EVALUATION REPORT

National Advocacy Workshop on the Measurement of the Informal Sector and Informal Employment

3 December 2007
Castries, Saint Lucia

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INTRODUCTION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean conducted a one-day National Advocacy Workshop on the Informal Sector and Informal Employment, on 3 December 2007 in Castries, Saint Lucia. This workshop was the first component of the interregional project on the Measurement of the Informal Sector and Informal Employment and was aimed at raising awareness among statistical offices and other government agencies on the importance of collecting and disseminating data on the informal sector and informal economy and incorporating it into employment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates.

This report presents an evaluation of some of the key aspects of the workshop as viewed by the participants.

I. EVALUATION METHOD

A workshop evaluation form (attached at Annex 1) was included in the registration kit for each participant. One of the key indicators for assessing the relevance of the workshop was an increase in the participants’ understanding and knowledge of the informal sector and informal employment. The evaluation form, which was designed to capture this, comprised two components: a pre-workshop evaluation and a post-workshop evaluation.

The first section of the evaluation form which was related to the “pre-workshop assessment” sought to assess the participants’ prior knowledge of the informal sector and informal employment and their expectations of the workshop. The “workshop assessment” assessed participants’ views of various aspects of the workshop and sought their comments on its usefulness and areas for improvement. The questions contained in both sections took the form of open-ended questions or required participants to rate responses on a 3 or 4 point scale.

Fourteen of the 24 participants completed the evaluation forms. This represented a return rate of 58.3 per cent. For the purposes of this review, it is assumed that the views expressed by those respondents are representative of all the workshop participants.

II. SUMMARY

A. Pre-Workshop Evaluation

Of the 14 respondents, 78.6 per cent indicated that they were “somewhat” or “fully” aware of the objectives and content of the workshop prior to their attendance. In addition, 13 respondents indicated that they were confident that the workshop would be beneficial to their work.

Thirteen of the 14 participants identified the “subject of the workshop from a professional viewpoint” as the most significant factor which influenced their participation.
The second factor identified by 85.7 per cent of the participants was the “potential impact of the topic on their job”. The least significant factor was duration of the workshop.

In the final question in this section, participants were required to list their expectations of the workshop. With no exception, participants indicated their desire to increase their knowledge of the informal sector or acquire a better understanding of the project and its activities either in terms of its relevance to Saint Lucia or their jobs. Comments related to this question as articulated by the participants are included in Annex II.

B. Workshop evaluation

The content and organization of the workshop was very highly rated by most of the participants, with 93 per cent of the respondents selecting “excellent” or “good” ratings for the overall quality of the workshop. In addition, more than 85 per cent of the respondents ranked the individual elements related to workshop organization and content as “excellent” or “good”.

In terms of the relevance of the workshop/material, 71 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed that the workshop had increased their knowledge and skills of the informal sector and that the material was of practical value to their job. Evidence of those sentiments was captured in the participants’ views on the usefulness of the workshop:

“this formed a good foundation for understanding the purpose of collecting data on the informal sector”

“gained knowledge about the informal sector and informal employment and learnt about the project. A lot of useful information as a statistician in definitions, methodologies etc”.

Participants’ responses to the question on the least useful aspect of the workshop reaffirmed their positive appraisal of the workshop, with the exception of one respondent who indicated that “the details of the questionnaire should have been deleted”. All other respondents indicated that the content and all items on the programme were useful.

Respondents of the questionnaire provided some suggestions for improving the workshop. Those included decreasing the time allotted for the workshop, insisting on a punctual start, providing more opportunities for interaction/small group discussions and providing participants with all the slides for the PowerPoint presentations at the start of the workshop.

Based on the foregoing summary, we can conclude that the one-day Workshop on the Informal Sector and Informal Employment was a resounding success and a worthwhile experience for all the participants. ECLAC extends its thanks to staff of the Central Statistical Office, the workshop facilitators and all participants who contributed to this exceptional outcome.
Dear Participant,

Thank you for participating in our one-day workshop on the Informal Sector and Informal Employment. In an effort to assess the effectiveness and relevance of this workshop to you, we would like you to complete the attached pre- and post-evaluation form.

