

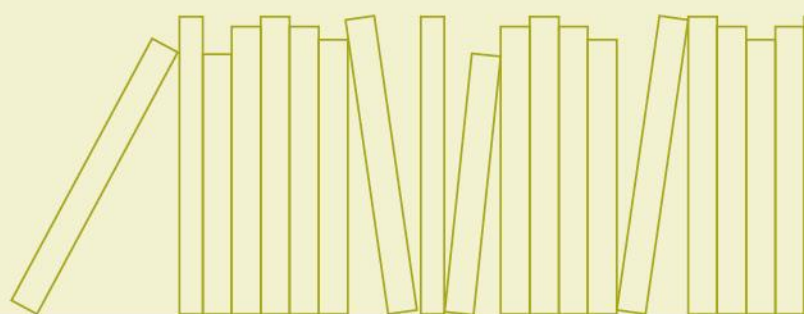
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

# ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN



## Report of the workshop on census data dissemination using REDATAM

### Dominica, and Saint Kitts and Nevis







UNITED NATIONS



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

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Workshop on census data dissemination  
using REDATAM - Dominica, and  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Basseterre, 18-20 November 2019

LIMITED  
LC/CAR/2019/19  
18 December 2019  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## **REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON CENSUS DATA DISSEMINATION USING REDATAM**

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### **DOMINICA, AND SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS**

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## CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION.....	2
1. Subregional capacity building in census data processing and dissemination.....	2
2. REDATAM: a tool for census dissemination .....	2
B. ATTENDANCE AT THE WORKSHOP .....	3
1. Place and date of the workshop.....	3
2. Participation .....	3
C. SUMMARY AND KEY OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP .....	3
1. Opening session .....	3
2. Organisation of work.....	3
3. Closing session and the way forward.....	4
4. Summary of post-workshop evaluation.....	4
Annex I List of participants .....	5
Annex II Workshop evaluation .....	6
Annex III Screenshot of REDATAM application for Saint Kitts and Nevis Census 2011 .....	9

## A. INTRODUCTION

### 1. Subregional capacity building in census data processing and dissemination

1. National population and housing censuses are not only a key source of demographic and social statistics in their own right but also provide input data for the calculation of many other social and economic statistics. They are therefore of critical importance to national statistical systems and, by extension, to national development planning, policymaking, and monitoring international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Since the 2010 round of Caribbean population and housing censuses, ECLAC has sought to make census data more widely available to policymakers, researchers and the public by promoting and supporting the use of the REDATAM software for online dissemination of census data. ECLAC carried out nine REDATAM workshops in the Caribbean between 2008 and 2016. These were a mixture of regional and national workshops and most Caribbean statistical offices had the opportunity to receive at least some training during this period. At the time of writing, eight Member States have made their data from the 2010 round of censuses available online through REDATAM. This represents an improvement over the 2000 round when four countries implemented REDATAM.

3. The eight Caribbean countries that have made data from one or more censuses available online through REDATAM are: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Belize, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The main purpose of this workshop was to support Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Dominica in making their 2011 census data available online.

### 2. REDATAM: a tool for census dissemination

4. Providing easy access to census data is one of the best ways that a statistical office can encourage wider use of the data for decision making and development planning. Caribbean statistical offices disseminate census data in various forms, for example census reports, REDATAM applications, and through the release of anonymised microdata. While traditional census reports are perhaps the first 'port of call' for users of census data, REDATAM applications provide controlled access to census microdata thereby allowing users to generate customized tables, indicators, graphs and maps in accordance with their own needs. These applications provide users with much richer and more flexible access to the data, for example the ability to disaggregate data by sex, age, ethnicity, employment status, health status, disability status or any other variable of interest, while still protecting the confidentiality of individual census records.

5. The REDATAM software is developed and supported by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). In the pre-Internet era, it was a tool for census data processing and tabulation, before being developed to enable the provision of online access to census and survey microdata. The software can also be used for dissemination via CD-ROM although this is less common now than it was in the past. The software is used in many Latin American countries and increasingly in the Caribbean. It is also being used by a number of national statistical offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. REDATAM has been used primarily to provide access to census datasets, although it can also be used for survey datasets such as living conditions surveys. Improved online access to these datasets can only encourage their use in research, development planning and evidence-based policymaking.

