



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

Subregional Meeting to assess the implementation of the Programme
of Action of the International Conference on Population
and Development 15 years after its adoption
St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda
20-21 August 2009

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EVALUATION REPORT

**Subregional Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the Programme of
Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 15
Years after Its Adoption**

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Introduction

The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) convened a two-day “*Subregional Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population in Development (ICPD) 15 Years After Its Adoption*,” from 20 – 21 August 2009, at the Jolly Beach Resort and Spa, Antigua and Barbuda.

The aim of the meeting was to celebrate what had been accomplished, consolidate lessons learned over the last 15 years, acknowledge gaps and challenges, and derive practical recommendations for accelerating progress.

The objectives of this ICPD at 15 Caribbean subregional expert group meeting were to:

(a) Identify progress, achievements and best practices in the implementations of the ICPD Plan of Action (POA)

(b) Identify gaps and constraints in the implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action

(c) Provide interesting and stimulating panel presentations and discussions on ICPD-related issues

The participants for the meeting were experts from the many fields covered by the ICPD Programme of Action and national representatives. The experts were invited from a broad range of institutions, organizations, government agencies, governments, universities and the civil society.

The following report presents participants’ views of the two-day meeting. Those opinions were captured through an evaluation form administered at the end of the meeting. Of the approximately 50 meeting participants¹, completed evaluation forms were returned by 34 persons, thereby representing a return rate of 68%. The views of those 34 participants are captured as 100% in this report.

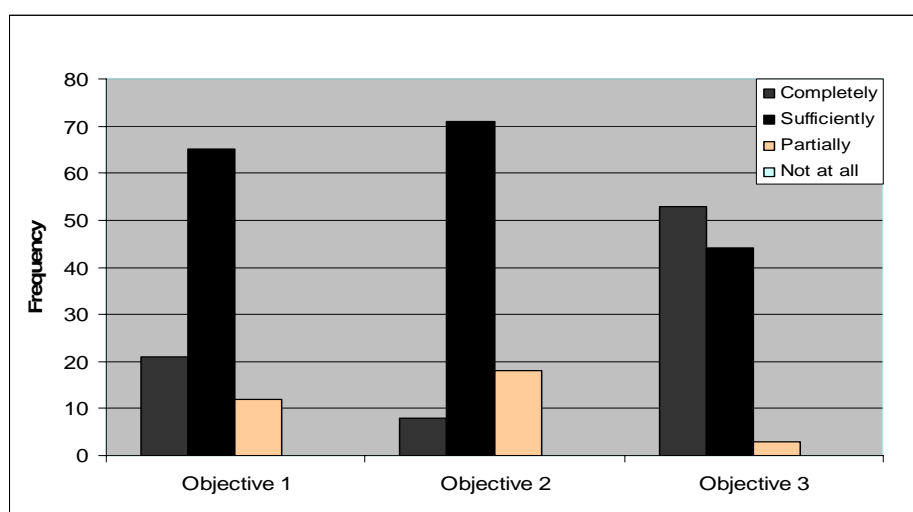
¹ There were an additional 26 representatives of ECLAC and UNFPA and around 15 local representatives to which the evaluation was not administered.

Summary

Objectives of the meeting

In the initial segment of the evaluation, the participants were asked for their opinions on the extent to which each of the objectives listed in the introduction above, were met. Those responses were rated along a 4-point scale from 1 (completely) to 4 (not at all). The results are shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1
Fulfilment of meeting objectives



More than three quarters (79% – 97%) of the respondents rated each objective as “completely” or “sufficiently” fulfilled. The third objective, ‘provide interesting and stimulating panel presentations and discussions on ICPD-related issues’ received the most positive evaluation. A few respondents (3% – 18%) indicated “partial satisfaction” with the objectives. For those participants, a number of reasons were cited for their selection, some of which included: the lack of available data; the submission of limited data; the short time allocated for each country brief; and the need to refine further the regional report.

