



UNITED NATIONS



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

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Expert Group Meeting on MDGs and IADGs Monitoring  
in the Caribbean  
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
16-17 June 2009

LIMITED  
LC/CAR/L.203 /c.2  
10 July 2009  
ORIGINAL: English

**EVALUATION REPORT**

**Expert Group Meeting on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and  
Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) Monitoring  
in the Caribbean**

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## INTRODUCTION

The second in a series of expert group meetings under the Development Account Project "*Monitoring MDGs in the Caribbean*" was held on 16 and 17 June 2009 at the Cascadia Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. This meeting was convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) under the above-captured project and focused on demographic and health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The objectives of the meeting were to:

- (a) Identify the status of MDG monitoring and reporting in the Caribbean (national and regional level) with regard to goals 4, 5 and 6;
- (b) Discuss concepts applied for data collection and reporting and other meta data;
- (c) Foster national and international cooperation in monitoring and reporting in the Caribbean; and
- (d) Identify areas in need of technical assistance through the project.

The participants for this meeting were experts from national health systems and statisticians from national statistical offices in the Caribbean as well as representatives from regional and international organizations.

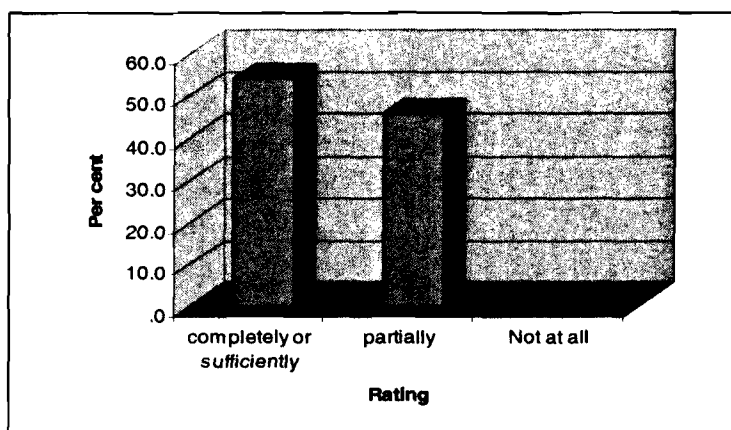
The following report presents participants' evaluations of the two-day meeting which was captured through an evaluation form administered at the end of the meeting. Of the 33 participants, completed evaluation forms were returned by 24 persons thereby yielding a response rate of 72.7%. Thus, the ensuing summary represents the views of those 24 participants which are captured as 100% in the report.

## SUMMARY

### Organizers' objectives

Participants were asked to register their views on the extent to which the objectives of the organizers were met. Participant's assessments based on a three-point rating revealed the following:

**Figure 1:**  
**Extent to which organizers' expectations of the meeting were met**



Participants who indicated that the meeting's objectives were met "partially" had an opportunity to elaborate on the reasons for that option in item 2. Of those 11 respondents, five indicated that the meeting fell short in achieving objectives 3 and 4. The remaining respondents cited other shortcomings which were as follows:

- "lack of standard approach to presentation";
- "there was a lack of focus on international and regional approach to monitoring and reporting";
- "deviate from the "standard" set for reporting – country briefs";
- "more clarity needed on effective systems/approaches for the capacity typologies of the country";
- "more discussion on what monitoring of data consists of; what are the elements needed to set targets from the different MDGs; the synchronization of admin. data vs. surveys is not addressed";

- “the expectation that metadata would be submitted along with the national reports were not realized at this time (which essentially was not necessarily the fault of the participants)”;

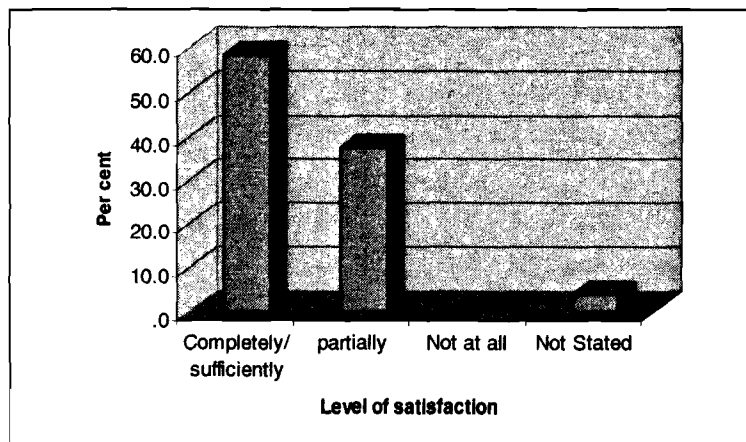
### Participants’ expectations

Participants articulated numerous expectations of the meeting. Those expectations expressed in one form or another contained some threads of similarity and could be captured broadly as follows:

- sharing national experiences and best practices with regard to MDGs;
- getting a better picture of the status of monitoring health-related MDGs in the region;
- profiting from an opportunity for networking with regional partners;
- profiting from an opportunity for identifying technical assistance needs of the region;
- gathering further information on the MDG goals and guidance on the preparation of the MDG reports;
- developing a plan to address the regional approach to MDG monitoring.