6. The principal objectives of this workshop were to: provide an introduction (or in some cases a re-introduction) to the REDATAM software; and to work towards finalising web applications for the two countries' 2011 census datasets. During the coming weeks, ECLAC will continue to work with the statistical offices of Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis with a view to making web applications publicly available early in the new year.

## **B. ATTENDANCE AT THE WORKSHOP**

### **1. Place and date of the workshop**

7. The Workshop on census data dissemination using REDATAM was held from 18 to 20 November 2019 at the Statistics Department in the Ministry of Sustainable Development of Saint Kitts and Nevis in Basseterre.

### **2. Participation**

8. The workshop was targeted at statisticians from three participating organizations. There were five participants from the Statistics Department in the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Saint Kitts and Nevis; two participants from the Department of Statistics in the Ministry of Finance of the Nevis Island Administration; and two participants from the Central Statistical Office of Dominica. The composition of the participants by sex was three women and six men and the full list of participants appears as annex I of this report.

## **C. SUMMARY AND KEY OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP**

### **1. Opening session**

9. The opening session of the workshop featured remarks from the Director of the Department of Statistics in the Ministry of Sustainable Development of Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Population Affairs Officer, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. The Director of the Statistics Department welcomed all the participants and facilitators to the workshop and emphasized that with the upcoming censuses on the horizon, it was a highly opportune moment to implement REDATAM for data dissemination. Making the 2011 data available online will put the respective organizations in a better position to disseminate the upcoming census results in a timelier way, as well as providing a comparator for the results of the 2021 census when they are made available.

10. In his remarks, the Population Affairs Officer of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean explained the potential of the REDATAM software for expanding access to census and survey microdata and described the role of ECLAC in providing support and training in the use of the software. He emphasized that the main aim of the workshop was to facilitate the development of web applications for the national census datasets and restated ECLAC's commitment to provide whatever support was necessary in order to achieve this.

### **2. Organization of work**

11. This workshop was organized somewhat differently to the most recent REDATAM workshops carried out between 2014 and 2016. Those workshops were two weeks in duration and were intended to provide a complete training in all the modules of the REDATAM software. In those workshops, participants developed prototype web applications with the intention that they

would return to their offices and, with further support from ECLAC if necessary, develop those prototypes into full applications for online dissemination.

12. This workshop, in contrast, was intended to build on previous training that had been delivered to the statisticians in Saint Kitts and Nevis and Dominica, and to address a number of data issues which had hitherto prevented the Saint Kitts and Nevis census data being made available through REDATAM. A slightly different approach was adopted with ECLAC working on the preparation of the census datasets and web applications (preparing a complete application in the case of Saint Kitts and Nevis and a partially constructed application in the case of Dominica). Over the course of the three-day workshop, ECLAC demonstrated how the web applications had been constructed, while the participants reviewed the applications and discussed a number of outstanding issues related to data quality and disclosure control. Some further work on these issues will be undertaken over the coming weeks but it is anticipated that final applications for the 2011 census data should be complete within a couple of months.

13. During the first day of the workshop, the Population Affairs Officer of ECLAC presented and demonstrated the functionality of the web applications that had been prepared. The applications were then installed on the participants laptops and they had an opportunity to further review and test them. The second day of the workshop covered the Create module of REDATAM and the Statistics Assistant of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean introduced participants to the Process module. The third day began with an explanation of how REDATAM's internal programming language is used to construct web applications and continued with a discussion of some data quality issues which affected certain census variables.

### **3. Closing session and the way forward**

14. A closing session was held on the final afternoon of the workshop which was attended by the Director of Statistics of Saint Kitts and Nevis. The Director of Statistics was provided with a brief summary of the work that had been carried out over the previous three days and there was a discussion of the outstanding tasks that will need to be completed to make the applications available online.