Expectations of the meeting

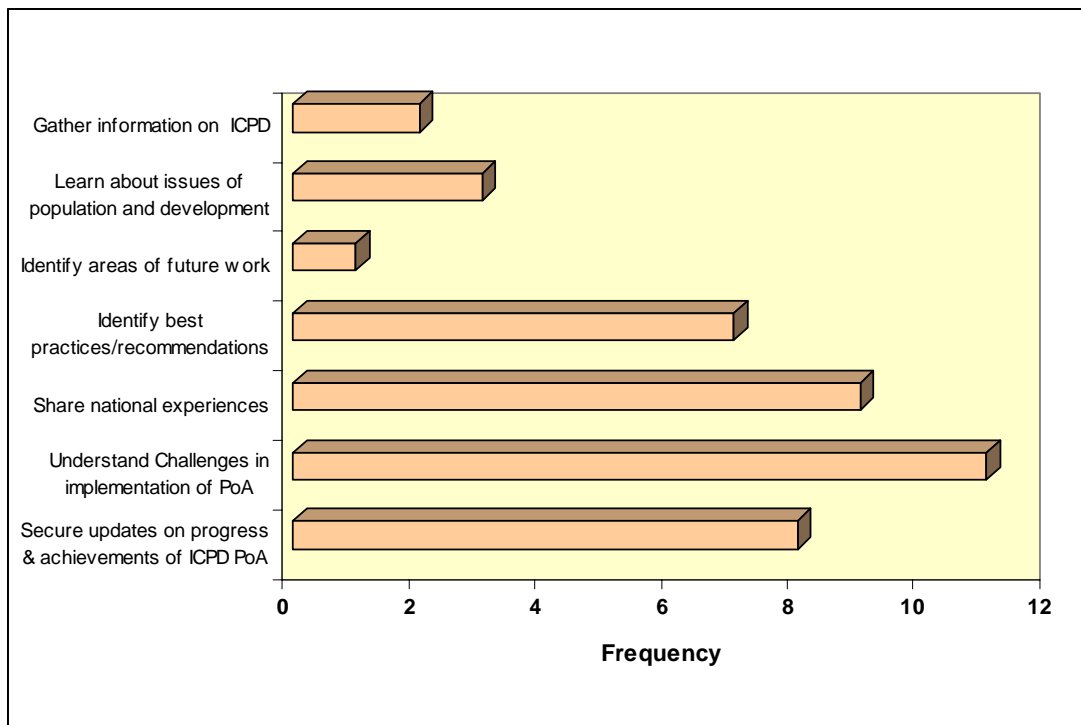
Participants were asked to describe their expectations of the meeting to which 30 of the 34 respondents (or 88%) provided responses. An analysis of the qualitative data obtained revealed some clear similarities in the expectations of the participants, as follows:

- (a) To secure updates on the progress and achievements on implementation of ICPD POA

- (b) To gain an understanding of challenges in the implementation of the POA
- (c) To share national experiences
- (d) To identify best practices and recommendations
- (e) To identify areas of future work
- (f) To increase knowledge base on issues of population and development; and
- (g) To gather information on ICPD

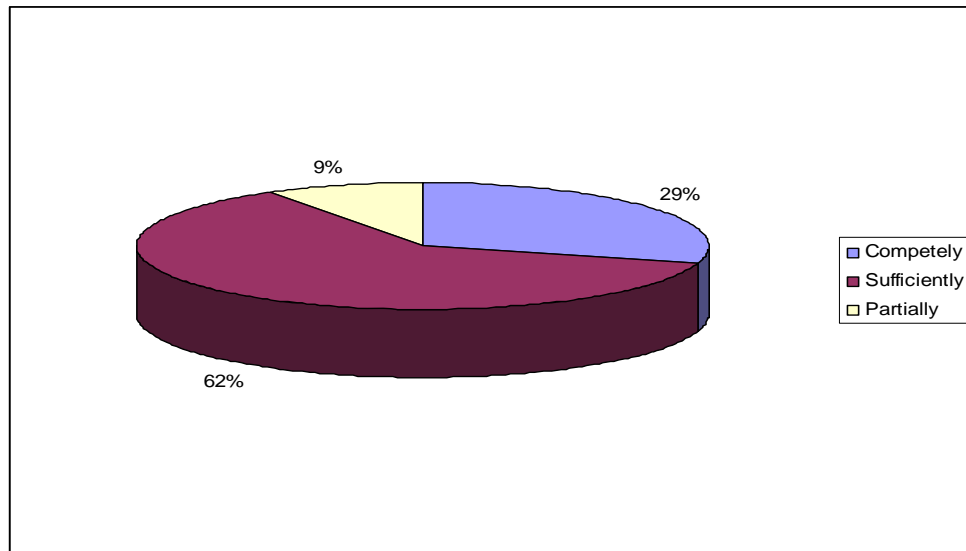
The tallies of those expectations according to the seven categories listed above are given in figure 2.

Figure2
Participants' expectations of the meeting



Further questioning on the extent to which the meeting actually met the objectives identified returned the responses displayed in figure 3.