Following from those expectations, participants were asked to rate the extent to which their expectations were satisfied. The majority of participants felt that their expectations had been satisfied “completely or sufficiently”. However some participants indicated “partial” satisfaction of their expectations. Those views disaggregated by level of satisfaction are captured in figure 2.

**Figure 2:**  
**Extent to which the participants’ expectations were satisfied**



The subsequent item which sought further elaboration on the reasons for indicating that their expectations were only “partially” satisfied, yielded the following comments:

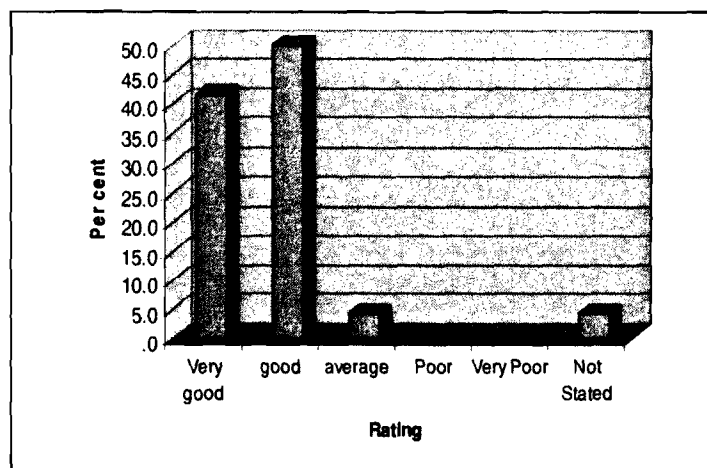
- “was not clear on the expectations for the brief”;
- “not much learning for new approaches/methods”;
- “there is no clear understanding on what countries should have reported; the length of some presentations were too long”;
- “not much attention was paid to methods that can be used to judge whether the source is reliable, complete and useful”;
- “clearer guidance on the way forward not crystallized; explicit indication of provision of technical assistance; more focus on improving administration records”;
- “was hoping more direct assistance on information issues – but will email colleagues for further assistance”;
- “still more discussion needed on the minimum requirements to a process that is flexible to country needs”;
- “partially because the NCD indicators are not discussed as I wanted because I it is very important because of the upcoming pandemic of obesity.”
- “most countries were not aware of the need to provide meta data in their presentation; guidelines and standards for metadata are referred to but there is still no harmonization”;

### **Opportunity for sharing national experiences**

Participants were asked to rate the usefulness of the meeting as a forum for sharing national experiences using a 5-point Likert scale with 1 implying “Very Good” and 5 implying “Very Poor”. This aspect of the workshop received only positive ratings and yielded a mean response of 1.92. The disaggregation of responses by rating is displayed in figure 3 below.



**Figure 3:**  
**Evaluation of the usefulness of the seminar for sharing national experiences**



### Delivery of presentations

Participants were asked to rate the presentations made during the four main agenda items using a 5-point scale which translated into "1 = Very Good" and "5 = Very Poor". The presentations received overall mean ratings which ranged from 1.67 to 2.29 which indicated that the presentations were generally well delivered. A full breakdown of participants' responses to this aspect of the meeting is displayed in table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Participants' ratings of the four main agenda items**

Rating	Agenda Item			
	1	2	3	4
Very Good	7	11	7	4
Good	14	10	11	12
Average	3	3	5	5
Poor	0	0	1	3
Very Poor	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Response</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Mean</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>2.29</b>

### Contribution of the meeting to improving the collection and reporting of MDGs

As a means of assessing the value added by the meeting, participants were asked to indicate through an open-ended question, how the meeting would contribute to improving the collection and reporting of MDGs. A number of views were expressed and those are captured

in the following table. As a means of avoiding the repetition of comments that conveyed similar viewpoints, the table captures only main/common comments and the frequency of each.