15. In respect of both the Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis web applications, there are two main tasks to be carried out in order to finalise them and put them online:

- final checking of the accuracy and quality of the numbers being produced by the applications, making any final amendments which are necessary; and
- assuring that the confidentiality of the census microdata is protected and making any changes to the applications necessary to achieve this.

### **4. Summary of post-workshop evaluation**

16. Annex II provides a summary of participants' responses to the evaluation questionnaire administered at the end of the workshop. The evaluation confirmed a generally high level of satisfaction with the workshop. Several participants reported that they would like to participate in a longer training course in order to more fully understand the functionality of the software.

Annex I**List of participants**

Lisa Browne, GIS officer, Department of Statistics, Ministry of Finance, Nevis Island Administration

Dwayne Dick, Statistician, Central Statistical Office of Dominica

Delvin Harris, Statistician, Statistics Department, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Saint Kitts and Nevis

Melroy Henry, Statistician, Statistics Department, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Saint Kitts and Nevis

Brent Ismael, Statistical Officer, Central Statistical Office of Dominica

Karen McDonald, Statistician, Department of Statistics, Ministry of Finance, Nevis Island Administration

Tyechia McPhail, Statistician, Statistics Department, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Saint Kitts and Nevis

Davian Trotman, Statistical Clerk, Statistics Department, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Saint Kitts and Nevis

Corneil Williams, Statistician, Statistics Department, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Saint Kitts and Nevis

**ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean**

Francis Jones, Population Affairs Officer, Statistics and Social Development Unit

Iskuhi Mkrtychyan, Statistical Assistant, Statistics and Social Development Unit



Annex II**Workshop evaluation**

Total number of participants = 9

Number of evaluation forms submitted = 9

Response rate = 100 per cent

**1. How would you rate the training overall?**

	Excellent	Good	Regular	Poor	Very poor	Not sure/ no response	Total
N	5	4	0	0	0	0	9
%	56	44	0	0	0	0	100

**2. How would you rate the technical content of the workshop?**

	Excellent	Good	Regular	Poor	Very poor	Not sure/ no response	Total
N	4	5	0	0	0	0	9
%	44	56	0	0	0	0	100

**3. Did the workshop meet your initial expectations?**

	Yes	No	Not sure/no response	Total
N	9	0	0	9
%	100	0	0	100

**4. How relevant was the training for the work of your institution?**

	Very relevant	Relevant	Somewhat relevant	Not relevant	Not sure/no response	Total
N	7	2	0	0	0	9
%	78	22	0	0	0	100

**5. How would you improve this workshop in terms of the subjects addressed (for example, issues you would have liked to address or analyze in greater depth or subjects which were not so important)?**

- Considering the short time allocated for the workshop there was little to make improvements upon.
- The development of the database requires more explanation

**6. How useful did you find the training for strengthening your capacity to develop REDATAM applications for the dissemination of microdata?**

	Very useful	Useful	Regular	Not very useful	Not useful at all	Not sure/ no response	Total
N	8	0	1	0	0	0	9
%	89	0	11	0	0	0	100

**7. How useful did you find the workshop for engaging in discussions and exchanging experiences with representatives of other institutions?**

	Very useful	Useful	Regular	Not very useful	Not useful at all	Not sure/ no response	Total
N	5	4	0	0	0	0	9
%	56	44	0	0	0	0	100

**8. How would you rate the organization of the workshop? If you choose “poor” or “very poor” please explain your response so that we can take your opinion into account.**

		Excellent	Good	Regular	Poor	Very poor	Not sure/ no response	Total
Quality of documents and materials provided	N	3	6	0	0	0	0	9
	%	33	67	0	0	0	0	100
Duration of the sessions and time for debate/questions	N	3	2	3	1	0	0	9
	%	33	22	33	11	0	0	100
Quality of the infrastructure (room, sound, catering)	N	2	3	3	0	1	0	9
	%	22	33	33	0	11	0	100