Figure 3
Extent to which the participants objectives were met



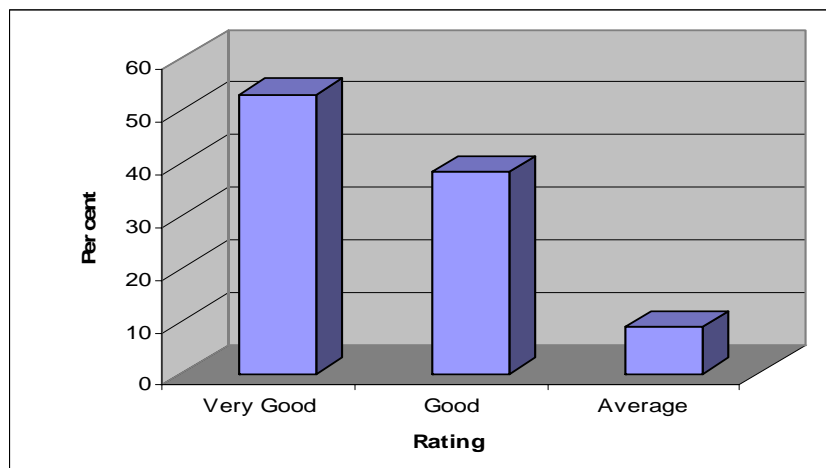
The majority of the participants (62%) indicated that their expectations were sufficiently met and 29% indicated complete satisfaction. The remaining three respondents (less than 10 %), who indicated only partial fulfilment of their expectations, justified their selection with the following reasons:

- “Issues of energy, food, water and climate change were not addressed”
- “Some of the presentations needed to be more focused in relation to ICPD concerns and issues pertaining to the geographical area represented. Difficult to have treated the subject matter in 15 minutes”; and
- “More emphasis should have been placed on sharing best practices and strategies to overcome bureaucratic hurdles and boost the optimism of countries with small economies”.

Opportunity for sharing national experiences

Participants were asked to rate the usefulness of the meeting as a forum for sharing national experiences. A 5-point rating scale was used with 1 implying “Very Good” and 5 implying “Very Poor”. The vast majority (91%) of the respondents provided ratings of either “Very Good” or “Good”. The remaining 9% had a more neutral stance and rated that aspect of the training as “Average”. The full disaggregation of those ratings is displayed in figure 4.

Figure 4
Participants' perception on the usefulness of the meeting for sharing national experiences



Delivery of presentations

Several presentations were made during the meeting. There were four opening addresses (Item 1 on the agenda), followed by a duo presentation of the background document (Item 2). On the first day of the meeting there were a further 13 country briefs presented under Item 3. The second day consisted of three panels with each of four presentations (Items 4, 5 and 6).

Participants were asked to rate the presentations under each of the agenda items along a 5-point scale anchored by 1 = “Very Good” and 5 = Very Poor”. Table 1 displays the respondents’ ratings in terms of the percentage responses and the mean scores.

Table 1
Participants’ rating of the delivery of presentations

Rating	Item 1	Item 2	Item 3	Item 4	Item 5	Item 6
Very Good	24%	21%	18%	44%	56%	50%
Good	65%	65%	59%	50%	35%	44%
Average	3%	9%	18%	3%	3%	3%
Poor	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%
Very Poor	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Mean Rating	1.77	1.88	2.00	1.58	1.52	1.55
Std. Deviation	0.497	0.554	0.622	0.561	0.712	0.666

Note: Percentages do not add up to 100% because of null responses.

As displayed in table 1, the delivery of presentations received very positive ratings, with 75 – 94% of the respondents awarding ratings of “good” or “very good”. The mean scores provided a better picture of the trend of responses. All items received mean scores that ranged

from 1.52 to 2.00, thereby indicating that, in general, respondents' evaluations ranged between "Good" and "Very Good".

Value of the meeting

This item was open-ended and solicited participants' comments on the how the meeting would help their ministry or organization towards reaching the goals of the ICPD Plan of Action. Participants provided a wide range of responses to this item and those are captured below. To avoid repetition, comments that bore some thread of similarity were grouped together and the frequencies of each displayed in table 2.

