organization and relevance of the workshop. Their feedback was captured in comments such as:

- “This workshop was very informative. My expectations were met. I do hope that countries will adopt the recommendations for data preservation and sharing”;
- “The workshop was quite good. The information was very useful. The environment created was very easy to learn in”;
- “The presentation made by Mr. Mc Caa was very interesting and powerful as it outlines the need for micro dataset exchange vividly”;
- “Informative and organized training workshop. Very little risk involved in data sharing. Benefits outstrip risk. NSO can benefit by directing certain requests to these websites or organizations thereby reducing their workload”;

- “The workshop was certainly enlightening and certainly provides a map in terms of the way forward in terms of making use of tools in metadata use and usefulness”;
- “A well run workshop with an interesting topic”;
- “Information to encourage countries that do not have the close link/ integration of statistics agencies and social development ministries or agencies the importance of working closely or getting involved with the different surveys such as household budget surveys and surveys of living conditions”;
- “Very good workshop”;
- “This is a very important workshop that went beyond my expectations; there should be a follow-up Technical Workshop to study in detail the harmonization ; More training in IHSN metadata format”;
- “Well organized and executed workshop; please conduct sessions like these more often”;

In addition to those comments, one participant penned his/ her recommendation for follow-up action. This was articulated in the following comment:

“A general consensus has to be made between all island-nations that data sharing, once it is protected, is good for the Caribbean. Additionally a strong attempt should be made to harmonize all statistical terms in preparation for statistical dissemination”;

Finally, in terms of shortcomings, one participant cited deficiencies in the logistical arrangements and venue for the meeting:

“Hotel room; no outlet for laptops in meeting room; no drinking water for participants in the meeting room”.

III. Conclusion

The two-day training workshop was very well received by the participants. The constructive reviews and high evaluation ratings on the various aspects of the workshop provide evidence of the value added by the forum. Many participants also expressed appreciation for the high level of presentations and the remarkable organization and execution of the exercise.

ECLAC acknowledges the US State Department, which funded the project *Improving Household Surveys in the Caribbean*. The office also recognizes the facilitators and presenters who contributed significantly to the overall quality of the workshop. Their contributions not only added value to the workshop but were also vital in raising awareness of the resources available to statisticians in the region and in stimulating interest in data sharing. ECLAC extends its appreciation to all workshop participants, facilitators and staff of the ECLAC office who contributed to this resoundingly successful workshop.

Annex**Workshop Evaluation Instrument****1. Workshop Objectives**

Indicate your level of agreement/ disagreement with the degree to which the workshop objectives were met.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
(1) To exchange information and learn from good practices in the conduct of household surveys in the sub-region	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
(2) To further harmonize methodologies, concepts and definitions used in household surveys such as the IHSN	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
(3) To demonstrate the usefulness of the Caribbean Household Surveys Databank	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
(4) To encourage the sharing of survey datasets	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
(5) To identify the way forward for the conduct of Household Surveys in the Caribbean sub-region according to international guidelines and methodologies	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

2. Evaluation of Sessions

Using the five point scale below, please rate the delivery of the main presentations on the first day of the workshop and the three training sessions on day 2.

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Session 1: Outputs of Household Survey Project	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Session 2: Methodologies in Survey Design – Latin America Experience	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Session 3: Methodologies in Survey Design – Caribbean Experience	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

Training Session 1: Presentation on Caribbean Household Surveys Databank

	Strongly Agree			Strongly Disagree	
Content was presented clearly and effectively	1	2	3	4	5
Visual aids and handouts were used effectively	1	2	3	4	5
The session introduced new approaches, techniques or facilities that would be of value to my job	1	2	3	4	5

Training Session 2: Presentation on IHSN Metadata format

	Strongly Agree			Strongly Disagree	
Content was presented clearly and effectively	1	2	3	4	5
Visual aids and handouts were used effectively	1	2	3	4	5
The session introduced new approaches, techniques or facilities that would be of value to my job	1	2	3	4	5

Training Session 3: Presentation on Customizing Micro data

	Strongly Agree			Strongly Disagree	
Content was presented clearly and effectively	1	2	3	4	5
Visual aids and handouts were used effectively	1	2	3	4	5
The session introduced new approaches, techniques or facilities that would be of value to my job	1	2	3	4	5

3. Would you consider adopting some of the ideas/ techniques or materials presented in the workshop?

Yes [] No []

If yes, please state:

4. Did the training meet your expectations? Yes [] No []

Please specify if you selected “no”.

5. How would you rate the overall workshop in terms of the following aspects?

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Overall presentation by facilitators	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Opportunity for participation	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Conduct and organization of the workshop	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

6. List any other information or topics that should have been **included** in this workshop.

7. List any other information or topics that should have been **excluded** from this workshop.

8. Facilities and Training

Indicate your level of satisfaction or circle NA if the item is not applicable to you.

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA
Meeting Rooms and facilities	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Administrative and Technical support	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Accommodation	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

9. General comments:
