



Barbados Experience in modernizing its National Statistical System

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Introduction

A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in Barbados was advocated prior to 2007.

- Paper entitled “***Modernisation of the Statistical System - Barbados***” presented at 32nd Meeting of SCCS in Suriname in November 2007.
- PARIS21 helped with advocacy publication in 2009 - ***Why Barbados Needs a Robust and Sustainable Statistical System***

BSS Modernisation Project

The Barbados Statistical Service (BSS)
Modernisation Project 2008 – 2016:

- funded by an IADB Loan
- Its **Objectives** included:
 - a) To propose a new legal framework to enable BSS to perform its duties more effectively
 - b) To establish a statistics network including governmental agencies which produce relevant public data

BSS Modernisation Project

- Its **Objectives** included (cont'd):
 - (c) To improve managerial, statistical and administrative procedures of the BSS
 - (d) To improve the human capacity of the BSS
 - (e) To enhance the technical infrastructure of the BSS and its capacity for disseminating its products and facilitating public access to statistical information

Recommendations made

Procurement of Consultants to oversee all 6 components of Project completed in 2011.

Recommendations made included:

- Continuous professional development/training
- Enhancement to priority statistical products
- Proposed statistical Bill for BSS and NSS
- Draft MOUs between BSS and 6 units of NSS

Implementations to date

- Capacity building/training provided for BSS staff
- Implementation of core ICT network system infrastructure for BSS, with capacity of linking other units of NSS to it (2015-2016)
- Established MOUs - with DPD to maintain ICT core infrastructure, and with 5 units of NSS
- BSS organization restructured from 1 April 2017

Lessons learnt in Implementation

- Legal framework – takes time to enact new Bill
- Change management vital for BSS, NSS, ministry
- ICT network infrastructure - need appropriate support for sustained maintenance & resilience
- NSS coordination & integration – culture change and authority structures to be managed
- Network for resilience & recovery from disasters

Lessons learnt in Implementation

Built-in Resiliency, Backup, and Disaster Recovery – re. IT network system:

- a) Adequate AC system to keep equipment cool
- b) Redundancies in vital units – firewalls
- c) Systems support – for servers and software
- d) Offsite backups – for data & network system

Recommendations on the way forward

- Programme needed (with continuous funding) rather than project (fixed time period & funding)
- Advocacy for statistics at highest level of government – to be promoted to all levels in organization (BSS & NSS), with the provision of adequate resources for statistics
- Core competencies to be developed for staff, along with appropriate succession planning to maintain the NSS and the NSWP.

Thank you!