

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Past is prologue:
working together to improve statistical capacity in the Caribbean.

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Institutional support to NSOs

- The IDB has a long history of working together with government agencies within Caribbean countries towards improving the lives of their citizens.
- This commitment is typified by the work done to support institutional strengthening and modernization of national statistical offices in the region.
- Over the past 20 years, the Bank has devoted close to US\$30 million dollars to strengthening statistical capacity within member states.



Institutional support to NSOs

The Bank supports NSO through three main modalities:

1. Country-specific technical cooperation projects or components of loan operations for all IDB member countries;
2. Regional projects that deliver a regional public good, mainly done in coordination with CARICOM in order to reach the rest of the Caribbean countries; and
3. Collaborative efforts with other development partners used to pool resources and leverage comparative advantages for optimal impact



Areas of work

- The Bank's institutional support to NSO's has covered a range of thematic areas such as:
 - Trade
 - Poverty
 - Population and Labor
 - Gender
 - Climate Change
 - Agriculture

Areas of work

- Technical support by the Bank also includes:
 - Census support (all stages)
 - Use of technology for data collection
 - Training of staff on statistical methods
 - Data warehousing and archiving

Areas of work

- Although most of the focus has been on the “hard” side of statistical capacity such as methodologies; standards; and technology, the Bank has invested resources in promoting an environment for organizational development of NSO’s
- Recent examples of support on organizational themes include:
 - Planning: National Strategies for the Development of Statistics.
 - Legal framework: CARICOM Model Statistics Act.



Some recent projects



Project	Capacity Development Focus	Expected Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing Statistical Capacities of Guyana 	National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)	Based on a thorough assessment of the Bureau of Statistics of Guyana's institutional capacity as a core agency of the National Statistical System, a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics would be created.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional Strengthening of The Central Statistical Office (Trinidad and Tobago) 	Support to Census 2020	An in-service training program on statistical research and analysis designed to build technical capacity of staff; the improved production of labor and population data; improved planning mechanisms for Census 2020; and a communication strategy implemented to support sensitization on Census and other key exercises.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for Preparing the 2020 Population and Housing Census (Belize) 	Support to Census 2020	Improved capacity for conducting census including use of census maps through satellite imagery; training and piloting of electronic collection of census data; and training in data analysis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the Design of a National Statistical System (Belize) 	National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)	Increased use of the National Statistical System to produce the statistical information required to support effective evidence-based policy making across sectors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Monitoring and Public Financial Management Reform (Bahamas) 	National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS)	National Strategy for Statistical Development (NSDS) implemented in addition to refinement of the new Statistics Act; institutional training program implemented; and new business processes developed.

What the future brings

- There is greater awareness within the global statistical community on the importance of working on the institutionalization of NSOs.
- This year the Bank is launching a study to conduct surveys among the staff of national statistical offices to understand their technical competencies, their understanding of the fundamental principles of official statistics, and their commitment to their jobs.

Focus on the institution and its human resources.



Recommendations

1. Democratize institutional processes and outcomes

Promote greater education, deliberation and ownership of the institutional agenda among the various levels of staff

2. Expand the pool of data users, and listen to them

The value of data is given by its use. The more utilized it is, the higher its value. To increase the use of data it is necessary to expand the pool of users beyond the public sector, it has to also encompass academia, the private sector and civil society.



Recommendations

3. **Strengthen intra-government coordination**

Coalition building in data production and dissemination will leverage economies of scale and help offset the limitations of resource constraints. Including a more intense use of administrative records.

4. **Convene spaces for sharing management practices**

Regional platforms for peer learning should be fully utilized and supported by scheduled opportunities for horizontal technical cooperation.

THANK YOU!