**9. Based on the ratings selected above, please indicate what worked well and what could be improved.**

- Facilitators were very knowledgeable and provided practical examples
- Highlighting issues in the data (awesome)
- The time was really short for the content
- Need more time to learn the software better
- More time spent on the teaching of REDATAM
- Country technical persons had the opportunity to clean the data sets
- The identification of the errors of our data and how easily we can disseminate the information
- The room size can be improved
- Using the web to view the findings of the dataset

**10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the organizational aspects of the workshop?**

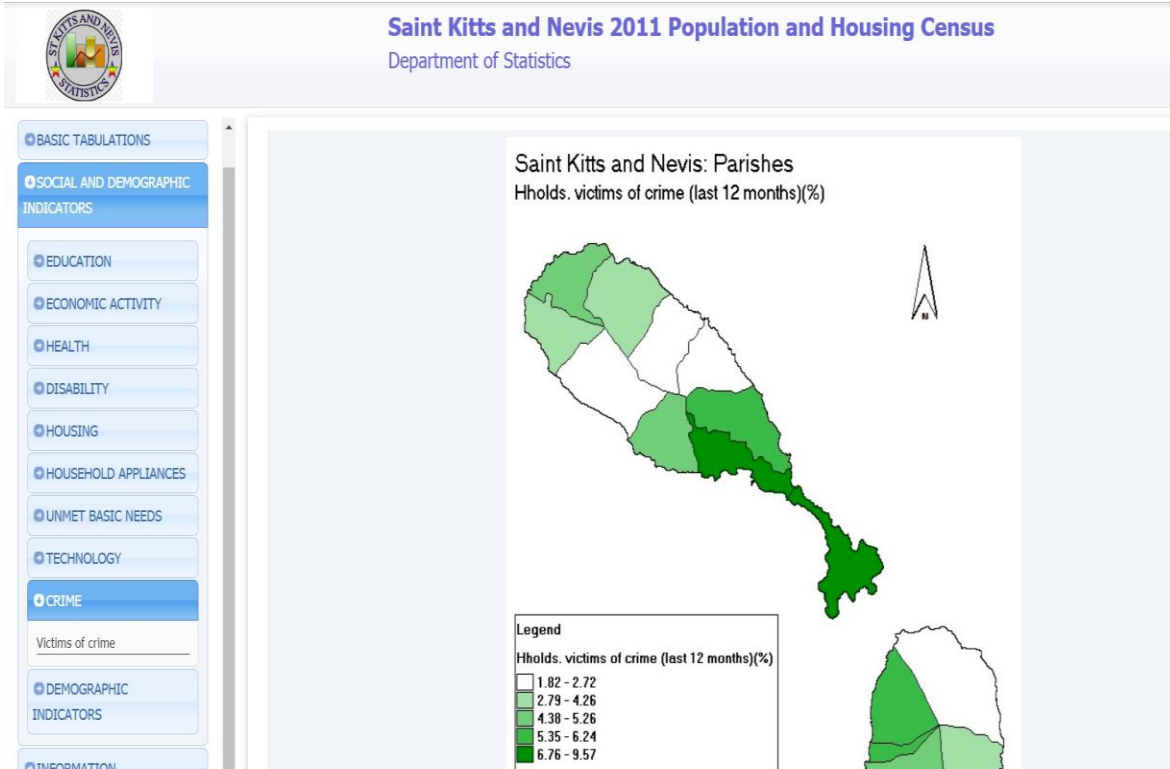
- Workshop should be longer
- Love that we were not rushed. Done to our pace.
- Love the idea of the tool and what it presents, also it has identified how it can take away all of the data requests

**11. What additional technical cooperation activities in the field of population and development or statistics would you suggest that ECLAC undertake in the future?**

- More trainings in REDATAM and Analysis of Data
- Population estimates, data cleaning (census and surveys)
- In depth training with the back end of REDATAM
- Have more training in REDATAM so we can understand the program more
- More trainings
- Help finalise the product and disseminate on time
- To help improve/build/place our next census data/other surveys in REDATAM

Annex III

**Screenshot OF REDATAM application  
for Saint Kitts and Nevis census 2011**





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