**Table 2**  
**Value added by meeting**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
Brought into focus deficiencies and limitations in reporting MDGs	1
Underscored the need for cooperation between line ministries/departments and statistics offices	2
Promoted the use of meta data in data producing entities	3
Provided impetus for the production of report	1
Best practices would inform national compilation and collection of data	2
Underscored need for revitalization of committees/stakeholders in process of monitoring MDGs and the appointment of focal points	2
Greater understanding of regional data needs and availability of technical assistance	2
Improved awareness of value of reporting and tools available for facilitating reporting of MDGs	3
Underscored the need for producing quality data	2

#### **Topics that should have been included**

Participants identified a number of additional issues/topics that should have been included in the meeting. Those recommendations are listed below:

- “strengthening of data collection by NSOs”;
- “Caribbean specific MDGs (related to goals 4, 5, and 6)”;
- “the inclusion of the OECS Secretariat would have been able to supplement any data gaps that would have presented itself in regards to the OECS”;
- “MDG dissemination and data storage. More time should have been spent on the meta data example”;
- “the impact of lifestyle behaviour that traits on the monitoring of maternal health (especially among young mothers)”;
- “more focus on the various metadata tools like NESSTAR and DevInfo would have been practically useful”;

- “Caribbean MDGs; regional approach to tackling issues/problems”;
- “the link between the (change) of indicators and the policy executed; how to influence or optimize policies with regard to improvement of the quality of life”;
- “use of administrative data”;
- “stronger review of metadata of CPAs otherwise not published; moving/ strengthening existing instruments to enhance reporting of MDGS”;
- “models of improvement of data collection (methods, instruments)”;
- “non-communicable diseases”;
- “guidance for preparation of MDG report”
- “CDs: Dengue; NCDs: Cardiovascular diseases including CVA and hypertension; DM-external causes and cancer”;
- “guidelines for monitoring MDGs key elements for harmonization process of data and meta data”;
- “data or discussion on proxy indicators/ data to supplement gaps in MDG data to be collected or reported on”;

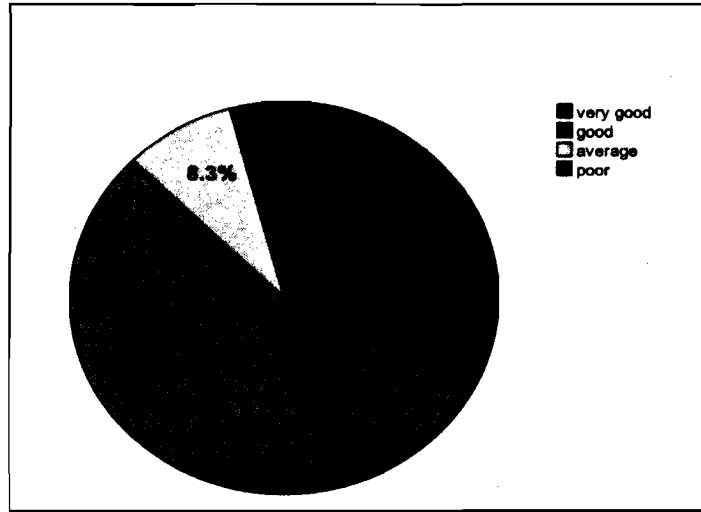
### **Topics that should have been excluded**

Participants who provided responses to this item indicated, without exception, that either “no topic should have been excluded” or “all topics were important”.

### **Logistics**

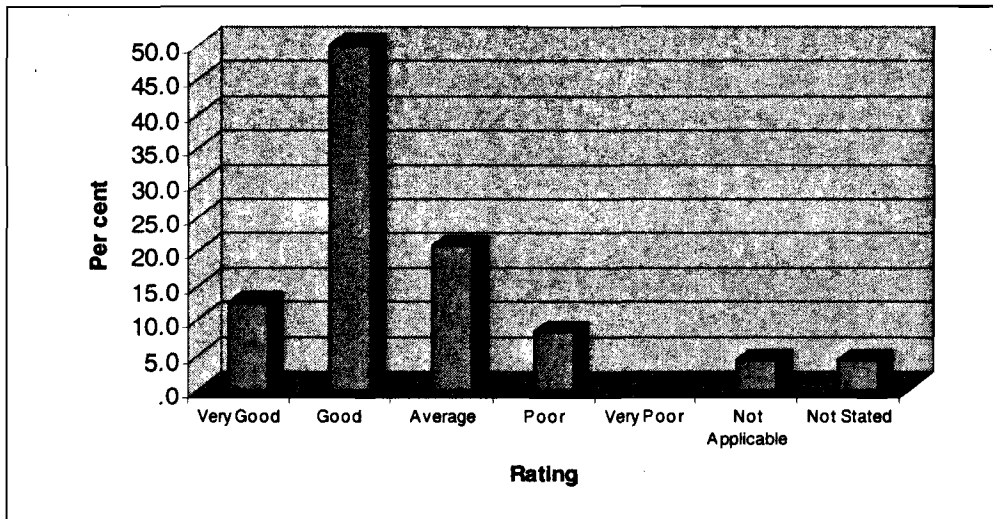
Participants’ assessment of the logistical arrangements for the meeting in terms of the venue, administrative and technical support is captured in figure 4.