Table 2
Participants' comments on value added by the meeting

How will EGM help your ministry towards achieving the goals of ICPD PoA?	Frequency
Provided a wealth of national experience and data	1
Increased awareness of gaps and challenges can support efforts to bring change	4
Draw from best practices and lessons learned	4
Heightened awareness of the issues that should be part of the research agenda	1
Raised awareness of need for data collection to support assessments	4
Facilitate role as "watchdogs" to our government to ensure the goals are met	1
Informed future activities towards fulfilment of ICPD Plan of Action	6
Information will improve policies and strategies	1
Review work being done and upgrade areas that need improving	3
Reinforced need for an integrated approach to national policy development and inter-ministry collaboration	3
Provide information towards the finalization of report	1
Opportunity for networking/ building strategic partnerships	3

Topics that should have been included

This item generated responses from only 16 of the 34 respondents. Of those, four persons indicated that all the issues were addressed. The remaining respondents provided some inputs on areas that were not addressed. Those comments are given in the table below. In some, instances some of the comments bore some thread of similarity and so to avoid repetition those statements were grouped and tallied.

Table 3
Participants' comments on topics that should have been addressed at the meeting

Comment	Frequency
Role of civil society at national and regional level	1
National population projection	1
Issues related to persons with disabilities.	1
Youth Development and inter-generational transition	3
Cultural Penetration	1
Sexual and Reproductive Health diseases and HPV vaccine	1
Impact of crime and violence on vulnerable communities	2
Measuring the efficiency of public spending	1
Data quality and measurement and indicator (illegible words) of ICT	1
Climate change	1

Topics that should have been excluded

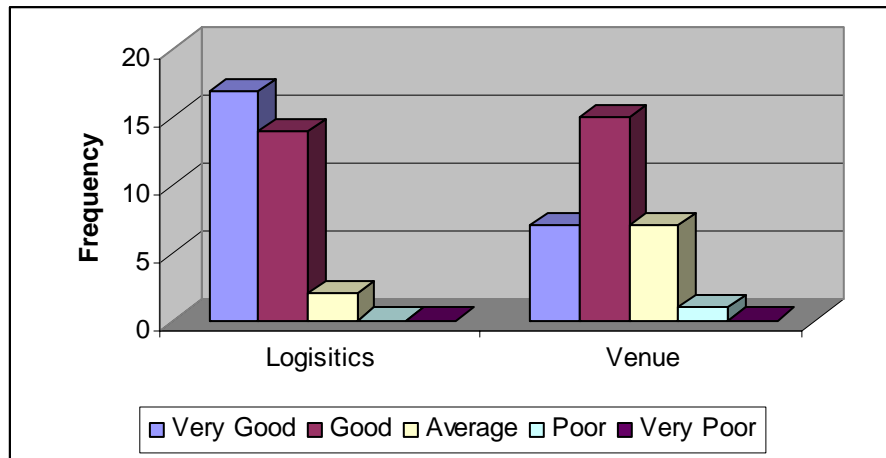
Although the vast majority of the respondents did not provide any responses to this item, the few who did simply indicated that “all topics were relevant and engaging” or “all relevant issues were discussed”.

Logistics (venue administration and technical support) and Hotel

The Jolly Beach Resort and Spa was used as both venue for the meeting and accommodation for the participants. For all non-United Nations panel members and those giving the opening address, deluxe rooms were offered and to others newly refurbished standard rooms with single occupancy. Half of the respondents evaluated the hotel as ‘Good’. The number qualifying it as ‘very good’ was counterbalanced by an equal number stating ‘Average’ (three persons did not answer the question, of which one was a local participant).

In terms of the logistics provided by ECLAC, of the 33 responses received, the majority (94 %) rated the arrangements as ‘Very Good’ or ‘Good’. Only 6% rated the arrangements as ‘Average’.

Figure 5
Participants views on the logistics and venue of the meeting



General Comments

For this item, qualitative data was collected by inviting participants to give any additional comments they might have had on the meeting. Participants provided a wide range of comments that supported the ratings given in the earlier items. Most participants used the section to express appreciation for the forum and to remark on its organization. Those sentiments were captured in phrases such as:

- “a very informative and enlightening meeting”;
- “very well organized, very interesting presentations, good logistics”;
- “hospitality was perfect”;
- “excellent conference. Presentations and discussions were of a very high standard”.

Participants also reiterated the value of the meeting and the benefits derived:

- “the meeting has encouraged me to return home with the mandate to ensure that all efforts are made to achieve the goals as set by the ICPD”
- “very good meeting, sessions were very informative, instigated deeper assessment of organizational activities regarding ICPD”
- “great meeting, looking forward to real movement on the ground”

- “it was an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with colleagues and making new friends and experiencing our neighbours best practices”
- “an excellent opportunity for dialogue and sharing experiences, to identify lessons learned, best practices and gaps still to be filled”

There were, however, a few respondents who shared some concerns about certain aspects of the meeting. Those comments included:

- “Internet in rooms would have been perfect”
- “The rooms are good but the air-conditioning was not working good”
- “The meeting was well organized, however, there was limited break for refreshing”.