Your response to the questionnaire will be invaluable in providing feedback on the overall workshop, identifying areas of weakness and help improve the organization of future workshops. All information provided to us will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Thank you for your cooperation in this exercise.
Pre-Workshop Assessment

1. Were you fully aware of the objectives and content of the workshop prior to your attendance?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No  [ ] Somewhat

2. Having understood the purpose of the workshop at any point, were you confident that the experience of the workshop would be beneficial to your work in the office?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No  [ ] Somewhat

3. Have you had any formal training on the informal sector and informal employment? If yes, please outline.

4. What role did each of the following have in your decision to participate in this workshop?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong reason for participating</th>
<th>Moderate reason for participating</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject of the workshop from a professional viewpoint</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject of the workshop from a personal viewpoint</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential impact of the topic on your job</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of the workshop</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. What do you expect most from this workshop?
### The Workshop Assessment

1. How would you rate the following aspects of this workshop (circle your responses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content and organization</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall quality of the workshop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop organization</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Format of the workshop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content and quality of the presentations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall helpfulness of the workshop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevance of workshop / material</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The workshop increased your knowledge and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skills on the informal sector</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The information presented will be of practical value to your job</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. What did you find most useful about this workshop and why?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. What did you find least useful and why?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. How could this workshop be improved?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

5. Any other comments or suggestions?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
### Annex II

**Pre-workshop assessment**

1. | Were you fully aware of the objectives and content of the workshop prior to your attendance? | Yes | No | Somewhat | Total |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Having understood the purpose of the workshop at any point, were you confident that the experience of the workshop would be beneficial to your work in the office? | 1 | | | 14 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have you had any formal training on the informal sector and informal employment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **What role did each of the following have in your decision to participate in the workshop?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strong reason for participating</th>
<th>Moderate reason for participating</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject of the workshop from a professional viewpoint</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject of the workshop from a personal viewpoint</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential impact of the topic on your job</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of the workshop</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **What do you expect most from this workshop?**

- To better understand the questionnaire and purpose of data collection
- Concrete action taken in terms of the informal sector in St. Lucia is concerned – presently too elusive to me
- To be more educated about the informal sector
- Impact of data collection on the informal sector which will be conducted is very useful to my job
- Obtain knowledge on this project and see whether it has implications for policy in my ministry
- Develop a workable solution to provide social protection for is group
- To be inform on the research development in the informal sector
• To be able to identify persons engaged in the informal activities and the possibility of capturing the activities that they are engaged in the HUEM
• To better understand the criteria of the informal and informal employment and the importance of capturing such information
• Increased knowledge on the informal sector and their participation role in the economy
• To format that survey will take

THE WORKSHOP ASSESSMENT

1. How would you rate the following aspects of this workshop?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content and Organization</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall quality of the workshop</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Organization</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Format of the workshop</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content and quality of the presentations</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall helpfulness of the workshop</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevance of workshop/ material</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The workshop increased your knowledge and skills</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the informal sector</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The information presented will be of</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practical value of your job</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. What did you find most useful about this workshop and why?

• Presentations and discussions on data collection
• Definitions clarified methodology and questionnaire discussed
• Information about the informal sector and informal employment
• The content of the programme was very inspirational
• Data collection strategies
• Gained knowledge about the informal sector and informal employment and learnt about the project. A lot of useful information as a statistician in definitions, methodologies etc.
• The idea of consultation and sensitizing stakeholders is very useful for the process of data collection. Stakeholders input in questionnaire design is crucial to achieving survey objectives.
• Objective of the project to understand the informal sector
• 1-2 methodology of data collection the data can then be used to determine the GDP contribution of the informal sector
• There was a lot of information on the informal sector and informal employment. This formed a good foundation for understanding the purpose of collecting data on the informal sector
• Concepts and definitions of the informal sector and informal employment
• Sebastien’s presentation in terms of the phase 2 questionnaire

3. What did you find least useful and why?

• Part of the details on the questionnaire that could have been deleted/omitted
• All the areas were very useful
• Not sure of relevance to my job in my ministry (Education) in terms of implementation but results may prove useful
• Content of the workshop was good – everything which came out of it was important
• All the items on the programme were useful

4. How could this workshop be improved?

• Shorten on length of time
• The material was very valuable; the consultant went by quickly with some of the material
• Start on time and insist on being punctual on resumption (if not start with the number present)
• More practical opportunities for data collection techniques
• Workshop should have been more interactive for example: persons could have formed small groups to discuss the questionnaire and then there would be a discussion on the ideas of each group
• Participants should have included persons on the informal sector
• The power point presentation being given at the start of the presentation to make it easier to note comments

5. Other comments or suggestions:

• The screening questionnaire should be by itself. The same sample of the LFS can be used without inserting the questions in the LFS questionnaire.
• I trust we will receive handouts by e-mail as promised.
• More of such workshops – informal sector – critical – potentially this is an explosive sector
• Questionnaire should have been circulated prior to our meeting today – more impact if this was done. Questionnaire should be revised or made shorter – will be intimidating to persons in non formal sector/compensation may have to be considered for those persons during administration of questionnaire.
• Workshop was very informative and well executed
• I am looking forward to the use of data from this survey in the compilation of GDP estimates.
Annex III

List of Participants

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