**Figure 4:**  
**Assessment of logistical arrangements**



**Hotel**

**Figure 5:**  
**Evaluation of hotel facility**



## General comments

In the final section of the evaluation, participants were asked to provide general comments on the meeting. The responses in this section were varied. In most cases, participants used this section of the form to express their appreciation of the forum and its outcomes. Those were captured in the following phrases:

- “was enlightening, stimulated meaningful discussions and raised awareness to reporting of MDGs”;
- “happy to be involved – improvement in time management was needed (reports)”;
- “very pleased with the workshop and the outcome”
- “thank you for your support”;
- “great overview of data in the region”;
- “keep on doing the good thing: UNECLAC; providing support to us; more communication and cooperation is needed!”;
- “the opportunity to interact with colleagues on related matters of statistical data collection and reporting is always a good experience that helps us to refocus and rededicate”.

In addition to those comments, participants also made some recommendations on some follow-up actions. In that regard the following were suggested:

- “sharing a common metadata would be useful – e.g. recommendation of best practice
- “on a website/ email to all stakeholders/ data producers”;
- “Need for guidelines for development and use of metadata for countries as well as collation of a set of proxy indicators for possible use by countries. There is an opportunity for south-south capacity building via this project. From the gaps identified in this meeting some sort of document with strategic recommendations could be developed.”
- “there must be some evaluation of the progress made by individual countries based on the experience of this workshop”

Further comments that critiqued the structure of the meeting were also stated and those included:

- “the meeting should have been two days longer; reduce time of the presentations and focus on regional and country specific issues”;
- “it might have been useful to segregate the meeting into smaller and larger territories to facilitate the exchange of experiences”;
- “A good picture of all the participants would be nice. Looking forward to receiving the presentations of the meeting electronically”;

## CONCLUSION

The positive ratings and comments in the foregoing evaluation summary provide evidence that the meeting was a notable success. Overall, the meeting met its objectives and provided opportunities for the sharing of information and experiences that would help in improving the monitoring and reporting of health-related MDGs in the Caribbean.

Annex

**Evaluation Form**

**Objective**

The objectives of this Seminar were to:

- (i) Identify the status of MDG monitoring and reporting in the Caribbean (national and regional level) with regard to Goal 4, 5 and 6;
- (ii) Discuss concepts applied for data collection and reporting and other meta data;
- (iii) Foster national and international cooperation in monitoring and reporting in the Caribbean;
- (iv) To identify areas in need for technical assistance through the project.

1. Circle the words which best describe the extent to which you believe the objectives of the organizers were met:

1. completely/sufficiently      2. partially      3. not at all

2. If the answer to 1 is 'partially' or 'not at all', please state in what way objectives were not realized.

.....

.....

.....

3. What were your expectations for this Seminar?

.....

.....

.....

4. Circle the word(s) which best describe the extent to which your expectations for this Seminar were satisfied:

1. completely/sufficiently      2. partially      3. not at all

5. If the answer to 4 is 'partially' or 'not at all', please state in what way your expectations were not realized.

.....

.....

.....

6. How would you evaluate the opportunity for sharing of national experiences:

\_\_\_ Very good    \_\_\_ Good    \_\_\_ Average    \_\_\_ Poor    \_\_\_ Very poor

7. Using the scale below (1 - 5), how would you evaluate the delivery of the various presentations:

1. Very good    2. Good    3. Average    4. Poor    5. Very poor

Agenda Item 1:    \_\_\_

Agenda Item 2:    \_\_\_

Agenda Item 3:    \_\_\_

Agenda Item 4:    \_\_\_

8. How will this expert meeting contribute to improving the collection and reporting of MDGs in your country?

.....  
.....  
.....

9. List below any topics you think should have been included.

.....  
.....  
.....

10. List below any topics you would have excluded.

.....  
.....  
.....

11. How would you evaluate the logistics (venue, administrative and technical support):

\_\_\_ Very good    \_\_\_ Good    \_\_\_ Average    \_\_\_ Poor    \_\_\_ Very poor

12. How would you evaluate the hotel:

\_\_\_ Very good    \_\_\_ Good    \_\_\_ Average    \_\_\_ Poor    \_\_\_ Very poor

13. General comments.

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.....  
.....