Conclusions

The evaluation yielded very favourable results on the usefulness of the forum for stimulating exchanges on the achievements, best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action in the Caribbean subregion. The results suggested that the highlight of the meeting was the interactive panel presentations that promoted greater awareness of ICPD-related issues. The evaluation also confirmed the value of the meeting not only in providing updates on the issues related to the implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action but also its effectiveness in creating synergies among participants through the active exchange of experiences and providing an opportunity for networking.

ECLAC recognized the contributions made by the host country, Antigua and Barbuda, the panellists and participants to the successful organization, hosting and execution of this meeting.

Annex II

Evaluation Questionnaire

The objectives of this ICPD at 15 Caribbean subregional expert group meeting were to:

- (1) Identify progress, achievements and best practices in the implementations of the ICPD Plan of Action
- (2) Identify gaps and constraints in the implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action
- (3) Provide interesting and stimulating panel presentations and discussions on ICPD related issues

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

Objective (1)	1. completely	2. sufficiently	3. partially	4. not at all
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Objective (2)	1. completely	2. sufficiently	3. partially	4. not at all
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Objective (3)	1. completely	2. sufficiently	3. partially	4. not at all
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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	2. sufficiently	3. partially	4. 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 the sharing of 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 for each Agenda Item:

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

Opening (Item 1) : ___
 Review (Item 2) : ___
 Country briefs (Item 3) : ___
 Panel I (item 4) : ___
 Panel II (item 5) : ___
 Panel III (item 6) : ___

Please rate each Item

8. How will this expert meeting help your ministry or organization towards reaching the goals of the ICPD Plan of Action?

.....

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.

.....

Annex II

Responses to Evaluation (Quantitative Data)

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

Statistics

		Extent to which objective 1 was met	Extent to which Objective 2 was met	Extent to which Objective 3 was met
N	Valid	33	33	34
	Missing	1	1	0
Mean		1.91	2.09	1.50
Mode		2	2	1
Minimum		1	1	1
Maximum		3	3	3

Extent to which objective 1 was met

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely	7	20.6	21.2	21.2
	Sufficiently	22	64.7	66.7	87.9
	Partially	4	11.8	12.1	100.0
	Total	33	97.1	100.0	
Missing	System	1	2.9		
Total		34	100.0		

Extent to which Objective 2 was met

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely	3	8.8	9.1	9.1
	Sufficiently	24	70.6	72.7	81.8
	Partially	6	17.6	18.2	100.0
	Total	33	97.1	100.0	
Missing	System	1	2.9		
Total		34	100.0		

Extent to which Objective 3 was met

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely	18	52.9	52.9	52.9
	Sufficiently	15	44.1	44.1	97.1
	Partially	1	2.9	2.9	100.0
	Total	34	100.0	100.0	

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

Extent to which participants expectations were satisfied

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Completely	10	29.4	29.4	29.4
	Sufficiently	21	61.8	61.8	91.2
	Partially	3	8.8	8.8	100.0
	Total	34	100.0	100.0	

Question 6: How would you evaluate the opportunity for sharing national experiences?

Opportunity for sharing experiences

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Good	18	52.9	52.9	52.9
	Good	13	38.2	38.2	91.2
	Average	3	8.8	8.8	100.0
	Total	34	100.0	100.0	

Question 7: How would you evaluate the delivery of the various presentations for each agenda item?

Statistics

		Delivery of presentations (Item 1)	Delivery of presentations (Item 2)	Delivery of presentations (Item 3)	Delivery of presentations (Item 4)	Delivery of presentations (Item 5)	Delivery of presentations (Item 6)
N	Valid	31	32	32	33	33	33
	Missing	3	2	2	1	1	1
Mean		1.77	1.88	2.00	1.58	1.52	1.55
Mode		2	2	2	2	1	1
Minimum		1	1	1	1	1	1
Maximum		3	3	3	3	4	4

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

Logistics

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Good	17	50.0	51.5	51.5
	Good	14	41.2	42.4	93.9
	Average	2	5.9	6.1	100.0
	Total	33	97.1	100.0	
Missing	System	1	2.9		
	Total	34	100.0		

Question 12: How would you evaluate the hotel?

Evaluation of hotel

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Good	7	20.6	23.3	23.3
	Good	15	44.1	50.0	73.3
	Average	7	20.6	23.3	96.7
	Poor	1	2.9	3.3	100.0
	Total	30	88.2	100.0	
Missing	System	4	11.8		
Total		34	100.0		