



# Break-out session 4

Session 4: Discuss your national experience of mobilizing and securing adequate resources and infrastructure, and promoting regional and global cooperation for the development of national statistical capacity



**Q1 Which resources given to official statistics are the most critical for securing and further developing statistical capacity that is fit for purpose? Please explain.**

- Human and Financial
  - Human capacity is required to execute the tasks – Human – car and Financial – fuel.
  - Financial to attract and retain staff as well as develop statistical infrastructure and technology



### **Q1 Which resources given to official statistics are the most critical for securing and further developing statistical capacity that is fit for purpose? Please explain.**

- **Human capital** – *adequate staffing in terms of numbers and requisite qualifications and competencies is critical to the NSOs success.*
- **Sustainable funding** – *is necessary as it ensures that there is continuation of programmes of work. Open data poses a threat to the NSO so it is critical that funding is provided.*
- **Adequate technology** - *improves efficiency, timeliness and readiness of the statistical products of the NSO. It keeps the NSO relevant in the face of other data sources.*
- **Technical training** – *continuous training assists with succession planning and keeping the staff current with new methodologies, techniques, etc.*
- **Legislative empowerment** – *without this the NSO is unable to effectively coordinate the national statistical system. There is inability to ensure compliance with the NSOs data requests.*



**Q2 Can you provide us with any recent success stories, new initiatives or best practices related to mobilizing and securing adequate resources for official statistics?**

- Dominica-Ongoing restructuring program of the Statistical Unit
- Anguilla-Incorporate additional surveys that allows for additional resources
- Nevis & Others- During Population and Housing Census additional staff plus additional technological upgrades (tablets, laptops and servers) :the same holds for the SDGs



## Q2 Can you provide us with any recent success stories, new initiatives or best practices related to mobilizing and securing adequate resources for official statisticians?

### • British Virgin Islands

- After the hurricane, the Central Statistics Office of the BVI, the main server was damaged, there was no electricity for months.
- The OECS has been the backbone of the Central Statistics Office of the BVI. This has been particularly critical especially after the passing of the hurricanes Maria and Irma. The OECS was able to secure resources and provide the following:
  - Training
  - Tablet computers
  - Technical assistance
  - Funds
- Currently, the Central Statistics Office of BVI is operating at a 75% efficiency level. This would not have been possible had it not been for the assistance of the OECS.



## **Q3 How could bilateral and multilateral partners contribute more effectively to the mobilization of adequate resources for official statistics?**

- Better coordination of the activities
  - First starts with coordination in country
  - Prioritizing of projects by local governments
  - Coordination of bilateral and multilateral resources
- Apply “soft pressure” on the government
  - TCI-Standard and Poors example
  - CariCris
  - IMF- pressure on Argentina Government



### **Q3 How could bilateral and multilateral partners contribute more effectively to the mobilization of adequate resources for official statistics?**

- The IDPs at the beginning of the calendar year need to have collaboration to ensure that resources are streamlined efficiently/properly utilized and that there is no duplication of efforts.
- From the donor country's side there should be an assurance that the NSOs are involved in the planning of the particular project.
- IDPs can play a greater role in advocacy, particularly in discussions with the Government to help secure funds.
- Governments should be sensitized to the tenets of the Handbook of Statistical Organizations. This could be done through the facilitation of a workshop for Permanent Secretaries who are responsible/have oversight for the NSO.



**Q4 Can you provide us with any recent success stories, new initiatives or best practices related to the protection of core data and critical statistical infrastructure against natural and man-made disasters?**

- Dominica-
- Anguilla-During Hurricane Irma the two location of the servers where secure due to how and where they were built
- Suriname-Store data off premise(Data-Sur) plus another location for security (the same holds for most countries)
- Nevis – fire damaged the automated data storage unit and some data was lost the government then put in place two automated data storage units





## **Q4 Can you provide us with any recent success stories, new initiatives or best practices related to the protection of core data and critical statistical infrastructure against natural disasters?**

- Trinidad and Tobago - “WE PRAY”
- Jamaica, TCI, St. Vincent & the Grenadines – we currently perform weekly backups of data (internal servers) on tape which are in turn taken off-site. Since the onset of the use of Survey Solutions, we currently utilize the World Bank’s cloud storage for surveys (Survey of Living Conditions, Jamaica Survey of Establishments, Crime and Victimization Survey). This will subsequently be downloaded for backup on internal servers and tapes (off-site storage).
- BVI – currently there is backup of data once per quarter on the cloud. This is however very costly.
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines – currently exploring along with the World Bank plans for digital transformation which will seek to improve: capacity, storage, resilience, etc.



**Q5 What is missing from the discussion on this session that should be covered in the Handbook?**

- Inclusion of man made disasters
- How to make sure that all stakeholders realize that official statistics is cross-cutting and needs to be prioritized in all national, regional and international initiatives



## **Q5 What is missing from the discussion on this session that should be covered in the Handbook?**

- The support of the IDPs for small island developing states (SIDS) cannot be over-emphasized. The support is indeed significant to the production and dissemination of quality official statistics.
- The handbook could be tailored to provide best practices for SIDS. It cannot be a one-size fit all. This will no suffice or assist.